

## Collective Worship Theme this half term = Respect

**Attendance this week is: Explorers: 94.3 Adventurers: 95% Navigators: 94.4% (Overall: 94.5% target is 96%)**

26 Jan 2023



*First the blade, then the ear,  
then the full grain.*

Gillamoor C of E Primary School



### School News and Message from the Headteacher

This week, we have been excited to launch the KS2 Archbishop of York Young Leader Awards (AYYLA) which will be completed this year by our Year 4 pupils. Their mission is to 'Be the change you want to see' and it was great to hear the buzz of ideas as they began to explore the 'individual' element of their challenges. For many years, the school has been part of the Children's University, and our Year 5 and 6 pupils are still working to complete their awards for this scheme. However, we felt that the AYYLA programme fit really well alongside our Christian vision and values and a real strength is the leadership and positive action which the programme helps nurture. Our Year 2 pupils will be beginning their AYYLA awards in the coming weeks as we offer up leadership opportunities for our younger pupils too, focusing on Kindness, Perseverance, Teamwork and Action in their Leadership award with the motto 'Small steps make BIG changes.' It will be great to see the community-focused projects that these groups develop over the coming terms.

We continue to look for other leadership opportunities for our pupils in all year groups and many of our pupils are members of the pupil-lead groups such as Sports leaders and Church Council. If anybody is interested in working with and lending their time/experience to the school Eco Team, we would very much appreciate the help to get our newest group up and active!

*Mrs Elsey*

<b>This winning are OAK</b>	<b>Week's houses tied... &amp; ELM</b>
<b>Last winning House was ASH</b>	

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 26 Jan—Film Night
- 29 Jan—Second Hand book stall. 3:20pm
- 1 Feb-School Administrator closing date
- 2 Feb-Y5/6 Dodgeball, Ryedale
- 6 Feb-School Administrator interviews
- 9 Feb—Careers Event
- 9 Feb-Break up
- 19 Feb-Pupils return to school
- 19 Feb-Bewerley Park deposit deadline
- 22 Feb-Learning mean the World Culture Exhibition 2.45 pm
- 1 Mar-KS2 football, Ryedale

### School Administrator required

#### JOB VACANCY

**Due to a change of circumstances we are re-advertising. Previous applicants are welcome to apply.**

We require a School Administrator to work 6.5 hours on a Friday. Full details and application form is on our school website and on the northyorks.gov.uk job page. If anyone would like any further information please contact Mrs Hugill.

**PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT WE ARE A NUT AWARE SCHOOL. WE KINDLY REQUEST NO NUTS OR NUT DERIVATIVES ARE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL IN PACKED LUNCHES OR AS SNACKS. .**



Film night—Tonight! 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start. The film is Yes Day.

### Adventurers' Book Sale

Thank you to those families who have sent in book donations for our Adventurers' fundraising project. They are still eager to receive any more unwanted books. They will hold their first sale on Monday 29th at 3:20pm in the school playground. Please feel free to arrive a few minutes early to browse their stall. The children want to use all proceeds to buy more books for the school.



### Y4/5 Bewerley Park

Our current Y4/5 pupils are going to Bewerley Park in October, for our outdoor residential visit. Please can the £30.00 non-refundable deposit be paid by the 19 February to secure your child's place .

**Cost of Living** We have been asked by North Yorkshire Council to share the following message with our community: *If you're struggling to pay for food and other essentials, there are local schemes and organisations in North Yorkshire which may be able to help or point you in the right direction. You'll find information about emergency financial support, managing debt, benefit entitlement, energy bills and staying connected all in one place at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving)*



**ATTENDANCE MATTERS!**  
Everyday. On-time.

### Attendance

Attendance so far this year is at 94.01%. Our school target is 96%. As you may have seen on the news recently, school attendance is closely scrutinised and so your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

If your child takes too much time off school they will become categorised as PA or Persistently Absent. (Attendance below 90% = Persistent Absence). Children who take exceptional leave will often become PA for the whole year depending on the number of days missed.

What is Persistent Absence? A child who only attends school for 90% or less of the time is classed as a Persistent Absentee. 90% might sound okay, but Emily's story shows us why it's not: Emily attends school for 90% of the time. Her parents think this is quite good. 90% attendance is the same as being absent from school for a half day every week. If Emily's attendance for all the years she went to school was 90% she would have missed 209 days of school, that's more than a whole school year!

So why does persistent absence matter? Missing school has a huge impact on how well a pupil gets on at school. The more school a child misses, the harder it is for them to get into a routine of attending regularly and catch up on the work they have missed. There is also a huge social and emotional impact. **All Year 6 attendance information has to be passed to their secondary school.**

### Staff Training/meetings

- Safeguarding training
- Poverty Awareness in School Training
- SEND Champion

### School Lunches

**Week beginning 29th Jan is Week Two of our menu**



**Online Safety** is a serious subject and as teachers, we are keen to help parents understand ways they can act to keep their children safe online. Each week, I will share a link to materials from the National Online Safety organisation. This week's topic is Fortnite.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

CHAPTER

4

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
12

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The Walking Dead* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from *Alien* or who Geralt from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers – of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £9 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site *GDQuest* and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including *IGN* and *TechnRadar*.



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