

# WOODHAM BURN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 15TH NOVEMBER 2024

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## Message from Mr Sparrow

Hello to one and all, I hope you have had a good week. We bring to a wrap another week back in school. It has been great to see children in their own clothes today in support of Children in Need.

## Nursery

Today the children walked to St Clare's church to lay their poppies they had made at the War Memorial. The children all showed great pride and respect in laying their own poppies as we placed them in the flower bed in front of the church, where they will be visible to those walking or driving past. We took time to look at the war memorial and the poppy wreaths that were laid at the parade yesterday.

After this we went to the bus stop and waited for the bus to take us around our local area. It gave the children the opportunity to see points of interest, talk about parts of the town that they recognise and talk about their local environment. It was a lovely way to see our local area and share this experience with our nursery friends.

## Key Dates – Autumn 2

- 12/11/24 – Wear own clothes day (children in need)
- 12/12/24 – Whole school Glow Show (Christmas Jumpers)
- 17/12/24 – Christmas fair
- 18/12/24 – Christmas Dinner day (Christmas Jumpers)
- 19/12/24 – Disco/Party Day (Christmas Jumpers)
- 20/12/24 – Break for Christmas

## This might apply to you

The government has made funds available through its Household Support Fund to support families, by offering additional help towards household costs associated with the increased cost of living.

In County Durham, we are again making this support available as vouchers, which you can choose to spend at ASDA, Morrison's, Sainsbury's, and Tesco. As an eligible family, you will receive £70 per child that is eligible for Free School Meals to help you keep the children in your household fed and warm over the coming weeks.

Below is a link which will let you choose which supermarket(s) you want your vouchers for. You can either choose one supermarket or you can split your money across more than one, however, you MUST choose enough vouchers to use the full £70 all at once. Once you have checked out, you will not be able to change your choice.

To help you through the process we have also attached a guide and the following information:

- Safari
  - Using the Safari browser can cause issues with redemption, please use a browser such as Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome and/or a different device if you are experiencing an issue.
  - Order delivery time
  - ASDA – 3 working days
  - Morrisons – 3 working days
  - Tesco and Sainsburys – 1 working day
  - Working days are Monday to Friday.
  - Customer Contact
  - After an order has been placed, please allow the above timescales for delivery before contacting the Customer Care Team. Please use the live chat on the redemption site or email if you have an issue.
- After placing your order, please look for an email from [digitalrewards@bhn.select-your-reward.co.uk](mailto:digitalrewards@bhn.select-your-reward.co.uk) which will contain your vouchers. This email can often go into your SPAM or TRASH folder so keep an eye on that too. Vouchers can be printed or shown on a mobile device.

1<sup>st</sup> Aycliffe

Baden-Powell Scout Group

**Have FUN**

Are you interested in the outdoors, nature, camping then why not come along and join one of our sections, Beavers (5-8yr old), Wolf Cubs (8-11yrs old), Scouts (11-15yrs old), Senior Scouts (15-18yrs old or our Rover Section (18yrs +). We are based at the Scout Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

**Make new Friends**

If you or your parents would like more information, please contact Kim on 07971849840

**Days out**

**Camping and weekends away**

**Lots of Activities**

**Earn Badges**

**Activities and Games**



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION  
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## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. 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'.

## 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 – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

## IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

## POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

## CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, 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 from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. 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 coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

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

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### 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 £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means 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 any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making 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 GGRecon 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 TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College