

## The Saints Federation

*'Shine as lights in the world.'* Philippians 2:15

### Newsletter

19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

#### Hapton

It has been lovely to welcome the Rockets back to school after their Christmas break. Everyone has settled back well and has been working incredibly hard. In maths, we have been securing our knowledge of using a variety of methods when multiplying and dividing, and looking at forming expressions and solving algebraic equations. In Science, we have started learning about Earth and Space. We've been researching planets, exploring scientific vocabulary and looking at how the Earth and Moon move in relation to our Sun.

In Ladybirds Class this term we have hit the ground running! During our Eco themed days we discovered what wind power is and had fun making our very own wind turbines. We tested them with a hairdryer(!) and are pleased to report that they worked!

We really enjoyed our trip to the Cathedral last Monday and took part in several light-based activities. We were particularly excited to meet Budge, the Cathedral cat as we made our way around this beautiful, inspiring building. Our big question in R.E this half term is 'why is light an important symbol?' and our visit gave us a really good insight to how significant the symbol of light is to Christians.

In English, we have been reading a slightly different version of the classical Fairy Tale, Rapunzel. The children are eager to discover how the story ends! This week we had lots of messy fun making potions to inspire some poetry writing.

#### All Saints

Asteroids have had a busy few weeks since returning to school after the Christmas break. Our first week back was our Eco-week and we learned all about what makes a sustainable school as well as finding all about famous eco-pioneers such as William Kamkwamba and Greta Thunberg. We also had an awe-inspiring visit to Norwich Cathedral where we discovered how stories were told through stained-glass windows and we even got to sing in the choir space!

In English, we have been enjoying reading our new book, Viking Boy. We have used ideas from the text to write a range of poetry such as kennings, cinquains and limericks. We have also been looking at persuasive writing, including writing our own adverts.

In our history lessons, we have been exploring and comparing the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We have found out that the Viking days of the week were named after their gods, and this has influenced our days of the week today!

In Dragonflies we have been very busy and enjoying our new book Rapunzel in English. It is a different version of the story from what we know and we are having a great time making predictions on what we think will happen. Rapunzel managed to escape her tower one day last week and came into our classroom to talk to us. We have been writing descriptions, diary entries and using freeze frame to help us understand how Rapunzel is feeling. In maths we have been recapping and embedding our knowledge on place value, counting on, 1, 10 and 100 more or less and comparing numbers.

We have started our new topic Royals and Rebels learning all about past and present Kings and Queens and looking at Henry Moore and his sculptures he is famous for. We can't forget the fantastic time we had at Norwich Cathedral learning all about the different stories shown in the stained glass windows.

A lovely trip to start the year off!

### St Andrew's

In Saturflies we have enjoyed exploring our new book Rapunzel by Bethan Woolvin. We have asked 'Rapunzel' questions and put ourselves in the role of Rapunzel to write a diary about how she might of felt or what she did all day stuck in a tower. We have also explored poems, discussing the features and how to perform a poem. In maths, we have been extending our understanding of place value to partition numbers and complete number lines. We have also been counting in different multiples, including 2s, 5s, 10s and 50s, as well as practising our times tables in Year 3. We really enjoyed the trip to the Cathedral and learnt lots! Our favourite class fact from the Cathedral visit was that the organ has 5,767 pipes.

In Comelites we have been enjoying our new topic, which is all about the Vikings. Did you know that Vikings did not have horns on their helmets? Out English text this half term is Viking Boy by Tony Bradman and we have been using this in our work about adverts. In maths we have been enjoying ratio, multiplication and division. During Eco Week we had an amazing time making wind turbines and solar panels. We really put out DT skills to work and had to work as a team to ensure a successful build.

### Online Safety

Fortnite Battle Royale, commonly simply called Fortnite, is a popular video game from Epic Games. It offers a knife-edge gun battle that requires practice, skill, teamwork and fast reactions. The challenge for parents is to limit risks and maximise benefits from Fortnite. Screen time, stranger chat, rage at losing and escalating costs can seem overwhelming. However, with the right advice, this is a game that parents can make healthy and valuable for their children. Read this week's guide to understand how benefits can be maximised and risks minimised.

## Attendance Matters!

	Number of pupils with 100% attendance	Whole school attendance
Hapton	6	94.77
All Saints	13	92.95
St Andrew's	3	93.85
Whole Federation		93.86

### Save the Date – Federation

#### Term 3

19.01.24

16.02.24

WB 12.02.24

#### 2024

Maths Café 14:45 – all sites

Last day of Term 3

Parent Consultation Meetings

Half Term Break – school closed 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

#### Term 4

26.02.24

07.03.24

11.03.24

18.03.24

22nd March

School reopens to pupils and staff for Term 4

World Book Day

Science Week

YrR & Yr6 – weighing & measuring – St Andrews

Federation Easter Day

*A Message for Safer Internet Day, 2024, from Norfolk Constabulary's  
Children and Young People Team.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, marks this year's Safer Internet Day. We can all play a part in keeping children and young people safe online and I am writing to tell you that online safety remains one of the Constabulary's main priorities. With this in mind, we would like to share some links and resources with you.

- Organisers of Safer Internet Day, The Safer Internet Centre, have a wealth of information for parents and carers on their website on the "Guides and Resources" section. Go to [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- Setting boundaries and rules about your child's internet use as early as possible will help you to have open and honest conversations about any issues that arise. Please find below both a colour and black and white copy of Norfolk Constabulary's '**Family Internet Agreement**' to help you do this.
- Head to YouTube where you will find a recording of the webinar we delivered on Safer Internet Day, 2023, [Recorded Online Safety webinar for parents and carers \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
- Follow National Online Safety on Twitter - @natononlinesafety; Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety; or search "National Online Safety" on Facebook. You can also download the "National Online Safety" app in the Play Store, or on Google Play. Here you will find information about games, websites and apps young people are using so you can make sure your knowledge is up to date.
- The National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Education team have a parent and carer area on their website where you can get advice about online safety [Parents and carers | CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/) If you are worried that your child is being groomed online, or sexually exploited, you can find advice about reporting by clicking on the 'How to get help' tab.
- The Internet Watch Foundation and the NSPCC have developed the 'Report Remove' tool, in partnership with age verification app, [Yoti](https://www.yoti.com/). Report Remove can support a young person in reporting sexual images or videos shared online and enables them to get the image removed if it is illegal. Go to [Report Remove \(iwf.org.uk\)](https://www.reportremove.org.uk/)

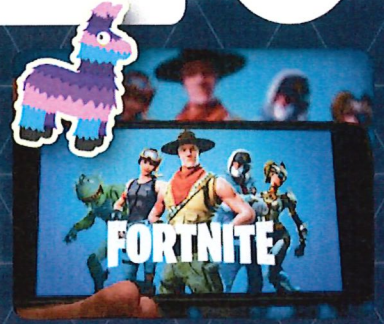
Inspector Bex Brown  
Norfolk Constabulary, Children and Young People Team.



There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.



# What parents need to know about FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE



## BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar setup. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.



## IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction is up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time played and a preoccupation with thoughts of the next gaming session. Realistically, it must be down to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.



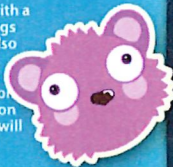
## FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?

While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying) it does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called 'V-Bucks' and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bucks can be earned in-game with enough play time.



## SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to everybody and don't require additional money to play, though battle passes for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will typically allow a player to earn experience faster and gain fun in-game items by completing a host of daily challenges.



## CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform. To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account. Doing this removes the age-old boundary of not being able to play together because you don't have the same console and opens up a whole new world of playing online with friends.



## IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as teen, as it contains cartoony violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit will want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.



# Top Tips For Parents

## BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card information afterwards as it can be very easy to purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion would be capping the spending at around £50 - this is the normal retail price of a game.



## GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into their groups in a game. It's difficult to predict what another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good idea for friends playing together, to be grouped together. The only real countermeasure to interacting with strangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic communications, which can be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who they're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.



## LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so be flexible when it's time to put it away. The approach of 'one more game' as opposed to '10 more minutes' will stop any complaints that a match is still ongoing. Better still, play with your child and take it in turns; that way you're helping control the time played and can keep an eye on what they're experiencing.



## TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. If you approach as a collective, it will be easier to know when their friends are online and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help curb expectations on spending money on battle passes and skins if you stick together.



## CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS

It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, quick and complex problem solving and communication; that's not to mention the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, there are benefits to screen time which right now be immediately obvious.



## PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF

There's no substitute for sitting down and playing the game yourself to learn all about it. Fortnite is available for free on almost anything you can imagine, even your smartphone, so there's never been a better time to get involved and see what all the fuss is about. You never know, you might even be able to impress your children when you show them your impressive Victory Royale tally!

## Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.





# Kids Camp

South Norfolk  
COUNCIL

## Kids Camp is back for February half term!



Sessions available at Wymondham and Long Stratton from 19 to 23 February.

Available from 8:30 am until 5 pm.

Sessions are £30 for a full day and £20 for a half day.



Book now by  
scanning the  
QR code.

