

SCHOOL MATTERS

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

FRIDAY 14TH JANUARY 2022

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Although parents are unable to attend our **Celebration Assemblies** at the moment, the first assembly of the term takes place this afternoon. There is a list of the children involved on the last page of this newsletter.

We plan to start our **Good Manners Café** next week in the lunch hall. It will be on Thursday and then fortnightly. Children are nominated by anyone working in the lunch hall and is open to both school dinners and packed lunches!

Following on from yesterday's email, a reminder that clubs start again next week. They will run for 9 weeks, lasting until the week commencing 21st March. All 3 clubs, Lego and Golf, are free of charge but with limited places. Book your child in through the schoolcomms system - bookings are available now.

FROM THE PTFA

Mr Long is on a mission! Since his arm injury and resulting period of inactivity last year, Mr Long has found himself a little larger than he would like... now he is embarking on a diet and exercise regime to get trim and fit and would like your support! His starting weight is... 21st 5lbs! Look out for weekly progress updates and if you're impressed then why not sponsor him!?

He is after £'s for lb's in aid of the PTFA, so show your support and sponsor Mr Long via the payment option on School Gateway!

CRISP PACKET COLLECTION! Don't forget to collect your crisp packets and bring them in for recycling! Pop them in the collection bin on the office bridge any time! Any brand packet!

THE CRISP PACKET RECYCLING SCHEME

Every year countless pieces of crisp packets end up in landfill sites across the UK. We are working with TerraCycle® to put an end to this enormous loss of resources. The Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme allows us to recycle your crisp packets and prevent them from ending up in landfill. Not only are you helping the environment, but the waste you recycle with us also helps to fund schools or organisations.

The more you recycle, the more money we raise for our school!

Learn more at www.terraCycle.co.uk

Waste that is accepted:
• Any brand of crisp packet including multipack outer packaging

Waste that is NOT accepted:
• Popcorn bags
• Crisp tubes
• Pretzel bags
• Meat snack bags

Please do not fold the crisp packets into triangles.

Drop your waste at
Newton Poppleford Primary School.

www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

01395 568300

✉ admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

For any Twilight after school club matters please phone the main school number.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

School meals on Census Day - Thursday 20th January - for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Thursday 20th Jan is School Census Day when the number of school dinners consumed on that day by children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, affects the government funding that we receive for infant meals.

Therefore, we would like to ask that if your child is in those year groups, that they have a hot school meal on that day if at all possible please (even if they bring a packed lunch in as back up in case they don't like it).

The menu for Census day will be roast dinner or jacket potatoes.



Changes to lunch menu on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th January

Weds 19th Jan: Chicken & ham pie, veg nuggets or jacket potato

Thurs 20th Jan: Roast dinner (including a veg option) or jacket potato



Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination

Don't forget that the closing date for the consent links for the Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination is midnight on the 19th January 2022. If you miss this deadline, your child(ren) will not be vaccinated at school and you will be offered the opportunity to book them into a community catch up clinic. This also applies if your child is absent or refuses the vaccination at school.

To complete the consent/decline please go to:

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2021/devon>

If you have any difficulties with completing the consent form, please contact the Immunisation Team on our Single Point of Access (SPA).

Tel: 0300 247 0082 (lines are open 9.00 to 16.30)

or Email: vcl.immunisations@nhs.net



Primary school admissions – closing date approaching

Parents have until Saturday 15th January to make their application for their child's Primary School place for September 2022. If there are any parents who need support or guidance on the process, please contact School Admissions on 0345 155 1019 or email: admissions@devon.gov.uk as soon as possible.

Any applications received after the closing date will be disadvantaged and may not get a place at the preferred or local school.



This week's National Online Safety guide to FORTNITE Chapter 3. What parents and carers need to know about FORTNITE Chapter 3.

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 game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
3

AGE RATING

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First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision however, this can be a great lesson in money management for children.

TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours, of course, isn't healthy but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Reception Barn Owls	Florence	Lily S
Year 1 Snowy Owls	Mhoirbheinn	Jacob
Year 2 Tawny Owls	Max	Chloe
Year 3 Kestrels	Bella	Nola
Year 4 Buzzards	Benedict	Chloe D
Year 5 Kites	Junior	Cody
Year 6 Eagles	Ava R	May