

St Martin's Newsletter



AUTUMN TERM - Friday 8th November

Open Day

We are holding an open day on **THURSDAY 21st NOVEMBER** for any parent whose child is due to start school in **September 2025** or for parents who may want to register for places in Preschool. Please let anyone who may be interested know.

For Parents Next Week

Tuesday 12th November 8.50am:
YR stay and pray
Wednesday 13th November 10am:
Y5 and **Y6** mass
Friday 15th November 9am:
Y2 assembly

Attendance

Year R - 95% 6 Lates
Year 1 - 92% 8 Lates
Year 2 - 90% 2 Lates
Year 3 - 88% 13 Lates
Year 4 - 92% 5 Lates
Year 5 - 93% 15 Lates
Year 6 - 94% 3 Lates
5 Classes with less than 10 lates
Well done to year 6, this weeks Dojo Champs
Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance

Changes To Afterschool Club

After school club is now available for children 3-11 years old and is open until 6pm. If you would like to use this service please collect a registration form from the office.

Clubs

All children have been allocated a place on their selected clubs. They will run until **week commencing 9th December**. YOGA club will not take place on **TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER** due to training.

Children In Need

On **FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER** we will be having an own clothes day for Children in Need. Children can come in wearing whatever they want to including all their Pudsey accessories.

Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the weekly Gospel's with their families
<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/gift?pid=MTA101634&p=2&v=15>

School Dog

The children met Charlie for the first time on **Thursday** and 9 children were chosen from Y4,5 and 6 to be the first to spend some time with him. He will be spending one day per week with us until after Christmas and all children with permission will have a chance to do sessions with him.

Attendance

We have started this half term well and attendance is at **92.6%**. Thank you for your continuing support 😊.

St Martin's Stars

Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

Nursery: Star- Paddy K
Value: Penelope L
YEAR R: Star- Georgie J
Purple tie- Isabella B
Value- Violet R
YEAR 1: Star- Romaisa A
Purple tie- Isla S
Value- Alicia H
YEAR 2: Star- Kingsley N
Purple tie- Olivia T
Value- Kyra Mc
YEAR 3: Star- WHOLE CLASS
Purple tie- Halle W
Value- Francis Mc
YEAR 4: Star- Mila W
Purple tie- Tyler J
Value- Evie S
YEAR 5: Star- Lillie J
Purple tie- Eva N
Value- Penelope G
YEAR 6: Star- Erin H
Purple tie- Johnathon E
Value- Jessica B

This guide provides expert insight into the risks associated with [Fortnite](#), letting you know how to keep children safe while they play.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

FORTNITE



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.

