



# Peel Park Primary School

Half termly Newsletter  
November and December 2024



The period of nicer weather is now behind us, it would seem, and we are all getting ready for the Christmas festivities. We have included the dates for our planned Christmas events at the end of this newsletter for your convenience. For me, the annual Christmas Fair is always festive and will get you in the Christmas spirit.

We have had an extremely busy term, full of highlights for the children across the school. Our recent parents evenings were well received by everyone we spoke to. As always, if you have any suggestions of how we can make things even better, please let us know, and we will consider them at our next parent forum (planned for soon after the Christmas holidays). The questionnaire that we have asked people to complete shows some of the areas that we are doing well in and some that we need to reflect on. Any feedback is gratefully received.

As we head into the busiest period of the school, I thank everyone once again for the support that you bring to the school, both for the children and for the whole staff team.

As is often the case at the end of term, we have to say our goodbyes to valued teaching staff who will be moving on to pastures new. Mrs Jackson (2J), Mrs Hill (3H) and Miss O'Brien (4OB) will be leaving the school to begin roles in other schools. Each of them have brought strength in subject leadership and teaching in their time at the school. We wish all of the departing teachers success in the next stage of their careers, and we thank each of them for the service that they have brought to school over their time. We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in appointing new teachers to these classes and they will all be present in school before the end of term to ensure a smooth transition. Mrs Leyland will be taking over in 2J, Ms Sayle will be the new teacher in 3H and Mr Whittaker will be the new teacher in 4OB.

David Waites

Headteacher



# This week.....



We are supporting the annual Anti-Bullying Alliance campaign to raise awareness of bullying in children and highlight ways of preventing it and responding to it. This year's theme is 'Choose Respect'. Our weekly PSHE lessons will focus on the actions we can take to Choose Respect, and what we can do to prevent bullying.

On Friday 15th, we will be concluding our week with Odd Socks Day, which is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity for people to express themselves, celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! All you need to do is simply combine 2 pairs of your most colourful, favourite socks. You could even make it a whole family day too. As a school we are not asking you for donations but if you feel you would like to make a donation, please visit the Anti-Bullying Alliance website. [Odd Socks Day](#)



Mystery reader has been launched throughout school for the next couple of weeks. If you would like to come in a read to your child's class at a convenient time for you— please fill out the Microsoft form on your email or follow the link—

<https://forms.office.com/e/ZAddg95CGd>

Parents are invited in to school on **14th November** at 15:30 to have a look and purchase the amazing art work that has been done in class in memory of the fallen soldiers.

Each poster is £3.50 (Cash only)





## Trips and clubs

### Year 6 - Aberdovey, Snowdonia

Monday 3rd February until Friday 7th February 2025

Payments due—£115 due by 30th November, £115 by 31st January (Total trip cost £305)

### Year 5 - London

Monday 10th March until Wednesday 12th March 2025

Payments due—£150 by 30th November, £100 by 31st January (Total trip cost £325)

Multi skills with year 1/2 ends Monday 16th December

After the bell boxing with Neema ends Thursday 12th December

After the bell boxing with Rio ends WEDNESDAY 11th December ( final session will be the Wednesday, not the Friday)

## What's on in school



<b>26th November</b>	Dolce <b>Parents taster session From 15:30</b>
<b>28th November</b>	John Hunt Photographers in school
<b>28th November</b>	Maths skills YR1,2,3,4,5 and 6 <b>Parents welcome at 14:30</b>
<b>29th November</b>	Bikeability Yr5 (Spaces available, bookable on Arbor)
<b>2nd &amp; 3rd December</b>	EYFS Church visit ( More information to follow)
<b>3rd December</b>	Parent and Child Wreath Making <b>15:30– 16:30 &amp; 17:00–18:00</b>
<b>3rd December</b>	Christingle Making with Yr2
<b>3rd December</b>	Ukulele Performance 5FL— <b>Parents welcome at 11:15</b>
<b>6th December</b>	Biscuit making/ Decorating 4OB <b>Parents welcome from 14:30–15:00</b>
<b>10th December</b>	Yr5 Visiting Accrington Academy to watch 'Annie'
<b>11th December</b>	Pro sport Dance Performance (3A, 3LH, 3H, 50F, 5B, 1W) <b>Parents welcome at 9:15</b>
<b>12th December</b>	Rocksteady concert at school—14:30 <b>Parents welcome</b>
<b>12th December</b>	Yr 4 Community Carols
<b>12th December</b>	Nativity Story with EYFS & Yr1
<b>13th December</b>	Christmas Crafts EYFS—from 14:30– 15:00 <b>from Parents welcome</b>
<b>13th December</b>	<b>Christmas lunch- Please book and pay for this on your school grid account</b>
<b>15th December</b>	Choir concert at Accrington Stanley <b>13:30-14:30</b>
<b>16th December</b>	Christmas by candle light at Methodist church Yr 2
<b>17th December</b>	Biscuit making/ Decorating 4G <b>Parents welcome from 14:30–15:00</b>
<b>17th December</b>	KS2 Christmas Assembly
<b>18th December</b>	Biscuit making/ Decorating 4H <b>Parents welcome from 14:30–15:00</b>
<b>20th December</b>	School closes for the Christmas break
<b>Mon 6th January</b>	School re-opens for the Spring term

**\*Christmas fair date to be confirmed\***

**More information to follow via Arbor.**

**Please keep an eye on your messages to stay up to date with activities taking place in school.**



# Christmas

## COMPETITION

### DESIGN YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS CARD

CREATE AN A4 WINTER THEMED PICTURE

Please use paint, crayons, pencils or chalk

(Do not use glitter or cotton wool)

Please write name, age and school on the back and then hand to the cook  
The Kitchen Team will then select their favourite 3 to send to us.

Schools will need to send all entries by 22/11/24 to:  
Dolce Ltd, 5, Cromwell Park, York Road Industrial Estate  
Wetherby, Yorkshire, LS22 7SU

We will announce a nationwide winner in early December

**WIN AN  
IPAD**

**AND A PACK OF YOUR  
XMAS CARDS TO SEND  
TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS**



dolce

# Christmas

LUNCH

December 2024

## MAINS

Roast Turkey, Stuffing & Chipolata  
Puff Pastry Christmas Cracker (VG)

## SIDES

Homemade Roast Potatoes  
Carrots  
Peas  
Sprouts  
Gravy

## DESSERTS

Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard (V)  
Reindeer Shortbread (VG)  
Fresh Fruit

dolce

# Reminders and updates

## First Aid Incidents

We will continue to notify parents by phone of any first aid incidents during the day and a slip will also be sent home with your child. Phone calls are made for FACE AND HEAD injuries only.

## Medical Appointments

Whenever possible, please could we ask parents / guardians to arrange medical appointments outside school hours. We do understand that this is not always possible, especially in the case of hospital appointments, therefore please arrange for the school office to have an emailed copy of the appointment letter / card so that the absence can be recorded as authorised for medical reasons.

## Winter clothing

As it gets colder, please ensure you send your child to school with a warm coat, a hat, scarves and gloves so they can continue to access outdoor play. Please ensure all items sent to school are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.



## Free school meals

If you are receiving certain benefits, a FREE tasty and nutritious school meal is available for your children at Peel Park Primary School...BUT YOU MUST APPLY!

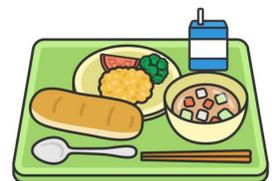
Look at the benefits:

- A free school meal for your child, which is good for their health and could help their learning.
- Savings for you, worth over £350 a year.
- Extra money for the school through Pupil Premium, worth at least £900 a year.
- School will also support your child by contributing £80 per year towards uniform and trips.

Remember. Just registering your child for Free School Meals means that Peel Park receives the extra money even if you don't take up the free meal. No one will know you have registered, and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. If you want further information, then please talk to Mrs Gerrard or email [office@peelpark.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@peelpark.lancs.sch.uk); everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Do you qualify? Your child will be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits.

- **Income Support.**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190**
- **Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit**
- **Universal Credit**



If you think you could be entitled to free school meals, please follow the link to check your eligibility.

[https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_pupil\\_premium](https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_school_meals_and_pupil_premium)



**Bike Registering Event- Tesco, Eagle Street, Accrington!**  
**🚲 CHANGE OF TIME**

Good Evening Peel Park Primary School,

Lancashire Police would like to welcome you to a Bike registering event 🚲 at **Tesco Eagle Street, Accrington on Saturday 23rd November** between the following times **10:00-12:00**. *I did send a message out a couple of weeks ago regarding this but please bare in mind that the time has changed.*

This is a completely free event and all we need you to do, is attend the location with your bicycle and we will do the rest. This opportunity has been given to us as a result of funding from Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC), so we would love to see as many of you as possible.

Did you know that by having your bike registered on the National cycle database;

- You are more likely not to have your bike stolen
- More likely to have your bike reunited should it be stolen due to it being on the register

Please come along with your bikes and we look forward to seeing you 😊.

Thankyou and have a lovely rest of your day! 🙌



**Message Sent By**

Billie-Jo Heal

(Police, Police Community Support Officer, Accrington Town Centre)

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Forest School Team as we have now received the Bronze Food for Life Award which is an amazing achievement!!

Peel Park Primary School will now feature on the Food for Life website as an awarded school and we can now start to use the accredited Bronze Food for Life logo. We are looking forward to now using this award to transform food culture in our school and generate even more excitement around our Food for Life Work and start our journey towards the Silver Award.



# PEEL PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024-2025

### AUTUMN TERM 2024

<b>INSET DAYS – school closed to pupils</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
RE-OPEN	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
School closes for half term	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
<b>HALF TERM</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
<b>INSET DAY – school closed to pupils</b>	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
RE-OPEN	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Closure after school on	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
<b>HALF TERM (Christmas)</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025

### SPRING TERM 2025

RE-OPEN	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
School closes for half term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>HALF TERM</b>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025
RE-OPEN	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Closure after school on	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<b>HALF TERM (Spring)</b>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025

### SUMMER TERM 2025

RE-OPEN	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025
<b>MAY DAY – school closed to pupils</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
School re-opens	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
School closes for half term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
<b>HALF TERM</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
RE-OPEN	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Closure after school	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
<b>INSET DAYS – school closed to pupils</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July and Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025
<b>SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b>	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 to TBA

### INSET DAYS – school closed to pupils

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024  
 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024  
 Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025  
 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025



Find out more about the exciting things that happen in school by following us on Facebook!





# PEEL PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## TERM DATES 2025-2026



### AUTUMN TERM 2025

INSET DAYS – school closed for pupils	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025</b>
School reopens	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025
Closure after school	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Autumn half term</b>	<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025</b>
School reopens	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025
Closure after school	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Christmas Holiday	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026

### SPRING TERM 2026

INSET DAYS – school closed for pupils	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>
School reopens	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Closure after school	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Spring half term</b>	<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
School reopens	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
Closure after school	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Easter Holiday	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026

### SUMMER TERM 2026

School reopens	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
May Bank Holiday – school closed for pupils	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
School reopens	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Closure after school	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
<b>Summer half term</b>	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>
School reopens	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
Closure after school	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
INSET DAY – school closed for pupils	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>
Summer holiday	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 to TBA

### INSET DAYS – school closed to pupils

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026



# SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

## Supporting your child through suspected bullying

As children form friendships, particularly in school, it can be a challenge to determine if negative behaviours have escalated into bullying. The definition provided earlier can assist with this, but if you have concerns, it's essential to handle the situation delicately and offer steady emotional support. See right for steps parents can take to support their child.

It is important to remember that no school accepts or tolerates bullying behaviours. It is important to work with school to resolve any issues.

# ROBLOX

## Roblox: Ensuring children's safety while using the platform

Roblox is enjoyed by 25 million children globally; however, an increasing number are reporting encounters with harmful, distressing and inappropriate content on the site.

Here are some reasons for these concerns:

- The platform features user-generated content, meaning the games are crafted by other users. Some of these games may include elements of violence, horror and sexual content.
- Roblox incorporates social features like chat and private messaging, which can expose children to interactions with potentially unsafe strangers, increasing the risk of grooming and exploitation.
- The platform uses a virtual currency called Robux that can be purchased with real money, leading to children unintentionally spending significant amounts on in-game purchases without realising the real-life cost.

## FIVE STEPS TO SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH POSSIBLE BULLYING

# 1

### HAVE OPEN DIALOGUE

Listen to your child, giving your full attention. Ask open ended questions such as 'Can you tell me what happened today?'

# 2

### OBSERVE FOR SIGNS OF BULLYING

Watch out for changes in behaviour such as reluctance to go to school, complaining of tummyache or headaches.

# 3

### TEACH STRATEGIES TO MANAGE SITUATIONS

Help your child rehearse responses for negative situations and urge them to seek an adult for assistance.

# 4

### WORK WITH SCHOOL

Document any specific incidents and share your early concerns to enable teachers to monitor in school.

# 5

### EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Encourage them to participate in activities they enjoy and excel in so they feel confident, especially in school.

## 4 ways to keep your child safe whilst using Roblox:

- 1) Monitor their playtime: check what they are playing and who they are playing against. Understand the games.
- 2) Discuss online safety: explain the risks of strangers online and how they may not be who they say they are.
- 3) Set boundaries on games times and how much they can spend on in-game purchases.
- 4) Use the parental controls on the platform. You can do this through the settings once logged in.

# SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe  
Primary | November 2024



## Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is Monday 11th- Friday 15th November. The theme for this year's anti-bullying week is '*Choose Respect.*'

## In this issue:

- Anti-bullying week: Choose Respect
- Supporting your child with possible bullying
- App focus: Roblox

Bullying, as defined by the Anti-Bullying Alliance is: The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.

Respect is crucial in preventing bullying because it fosters understanding, empathy and kindness. When children learn to respect one another's differences and viewpoints, they are less likely to find reason to behave in a bullying manner towards others. By promoting mutual respect, children are encouraged to treat others in the way they want to be treated, which helps break the cycle of bullying and builds a more positive and support culture amongst children.

## How can parents help children develop respect for others?

1



**Model respectful behaviour around them, treating others with kindness and patience**

2



**Encourage children to express their views and feelings in a way that does not harm others**

3



**Have open conversations about diversity and how to treat everyone equally**

4



**Teach children the value of kindness through everyday actions such as sharing and using kind words**

If you are concerned about the way your child responds to others, speak to their teacher. Teachers are highly skilled when it comes to managing relationships between children, they understand how to support children to develop empathy, patience and kindness for one another. They will be able to offer guidance.

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

### 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

### 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

### 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

### 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

### 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

### 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

### 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

### 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each another.

### 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

### 10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

### Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



# ONLINE SAFETY ZONE



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](http://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

D@#!

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



# CHRISTMAS AT THE ARTISTS' STUDIOS

**Wednesday 6th December, 4-8pm**

We're inviting you to our studios for a festive evening of shopping, mulled wine and mince pies.

**Haworth Art Gallery, Artists; Studios,  
Hollins lane, Accrington BB5 2JS.**



## Santa's Post Box at Brockholes

Christmas/Festive

Preston

Come and write your letter to Santa at Brockholes before heading off on a winter walk to Santa's Post Box!

Make sure that you find the secret North Pole Stamp on route or your letter won't make it to Lapland!

Once you've posted your letter, join...

8 Nov 2024 to 8 Dec 2024 *Various Opening Times*



♥ Add to My Planner

## Christmas By The Sea

Christmas/Festive

Blackpool

Blackpool's Tower Festival Headland turns into an outdoor winter wonderland. We will be unwrapping our plans for the 2024 Christmas season very soon.

15 Nov 2024 to 5 Jan 2025

If you know of any other free events in the local area please feel free to share them with our social media



## CHRISTMAS CAROL EXTRAVAGANZA LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS FROM HYNDBURN

# Singing Christmas Carols

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
DOORS OPEN 1:30PM | 2PM - 4PM

FREE ENTRY

FREE MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES



Rotary Accrington

wham STADIUM