

Kindness and Co-operation	Thankfulness	Friendship and Sharing	Respect	Patience and Perseverance	Responsibility
Hope and Peace	Unity	Trust and Honesty	Happiness	Courage	



**MAPLE TREE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Climbing the branches of success

Newsletter

Friday 30th April 2021

House Winners



Congratulations!

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Thank you to all of you who made appointments to meet with your child's class teacher this week. We have had some positive feedback already but should you still have questions regarding your child then please do contact the class teacher, through the school office, to make an additional appointment.

The children are working really hard at the moment and teachers have spent considerable time adapting their planning to ensure that they are covering the key areas of the curriculum, without trying to rush through everything that hasn't yet been taught by the end of the year. There will be some of this year's objectives which will need to be re-taught in the following year to allow learning to be consolidated and children to be focused without immense pressure. The children are showing good levels of resilience but we know it is hard for some of them. There will be more information in the coming weeks about how our teaching and learning is moving forwards.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Headteacher Awards

This week the award is for...	being a happy person!	Fir Class: ★
Birch Class: ★ Toby	Yew Class: ★ Toby	Aspen Class: ★ Mickey
Poplar Class: ★ Thomas	Rowan Class: ★ Max	Hawthorn Class: ★ Summer
Juniper Class: ★ Aimee	Cherry Class: ★ Alex	Elder Class: ★ Lily Rose

Congratulations!

Dates for the diary:

- Monday 3rd May** Bank Holiday
- Thursday 6th May** Class photos
- Thursday 27th May** 10.30am Parent Forum
- Week beg 31st May** Half Term Week
- Thursday 24th June** Shuffle Up day TBC
- Thursday 15th July** Reports out
- Wednesday 21st July** Term ends
- Thursday 22nd July** INSET day

Arrival times

Our staggered start times mean that all children should be in school by 9am. Please ensure that they are on time so that they are ready to start learning, especially the children in Years 5 and 6 who should be here by 8.45am.

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Head: Mrs Cath Bainbridge Deputy Head: Miss Amy Hyde

Safeguarding Update

Following on from the advice we shared last week regarding the use of WhatsApp for children, this week we want to share the guidance for the game Fortnite.

A very large number of our children talk openly about playing this game. This game is rated 13+ and it concerns us that the children are discussing and re-enacting the age inappropriate messages that they are getting from the game. Some of our infant children talk about playing this game!

Please do read the guidance below. If you have any concerns regarding your child and social media then do not hesitate to contact Miss Hyde, Mrs Ewen or Mrs Bainbridge as Designated Safeguarding Leads.

More information and top tips for parents can be found on the National Online Safety [website](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com).

Fortnite: Chapter 2 has finally landed! With a whole host of new in-game features including a brand-new map, more water-based activities, upgraded character skins and a more streamlined arsenal of weapons, this Fortnite is promising to be the best yet. Almost all of the changes are cosmetic which means the concept of the game remains the same, with players still aiming to be the last man standing. Players will no doubt find the game much more enjoyable with so much more to explore. For parents and carers however, it pays to remain vigilant.

AGE RECOMMENDATION 13+

What parents need to know about FORTNITE CHAPTER 2

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 remote island building for weapons and armour and attempt to be the last one standing. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 new 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 is addictive, or if it is just a case of being hooked on the game, is still up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. It can be caused by any game that includes in-game purchases, and the amount of time played and a preoccupation with the symptoms of the next gaming session. Mentally, 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 (the fact 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 to complete the game 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 the game in interesting ways. These seasons are free 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 full 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 be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account, making this more of a one-time boundary of not being able to play together because you're using the same console and opening up a whole new world of playing online with friends.

IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?
Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) as being 'TEEN' due to cartoonish violence and the weapons and tactics depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life implications. Characters don't die in the game and instead of dying, they are simply knocked out of the game. Notably, players younger than the recommended age limit will have 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 read our good information afterwards as it can be very easy to lose a lot of money in the game at a very fast rate. It's important to set a limit on any purchases for children that are absolutely not necessary to play the game and a suggestion should be to keep the spending at around £10. 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. It's difficult to predict what younger players may do or be exposed to, so it's a good idea for friends playing together to be grouped together. The only real concern comes in connecting with strangers online, which can be done in the game settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord, is a good way to make sure you know who you'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, but for Battle Royale it is around 10-15 minutes when it comes to the actual game play. It's important to set a limit on how long your child can play for, but also be flexible. If your child is playing with friends, it's important to be flexible and allow them to play longer if they're enjoying it.

TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS
If you're concerned about play time, or your child's progress in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. It's important to be open to the idea that you will be able to help your child in the way you can, and you can also help your child in the way you can. It's important to be open to the idea that you will be able to help your child in the way you can, and you can also help your child in the way you can.

CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS
It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, and it's important to remember that it's not just about the game, but about the skills that can be developed. While it's important to be aware of the risks, there are benefits to spending time with your child playing the game.

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 several gaming consoles, and it's worth remembering that you can play it on a PC, which means you can play it on a PC, which means you can play it on a PC, which means you can play it on a PC.

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 on one of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMMAGlobe. 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.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter @natonlinesafety Facebook /NationalOnlineSafety

Parent Forum

Yesterday we had our first Parent Forum since we reopened. It was good to meet with representatives to discuss some of the things that are concerning parents at the moment. Minutes from this meeting are being sent out with this newsletter or you can find a copy on our website.

We are currently looking for Year group reps from Years 2, 4, 5 and 6. Please discuss this with other parents in these year groups and if you would like to represent the cohort then please contact the school office and we will take it from there.

Our next meeting is Thursday 27th May at 10.30am. These are being held virtually at the moment. The focus for the next meeting will be transition so please send your questions via your representative by 20th May so we can include them on the agenda.

And finally...

Congratulations to Lewis (Year 5) who has recently passed his Grade 4 violin exam! This is a great achievement and one he should be very proud of. I am sure he will continue to work hard to achieve even higher grades but Lewis this is amazing! Well done!



If your child has achievements to share with us, please do let us know!