



Newsletter 2

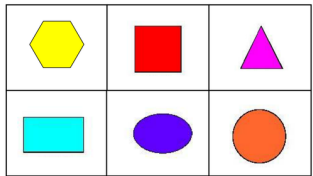
Newsletter Date
Friday 2nd Oct 2020



01323 502525

Quality, excellence and passion

heronparkoffice@auroraacademies.org
http://www.heronparkprimaryacademy.org

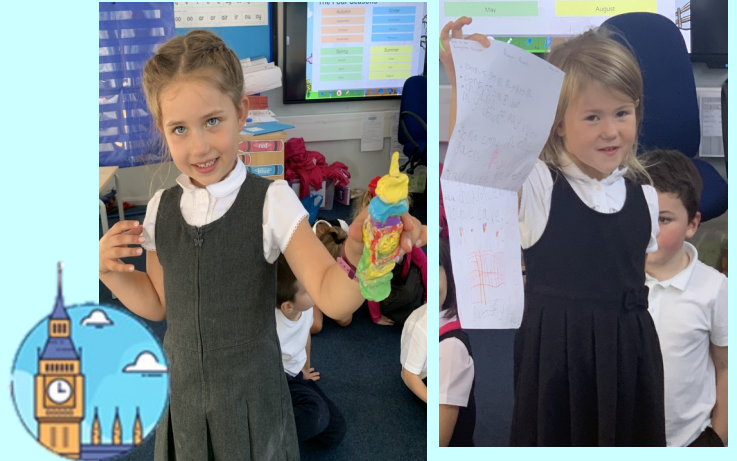


Reception are playing shape Bingo!
It's a great game to help the children recognise their shapes

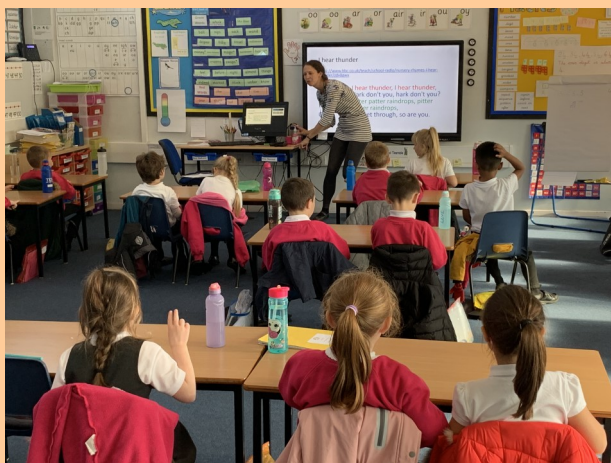
Homework in Year 1

The children from Ash class have made a model of Big Ben and a Poster of Royal rules for the Queen!

Well done!



Year One Autumn Art Lesson.
Using stamps and different textured materials, Elm class created some wonderful Autumnal pictures.



"Making music in other ways"

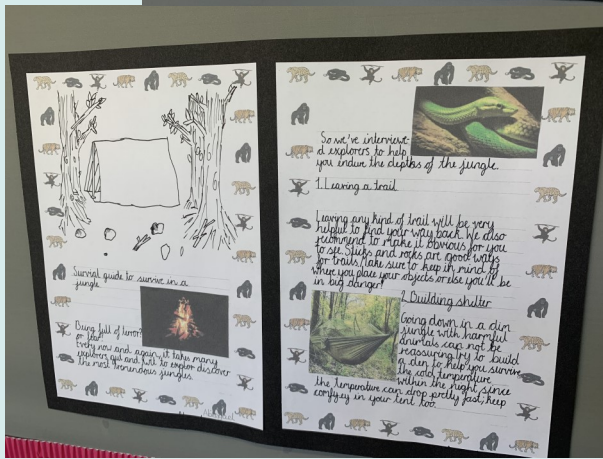
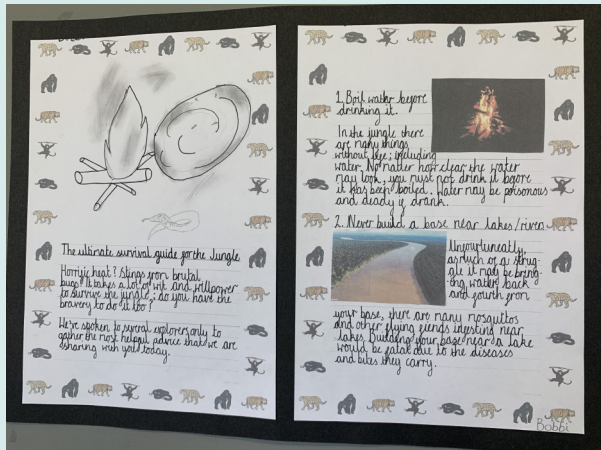
Year 3 Music lessons.
Mrs Dalton decided to teach them how to use a simple object (plastic cup) like an instrument. So far, the children are loving the challenge. The children also have a pair of dowling rods which they will use like drumsticks! They are also using these 'instruments' to learn how to read and write simple musical rhythms this term.

"I hear Thunder, I hear Thunder..."
Year 2 Music lessons are in full swing today!



Jungle Survival Guides in Year 6

Children have used drawing and shading techniques they have learned in Art



Year 6 working with Mr Griffiths & Sportitude to develop basketball skills.



Diary Dates:

- Friday 23rd October - Last day of term one
- Monday 2nd November - First day of term two
- Wednesday 4th November - School Photos
- Thursday 12th November - Children in Need, further info to follow
- Friday 13th November - INSET DAY
- Wednesday 16th December - Christmas lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
- Friday 18th December - Last day of term two. School finishes at 1:30pm for all children
- Monday 4th January - First day of term three
- Friday 5th February - INSET DAY
- Friday 12th February - Last day of term three
- Monday 22nd February - First day of term four
- Thursday 1st April - Last day of term four. School finishes at 1:30pm for all children
- Friday 2nd April - Bank Holiday
- Monday 19th April - First day of term five
- Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday
- Friday 28th May - last day of term five
- Monday 7th June - First day of term six
- Friday 18th June - INSET DAY
- Friday 23rd July - Last day of term six. School finishes at 1:30pm for all children

Calendar dates are subject to change, we will endeavour to give parents/carers as much notice as possible.



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.



What parents need to know about

FORTNITE



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) has **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 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 **knocked up off the map.** **Generally, 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 voice 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 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, or be finished 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 games can develop.** While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, **there are benefits to games that might not 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.



<https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/mar/07/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide-video-game-multiplayer-shooter>; <http://www.psychguides.com/blog/2018/08/22/fortnite-video-game-addiction/>; <https://www.polygon.com/2018/3/23/17146848/cross-play-platform-crossplay-ps4-xbox-pc-switch-ios-mobile-android-tips>; <http://www.esrb.org/ratings/matrix/34044/Fortnite>



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



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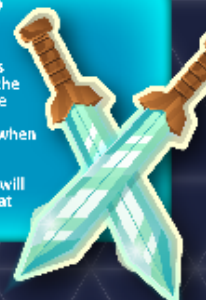
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