



Head teacher's note

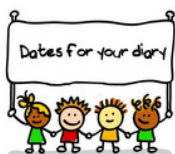
As we come to the end of a very busy first half term, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone—children, staff, and families—for your continued support and enthusiasm. We began the term with our inspiring Global Fortnight, learning about the wider world and celebrating diversity, and we're ending it with a special Schools of Sanctuary visit. This marks an important step in our journey to ensure our school is a welcoming and safe place for all, and we are hoping to be the first school in York to receive this award. In between, we've enjoyed a packed calendar including parent workshops, parent evenings, geography field trips, Spooky Week, the Halloween disco, and the book fair. It has been a wonderful half term full of learning and fun and your children have continued to make us all proud.

I hope that you have a lovely half term holiday together and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 3rd November.

Dates

Weds 5th - Y2 Parents Maths Workshop 9am
EYU first forest session of the half term
KS1 Autumn Walk (parent helpers needed)

Fri 7th - Y6 Bikeability



Friends of Fishergate

Pumpkin Contest Results

Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to those who took part. The standards were high this year and we were so impressed by the effort on display, the pumpkin scarecrow and K-Pop Demon hunters entries were terrific fun too! And the winners are...

- Afi from Year 1/2
- Vivian & Henry from Year 3/4
- Milania from Year 5/6

Disco Success!

Together, we raised £690.00! Big events like this build special school memories while helping to fund school projects, equipment and extra resources for our children.

Thoughts from Friends of Fishergate

We've reached the halfway point of the term!

We hope you all have a refreshing break.

There's plenty more in the works, but for now, a heartfelt thank you to all families, teachers and staff! Your incredible support has made it possible for us to hold bake sales, uniform stalls, the Christmas design project, disco and pumpkin contest. What a busy time we've had!

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to our wonderful helpers. Without you, our school events simply wouldn't be possible. Our dedicated team at Friends of Fishergate works tirelessly behind the scenes and are the friendly faces you often see supporting our activities. To the parents who volunteer for face painting, washing cups for squash drinks, DJing, sharing classroom WhatsApp reminders, and much more, thank you again! To all parents: please share your thoughts, we always welcome feedback, get in touch at friendsoffishergateschool@gmail.com.

Phase group updates

Early Years This week, we have been reading Meg and Mog and drawing pictures with captions. In Maths, we have been finding out all about the number 5. In the forest, we started developing our stick whittling skills and made fishing rods. We also made leaf kebabs with sticks and all the beautiful autumnal leaves that have recently fallen. It has been a really wonderful first half term in Early Years and it's so lovely to see our littlest Fishies making so much progress already.

Year 1/2 This week, KS1 have been innovating their own versions of spooky stories, with Year 1 producing their own stories based on 'Room on the Broom' and Year 2 writing their own versions of 'Funnybones'. In Maths, Year 1 have continued looking at numbers 6-10 on number lines and have been decorating the playground with their work, whilst Year 2 have been working on additions by 'making ten' using their number bonds. We've also been learning about the shapes in our face to produce some Paul Klee inspired abstract portraits!

Year 3/4 In English this week, the Yr 3/4's have been writing some excellent similes and metaphors to make Halloween themed descriptions for poetry. We look forward to reading your children's 500 Word Competition stories, when they return after a well deserved half term.

Year 5/6 had a fantastic trip to The Shambles this week to inspire the Diagon Alley stories we will write after the holidays. In Maths, Year 5 is moving onto addition and subtraction while Year 6 is learning to do long division. Teachers have really enjoyed reading all the competition entries for the BBC 500 Words Competition. They are now officially submitted and all children received a certificate of participation.



Other news

Start Safe Stay Safe App

A new app, Start Safe, Stay Safe, has been launched to improve street safety in York and North Yorkshire. It offers a straightforward, and confidential way for members of the public to report street, town and city centre incidents by way of photo, video and audio capture. It also enables authorities to quickly identify patterns of abuse and criminal behaviour and help them to respond more effectively. The app has been designed to help more people in York and North Yorkshire report street harassment and feel safer in public spaces.



Bodhi Corner

Woof hello, everyone! 🐶

I've had such a pawsome time walking with you along the river this week! The leaves are crunchy, the air smells amazing, and there are so many exciting things to see (and sniff!).

I love it when we walk together — you talk to me, walk so nicely, and you're brilliant at being calm and kind.

Remember, a little walk and some fresh air can make you feel wag-tastic inside!

Big wags,
Bodhi



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

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. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or 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 – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

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 mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like *The Witcher* and *Halo*.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to 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 put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like *Power Rangers* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, to comic book characters including *Batman*. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

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.

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 to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

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.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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