

# Leadgate Primary School – Friday Newsletter

*Caring, Sharing, Learning Together*

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023**

**1820** Danish scientist Hans Christian Ørsted is the first to identify electromagnetism, when he observes a compass needle

**1934** The *Daily Mail* printed a photograph that reportedly depicted the small head and neck of the Loch Ness monster; the iconic image, widely known as the “surgeon's photograph,” sparked an international sensation but was later revealed to be a hoax.

**1983** 1 pound coin introduced in United Kingdom



## Whole School Attendance Weekly Attendance figures

Reception = 89.3%

Year 1 = 92.9%

★ Year 2 = 94% ★

Year 3 = 95.5%

Year 4 = 96.2%

Year 5 = 91.4%

★ Year 6 = 96.7% ★



### Congratulations

Well Done Year 2  
for the best attendance in Lower  
School and Year 6  
for the best attendance in Upper  
School.

On Wednesday 3rd May, Mica McNeill (Olympian Bobsleigh Champion), will be visiting our school to talk about her journey, resilience and much more! This is a very exciting opportunity for the children to learn something new about fitness, setting goals in life and overcoming difficult situations, as well as meeting an inspiring, real life Olympian! Mica will visit both upper and lower school, delivering an assembly at both sites, then complete a fun fitness challenge

All money raised will cover the cost of the visit and any excess will be divided between our school and the athlete, so the more we raise, the more money we will have to spend on sports equipment for our school!

Please return both the form and the money to the school office no later than Monday 24th April. Thank you in advance for your support-what a wonderful opportunity for the children of Leadgate Primary School!



## What is All Stars Cricket?

All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5-8 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so. Every child that registers will receive a backpack full of goodies. Your child's pack will include: Backpack, cricket bat, cricket ball and personalised t-shirt with your child's name.



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## School Dates



## School Holiday Dates

The next school Holiday is the Half term Holiday. School closes Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May and reopens on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.



### School dates and Holidays

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Bank Holiday School Closed  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – NEU strike Action  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Team GB Olympic Athlete visits school  
8<sup>th</sup> May – Coronation Bank Holiday – School Closed  
9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May, Year 6 SATS WEEK  
23<sup>rd</sup> May – Year 5/6 Consett Cricket Club  
Half term holiday – closing Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – reopen Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June  
6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June Year 6 Transition Days at Consett Academy  
9<sup>th</sup> June – Year 5/6 Netball Consett Academy  
14<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 Kids visit Beamish  
15<sup>th</sup> June – Buddhist Visit to Year 1  
16<sup>th</sup> June – Year 3 and 4 Netball – Consett Academy  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June – Adam Bushnell Author Visit to school  
28<sup>th</sup> June – Year 5 South Moor Golf club visit  
4<sup>th</sup> July – Year 3 and 4 Cricket at Consett Cricket  
10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July Parent report afternoon and evenings  
21<sup>st</sup> July – School Closes for Summer Holidays

**Additional dates, visits and events to be added once confirmed**

### Summer Term PE, Forest School, Taekwondo and Dance Schedule

**Nursery:** Monday – Dance  
Tuesday – PE

**Reception:** Monday – Dance  
Tuesday – PE

**Year 1:** Monday – Forest School and PE  
Thursday – PE

**Year 2:** Monday – Forest School  
Tuesday – PE  
Thursday – PE

**Year 3:** Tuesday – Gymnastics  
Thursday – Taekwondo  
Friday – Netball

**Year 4:** Wednesday – PE  
Thursday – PE

**Year 5:** Tuesday – PE  
Thursday – Swimming

**Year 6:** Thursday – PE

**Dance lesson for Year 3 and Year 4 after school until 4pm**

### Staffing

We would like to welcome Miss Fisher to Leadgate Primary School. Miss Fisher will be covering Nursery and children across both sites will get the opportunity to work with her over the upcoming months.

We are sad to say goodbye to Miss Jane and Miss Kerri who have been a valuable part of Leadgate Primary School and we would like to thank both for their hard work, dedication and commitment. They will finish their time with us at the end of next week and we wish them both the very best success in their future careers.

# E-Safety Update / Information

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

CHAPTER  
**4**

AGE RESTRICTION  
**PEGI 12**

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. 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', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### 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 of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

#### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

#### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The Walking Dead* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from *Alien* or who Geralt from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

#### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers ... of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, 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. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The 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 returning to their screens.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

#### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

#### 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 available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

#### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that 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 your child knows this.

#### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make 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.



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