



Oxenhope C of E Primary

Safeguarding Newsletter – 08.09.22

Message from Mrs Jones – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Welcome to our first Safeguarding newsletter of the year. These will feature updates, special safeguarding related lessons we are doing in school and useful information for you as parents and carers. This term is always about re-establishing procedures in school for the children, attending staff training and reviewing policy. It is also a time for our Anti-Bullying week and our Diversity week, where our children celebrate difference and learn where they can go to get help if they need it. It is also a time for our Safety Squad to gather and discuss issues they want to cover over the year.

Key Staff

Mrs Jones -Head, safeguarding lead, Relationships Education Lead and Personal, Social and Health Education Lead	
Mrs Dyson and Mrs Woodhead – Pastoral Support	
Mrs Jones- Online Safety Lead	
Miss Cooper – Special Educational Needs Coordinator	
Mrs Brown – Assistant Head and Deputy DSL	
Mrs Jane Topham – safeguarding Governor	
Mrs Hartley and Mrs Costello – Attendance Leads	
Mrs Hopkinson – Before and After School Club – Deputy DSL	

If you are concerned about the safety of a child, act!
Our Named Persons for Child Protection are Alice Jones, Gillian Dyson, Caroline Auty, Joanne Brown, Laura Woodhead, Oliver Thurlby and Janet Hopkinson

Useful phone numbers:
School – 01535 642271
Social Services Initial Contact Point 01274 437500
NSPCC – 0800 800 5000
West Yorkshire Police – 101 or 999

Vaping

Vaping seems to be a more prevalent activity in our village for children. We wanted to let you know that the legal age for vaping and buying vaping equipment is 18 years old.

We will be talking to the children about the dangers of vaping in years 5 and 6.

YUM
SWEETS
SMELLS GOOD
SWEET FLAVORS
LOOKS HARMLESS
BUT

DUMB
VAPE
IS HIGHLY ADDICTIVE.
• FULL OF NICOTINE
• TOXIC CHEMICALS
• HEAVY METALS
NICOTINE CAUSES
IRREVERSIBLE BRAIN DAMAGE
LIKE ATTENTION & LEARNING PROBLEMS!
ONE JUUL POD = 20 CIGARETTES WORTH OF NICOTINE!
THAT'S A WHOLE BOX OF CIGARETTES!
DON'T USE VAPE.

TOBACCO
RETHINK IT
RETHINKTOBACCO.COM

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
3

AGE RATING
PEGI
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First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or 'toxic' behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision however, this can be a great lesson in money management for children.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours, of course, isn't healthy but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

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