



Little Thurrock Primary School

Newsletter



Self-help Solidarity Democracy Equality Equity Self-responsibility

Friday 9th and 16th February 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Building works

Over the half-term we will be having an exciting building project beginning. Our old demountable building which is currently used by Jules Et Lis after school club is being demolished and a new demountable is being installed. The new demountable is being provided because we are taking an additional 'bulge' Year 2 class for Thurrock Council which we are hoping to open after the Easter holidays.

As a result of this, Jules Et Lis will be operating out of our Small Hall and parents and carers do need to be advised that there will be demolition and construction on site beginning Monday 19th February. Hopefully it won't be too long until the new demountable is ready to receive our new class.

The Little Thurrock Curriculum

Over the past couple of weeks I have been so impressed with the work that has been going on in school. Amongst other things I have seen: children making wraps; year groups using the local area to find out about geography; puppet making; local residents talking about the impact of the 1953 floods; children visiting the local secondary school to watch a performance of 'Hairspray'; children having the chance to see snakes up close; the swimming squad coming 2nd in the Thurrock gala and Mrs Barrett leading instrumental lessons. We are trying to ensure that the children get access to as many experiences as possible and I want to thank Mrs Joynes and the teachers for all the work they have put into making our curriculum more fun and engaging.

I also need to thank all parents and carers who supported their children with their half-term homework projects, we have seen some amazing examples brought into school this week.

I am sure that even more great learning awaits after the school holiday!

Have a great half-term.
Ian Broyd

Headteacher

Contact details

Telephone: 01375 373586

Email: a.mail.ltp@osborne.coop

Website: www.littlethurrock.thurrock.sch.uk

Twitter: @LittleThurrock_

Upcoming events and dates.

(Please note the dates subject to change)

Monday 26 th February	Back to school Day
Tuesday 27 th Wednesday 28 th & Thursday 29 th February	Reception Class Local Visit to Smiths Garden Centre
Friday 1 st March	Class Photographs
Wednesday 6 th March	Mathletics Event at GLC
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March	Thurrock SSP Event SEN Day @ WES
Friday 8 th March	LTSA mothers' day gift room
Monday 11 th & Thursday 14 th March	School Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday 18 th March	Neurodiversity celebration week
Monday 18 th March	Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel
Tuesday 19 th March	History off the Page Workshop Year 3 - Egyptians
Friday 22 nd March	LTSA Easter competition
Thursday 28 th March	Bling your Bike Day
Tuesday 26 th March	History off the Page Workshop Year 1 – Great Fire of London
Monday 15 th April	Mental Health Awareness Week
Thursday 18 th April	Year 4 Swimming begins
Friday 19 th April	Thurrock SSP Event Netball Rally @ Basildon Sporting Village
Friday 26 th April	Thurrock SSP Event KS1 Tag Rugby @ Orsett Heath Academy
Friday 3 rd May	Thurrock SSP Event Girls Dynamo Cricket @ Orsett Cricket Club
Wednesday 8 th May	School Council visit to Piggs Corner
Thursday 6 th June	Year 5 State of Matter workshop
Tuesday 18 th June	Colchester Zoo Year 1

Friday Celebration Assembly

We celebrate a number of achievements in school, which you will find via Class Dojo. Here you will find out more about the learning that has taken place in the classroom each week.

Little Thurrock Way certificate which is awarded to children weekly.

	Week ending 9th February 2024	Week ending 16th February 2024
RED	Kemal	Noah
RLR	George	Phoebe
RCW	Herkus	Folajimi
1AS	Jasmine	Edina
1JO	Jasmine	Alaria
1BA	Sofia	Anoop
2AA	Kuba	Lewis
2CD	Violet	Leah
2JD	Tinashe	Andreja
3HM	Mila	Deanna
3MS	Scarlett	Bella
3SM	Rixon	Aria
4RS	Lewis	Asharia
4NP	Mason	Erik
4LB	Jake	Alfie
5EE	Frankie	Gracie
5SR	Brodie	Kiera
5LH	Zainab	Emily
6FD	Emmie	Leah
6SZ	Whole Class	Ethan
6AL	Reisa	Marcel

Attendance

We are continuing to celebrate and reward good attendance this year. Our new display in the hall will help to track this further. Extra play will be rewarded on a weekly basis as before. In addition to this, we will be holding a prize draw with the chance to win a £5 AMAZON voucher each week for those children with 100% attendance

	Week ending 9th February 2024	Week ending 16th February 2024
RED	91.3 %	89.6 %
RLR	97.3 %	99.1 %
RCW	91.8 %	91.4 %
1AS	95.2 %	92.4 %
1JO	92.1 %	91.7 %
1BA	96.6 %	94.8 %
2JD	92.7 %	94.3 %
2AA	86.7 %	90.7 %
2CD	96.6 %	99.3 %
3HM	91.3 %	97.3 %
3MS	91.7 %	96.0 %
3SM	92.6 %	95.9 %
4RS	93.8 %	94.5 %
4NP	90.0 %	94.7 %
4LB	98.7 %	95.2 %
5EE	92.1 %	93.9 %
5SR	95.5 %	95.5 %
5LH	90.7 %	96.3 %
6FD	94.5 %	97.2 %
6SZ	93.2 %	89.7%
6AL	94.3 %	98.0 %

Welcome to Boom Reader

Boom Reader is used in all year groups to support communication between home and school in reading. Each child from Nursery through to Year 6 has their own reading journey captured in one place for both parents and teachers to share and use to support children's individual progress in reading.



Each week we will share and celebrate the class reading logs. The class in each phase with the most winning certificates will win a prize at the **end of Spring term.**



Class	Week ending 9 th February 2024	Week ending 16 th February 2024
Nursery AM	18	18
Nursery PM	11	9
RCW	9	11
RED	11	12
RLR	11	12
1AS	14	14
1BA	13	9
1JO	9	11
2AA	18	13
2CD	16	17
2JD	15	13
3HM	18	11
3MS	14	9
3SM	16	18
4LB	14	11
4NP	20	18
4RS	14	18
5EE	23	26
5LH	23	18
5SR	30	26
6AL	13	13
6FD	21	24
6SZ	24	29

<u>Winners</u> 09.02.24
EYFS : Nursery AM
KS1 : 2AA
LKS2 : 4RS
UKS2 : 6SZ

<u>Winners</u> 16.02.24
EYFS : Nursery AM
KS1 : 2CD
LKS2 : 3SM/ 4NP & 4RS
UKS2 : 6SZ



Week beginning 26th February 2024 - School Dinner Menu Week 3

Week commencing - 13th Nov, 4th Dec, 25th Dec, 15th Jan, 5th Feb, 26th Feb, 18th Mar						
Monday	Pork Sausages with Mashed Potato	Macaroni Cheese	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling	Fresh Broccoli	Baked Beans	Mixed Berries and Ice Cream
Tuesday	Creamy Chicken Curry with Rice	Sweet Potato and Spinach Dahl with Naan Bread	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling	Mixed Vegetables	Fresh Cauliflower	Lemon Drizzle Cake
Wednesday	Roast Chicken Fillet with Roast Potatoes	Roast Quorn Fillet with Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling	Fresh Carrots	Fresh Cabbage	Fruit Jelly
Thursday	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges	Tomato and Basil Pasta	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling	Sweetcorn	Green Beans	Ice Cream Roll
Friday	Fish Fingers with Chips	Quorn Dippers with Chips	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling	Peas	Baked Beans	Syrup Sponge and Custard



Data Collection Sheets

If you haven't done so then please return your signed data collection sheets as soon as possible. It is important we have all the correct details for your children, such as mobile number, email address, parental consent and any other information. Please return them to main school reception / office for the attention of Mrs Mitra.



School Breakfast Club – Available

Breakfast club is a fantastic way to prepare pupils for the start of the school day! Breakfast club is run by an experienced staff team and for just £3.00 a day, pupils can take part in a range of activities before school.

If you are interested in a breakfast club place, please call the office or speak to Mrs Mitra. on 01375 373 586.



Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

If your child is absent due to illness or an appointment please call the main office number on 01375 373586, select option 1, and leave a message for the Attendance Officer. Alternatively, please email:

attendance.ltp@osborne.coop

Unfortunately, if we do not receive a message or evidence for absences, the absence will be marked as unauthorised. Any medical / other appointments will need to be supported by evidence such as text messages, doctors note or letter. These can be produced to the front office.

If you need to take leave during school term time please complete a leave of absence form and send in to the front office. Please remember you must provide evidence with this form if you wish the Headteacher to consider special circumstances. Please allow at least two weeks' notice before the leave so we can process the form

Thank you for your support and understanding.



Reception Class Show and Tell



The topic in Reception this term has been Farmyard fun. Reception children recently visited Barleylands farm and experienced meeting a variety of farmyard animals. We discussed the different environments the animals live in and investigated what the animals eat.

Our last book in our topic was Dear Zoo and we researched zoo animals and how their habitats are different to farmyard animals. On Thursday, Miss Donaldson arranged for her snakes to visit us in reception and we met 3 different snakes. 2 of the snakes are corn snakes called Cookie and Waffles. The other snake is a ball Python called Toast. We also met a salamander which we thought looked like a mix between a frog, lizard and snake.

The children had lots of fun as they enjoyed learning about where the snakes live, what they eat and why their skin sheds





Little Thurrock Sports News



SCHOOL GAMES Sportshall

On Friday 19th January 2024, our children took part in one of the larger Thurrock SSP events: Sportshall Athletics. There were 24 schools from across the borough who took part in athletics events adapted for the indoor environment including various running races, both team-based and relay as well as field events - standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump and javelin.

We showed great team spirit across the board and celebrated success within our events, competing against some very experienced school. Over the course of the day, all of the points were added together, based on the position the team came in. Overall, we came 15th out of the 24th school, which we are extremely proud of.



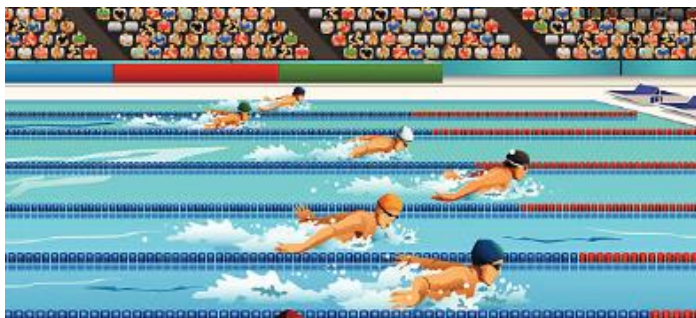
Front Row: Harleigh (6FD), Ettie (6FD), Ava (6SZ), Mia (6SZ), Iris (5EE), Grace (6FD), Reece (6SZ), Jack (5EE) and George (5EE)

Back Row: Ramel (6SZ), Ruby (6AL), Gabriel (5LH), Alfie (6FD), Frankie (6SZ), Mark (5EE), Ellie (5SR), Kara (5EE), Loni (6SZ), Harper (5EE) and Caruso (6SZ)



Little Thurrock Sports News

Swimming Gala



Thurrock SSP Swimming Gala

Last year, we did very well at the Thurrock SSP swimming gala (3rd), and we were confident we could improve on this, based on the quality of swimmers we have within our school.

And we did! We came 2nd, narrowly missing out on first place by 10 points to Woodside - congratulations to them for coming first.

It is very difficult to celebrate individual children, with many successes in the pool: whilst walking up and down the length of the pool, encouraging our swimmers, we noted 11 first places. There were also a couple of children who overcame personal challenges to get in the pool in order to support their team. However, every member of the squad deserves a massive pat on the back:



Year 3: Sienna (3HM), Ethan (3MS), Betsy (3HM), Frankey (3MS), Edie (3SM), Joshua (3HM), Sophie (3SM) and Teo (3MS)

Year 4: Eadee (4LB), Finn (4LB), Olivia (4RS), Johnny (4RS), Jessica (4RS), Cody (4NP), Alice (4LB) and Teddy (4RS)

Year 5: Evie (5SR), Jack (5SR), Megan (5EE), Aaron (5EE), Kiera (5SR), Stella (5EE), Gabriel (5LH) and Isaac (5LH)

Year 6: Nicole (6FD), Ethan (6SZ), Magdalena (6FD), Freddie (6AL), Jessica (6FD), Oscar (6SZ), Esme (6AL), Alfie (6FD), Mia (6SZ) and Ava (6SZ)

Does your child swim for a club, or take lessons outside of school? Can they confidently swim 25m? Please message Mrs Farrow on Class Dojo so she can record this centrally in preparation for next year's gala. Let's build upon our success this year!





Battle of the Bands on Times Table Rock Stars



Year 2 - 2JD
 Highest Scorer - Vinnie 2JD
 Year 3 - 3SM
 Highest Scorer - Jayden 3SM
 Year 4 - 4NP
 Highest Scorer - Antonina 4NP
 Year 5 - 5LH
 Highest Scorer - Saarah 5LH
 Year 6 - 6FD
 Highest Scorer - Oscar 6FD

Year 2 - 2CD
 Highest Scorer - Ronnie 2CD
 Year 3 - 3SM
 Highest Scorer - Enisa 3MS
 Year 4 - 4NP
 Highest Scorer - Agamjot 4RS
 Year 5 - 5LH
 Highest Scorer - Saarah 5LH
 Year 6 - 6FD
 Highest Scorer - Oscar H 6FD

NSPCC Number Day (2.2.24)

We would like to thank all of you who were able to donate through the online fundraising facility (giftT). In total, we raised £107 for the NSPCC.





GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2024

We are proud to announce that Little Thurrock Primary School have recently received 'Good' accreditation for their school travel plan.

A school travel plan is a document produced by schools that defines good road safety practice for pupils travelling to and from school.

Our school travel plan plays an important part in encouraging pupils to use sustainable and active modes of transport: walking, cycling, scooting and public transport methods. At Little Thurrock Primary School, our plan demonstrates our commitment to environment and community concerns and to the safety and welfare of our pupils.

Our school travel plan is completed online using Modeshift Stars and is led by our travel plan coordinator and Assistant Headteacher: Miss Dowsett.

So far throughout the year, Little Thurrock have engaged with Be Bright, Be Seen Day, Road Safety Week, poster competitions and many more, with more to come!

Miss Dowsett would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to her Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO): Ellie, Archie, Elliot, Isla, Iris and Asya, for helping the school achieve this accreditation (pictured opposite).

In future, you will be seeing more of our JRSO's promoting sustainable, safe and active modes of travel as we work towards the 'Very Good' accreditation.



Communication at Little Thurrock

Learning and behaviour Concerns	Pastoral Concerns	Concern relating to particular learning or physical needs	Issues relating to staff	Concerns & Queries relating to school administration
<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Please raise your concern with your child's class teacher in the first instance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>(Pastoral care covers our support of your child's individual needs, their emotional wellbeing and helping them with any personal problems they may be experiencing at school.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Where a concern is related to a special need and you feel an adjustment may be required to support successful learning e.g. issues related to ASD (autistic spectrum disorders), dyslexia or dyspraxia or physical disabilities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Please contact reception who will forward your concern to the most appropriate person.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p>
<p>Please arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher to discuss the concerns further.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Please raise your concern with your child's class teacher.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Please raise your concern with your child's class teacher in the first instance.</p>		
<p>Please arrange a meeting with the phase lead for your child:</p> <p>Mrs Farrow Year 6 Miss Dowsett Year 5 Mrs Storey Year 3+4 Mrs Smith Year 1+2 Mrs Wade Nursery and Reception.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p>	<p>If you feel that the class teacher is unable to help for pastoral concerns, please contact our Pastoral Lead Mrs Fleming.</p> <p>Mrs Fleming works with all of the children for behavioural and pastoral support.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Please arrange an appointment with our Assistant Head teacher and SENCO Mrs Wright.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Please make an appointment to see our Deputy Head teacher Mrs Joynes if you remain concerned following the steps above.</p>				
<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Please make an appointment to see our Head teacher Mr Broyd if you remain concerned after following the steps above.</p>				
<p>Teachers are available after school for informal conversations and appointments can be made with all of the above by contacting the school office on 01375 373586 or emailing a.mail.ltp@osborne.coop</p>				
<p>If you are writing to the school it is really helpful if you give us as much information about the background of your concern or complaint as possible, including who it involves, and what you would like the outcome to be.</p>				

Please speak to **Mrs Greenfield**
Support Manager



STAR SPORTS MORNING CLUBS & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

AT LITTLE THURROCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

CLUBS START: MONDAY 8TH JANUARY

CLUBS FINISH: THURSDAY 28TH MARCH

The clubs will run for the full term and children can attend multiple clubs.

MONDAY 25 spaces £66 – 11 weeks	Gymnastics after school club from the end of the school day till 4.30pm for children in: Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6
TUESDAY 20 spaces FREE – 11 weeks	Indoor Athletics morning club from 8am till the start of the school day (8.35am) for children in: Year 1 & Year 2
TUESDAY 20 spaces FREE – 11 weeks	Tag-rugby after school club from the end of the school day till 4.30pm for children in: Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6
WEDNESDAY 20 spaces FREE – 11 weeks	Basketball morning club from 8am till the start of the school day (8.35am) for children in: Year 3, Year 4 & Year 5
WEDNESDAY 20 spaces £66 – 11 weeks	Dodgeball & Multi Sports after school club (basketball, hockey, cricket, tennis and much more!) from the end of the school day till 4.30pm for children in: Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6
THURSDAY 40 spaces £66 – 11 weeks	Football after school club from the end of the school day till 4.30pm for children in: Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6

The clubs have limited spaces; therefore, spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis with waiting lists if needed.

Parents/Carers please ensure children attending the after school clubs are collected at 4.30pm from the school office and children attending the morning clubs are dropped off at the school office at 8am then the Star Sports staff member will take the children to their classes at 8.35am. Children need suitable/comfortable sportswear for the clubs, tracksuit, trainers (football boots are allowed but not essential), water, any medication (asthma pump, EpiPen etc.) and please send detailed information of the medical condition to us for our records along with any other relevant information that you feel we need to know.

Please contact Mr Cole to book places and for more information: **07976756259**

Please **TEXT** us each child's name, year, class, school, the club(s) you're booking for and any medical/allergy info.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO: MR K COLE 20-79-73 40797049

Please put 'LT' and the name of your child as the payment reference AND text us each time you make a payment (state the payment reference you have used each time please). We no longer accept cheques. Thank you!

Please **DO NOT** contact the school office regarding the Star Sports clubs as they are run by Star Sports and the school office will not be able to take or accept bookings or payments. Thank you.

LIMITED SPACES, BOOK NOW!

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							December 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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January 2024							February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					26	27	28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
May 2024							June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

Autumn Term:	Monday 4 September 2023 – Wednesday 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 3 November</i>	73 days
Spring Term:	Thursday 4 January 2024 – Thursday 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February - 23 February</i>	56 days
Summer Term:	Monday 15 April 2024 – Tuesday 23 July 2024 (22-23 July twilight inset payback) <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday - 6 May</i>	66 days
		195 days

	School Holiday
	Additional autumn half term
	Inset days, schools closed to students
	Trust conference, schools closed to students

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024											
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S					
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22					
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30																										30	31					
January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025											
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30									
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May 2025							June 2025							July 2025							August 2025											
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
							30																									

	School Holiday
	Additional autumn half term (some Thurrock schools only)
	Inset days, schools closed to students
	Trust conference, schools closed to students
	Bank Holidays

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
4

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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 *Jalen* or *Neo Geraft* from *The Witcher* 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 overarching 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

David Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site *Dot Esports* and has worked in the gaming media for over 14 years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and games, his articles have been published on influential sites including *IGN* and *Technoblog*.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways. Starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Insure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where shared inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Clare Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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National
Online
Safety

Publish date: 24/10/18



'Apps' are designed to run on certain devices and are written for a specific operating system, such as Apple iOS, Windows, or Android. The official store for the Apple iOS operating system is known as the 'App Store' and it's where you can browse and download more than 2 million apps and games to use on the iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch and other Apple devices. When your children are using the app store, you need to be aware of the risks...



What parents need to know about

THE APP STORE

IS YOUR CHILD 13+?

To download and buy apps from the App Store, your child will need an Apple ID. If they have used other Apple services, such as iCloud, they can sign into the App Store with the same Apple ID. If they are aged 13 and under, they cannot sign up for an Apple ID on their own, but an adult can create an Apple ID for a child.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Apps are either free, paid-for or free with in-app purchases. In-app purchases are optional transactions that can unlock extra functionality, virtual goods or unique content. Unless you change the settings, once your child has entered a password to make an in-app purchase, they can make additional purchases for 15 minutes without re-entering a password. This makes it extremely easy for children to accidentally run up huge bills.



LOOKALIKE APPS

Some developers release apps that copy the functionality, user interface and even product names and branding of popular apps, in an attempt to trick unsuspecting users to install them. By downloading an app from an unknown developer, your child could find their device compromised. Experts warn that through app permissions, hackers can potentially take photos using the camera and access media remotely, track your child's location, record any passwords they enter for other accounts, and send text messages from phones.

INAPPROPRIATE APPS

Some apps and games have content that is unsuitable for younger children – even the most popular or innocuous looking apps may feature adult-themed content, violence or cruelty to other people or animals, unmoderated chat, pornographic or sexual content.

THIRD-PARTY APP STORES

Because the official Apple App Store has a very stringent policy about what apps it approves, children may look elsewhere for apps and games they've heard about from friends. As well as the Apple App Store for iOS, there are hundreds of other third-party app stores, but the danger is they may not apply the same level of scrutiny toward the apps they allow to be listed. There's a higher chance of apps that infect devices with malicious codes or put user privacy at risk by extracting sensitive information.



Top Tips for Parents

CREATE YOUR CHILD'S ACCOUNT

You can create an Apple ID for a child under 13 and add them to your family group to keep an eye on their activity. Go to Settings > (your name) > Family Sharing > Add Family Member > Create a Child Account > Next. Enter your child's birthday and tap Next. Review the Parent Privacy Disclosure and tap Agree. With Family Sharing, you can add up to six family members to share App Store purchases, as well as iTunes and Apple Books.

SWITCH ON 'ASK TO BUY'

If you have a child that is over 13 years of age and has their own Apple account, make sure that you only allow them to make purchases with gift cards. You can also activate the 'Ask to Buy' feature if you are using Family Sharing, so that whenever a family member who isn't an adult initiates a new purchase, a request goes to the account organiser. You can also limit what content your child can access on the devices they use.

RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASES

You can restrict your child's ability to make in-app purchases. On an iOS device, open Settings, tap General and then Restrictions. Tap 'Enable Restrictions'. You can put a limitation that requires a password every time there is a purchase made in the App Store or iTunes Store.

BROWSE APPS BY AGE

To find apps and games that are right for your children, check the age ratings. On an iPhone or iPod Touch, this can be found in the information section on an app's product page, and on an iPad or desktop, the age range is near the Buy button. On the Kids page, you can find apps for age ranges, including 3 and under, 6 to 8, and 9 to 11.

AVOID OTHER APP STORES

Put a rule in place that your child can only use the official App Store to download apps and games. Explain why it is wise to only install applications from a trusted source to ensure their device is not affected by security issues or virus attacks.

HOW TO KNOW AN APP IS SAFE TO INSTALL

Advise your child that just because they're downloading an app from an official store, it doesn't make it safe. Fake or copied apps will often include misspelt words and poor grammar, so always read the app description, and double check the developer name and title for warning signs. Be wary of apps that come with a long list of permission requests. Check the app reviews and ratings – one star, one-line reviews complaining that an app didn't work on a certain device, or that there was a billing issue, is not a good indication.

SPOT FAKE REVIEWS

When checking the customer reviews within the app store, make sure they aren't vague and generic, or overly effusive, as some developers will try to manipulate their apps positions by posting fake ratings and reviews. Check the number of downloads the app claims to have – the higher the number, the more likely it is to be safe. Your child can also check the company's website to see if the app is a

SOURCES: <https://www.espadget.com/2017/12/18/ios-copied-itunes/> & <https://mobilefix.com/2017/11/06/How-to-Install-app-google-play-store-android/yourparent>



The background of the entire image is a light pink color. It is decorated with several pink roses, some in full bloom and some as buds, scattered across the top and right sides. There are also two large, stylized hearts: one is a solid pink heart with a black outline, and the other is a smaller pink heart with a black outline, positioned to the right of the main title.

Mother's Day

Mothers Day gifts room

You will be able to buy a gift for that special lady in your life.

Online sales open

16/02/2024 and close 4/03/2024

In school sales Friday 8th March 2024

£4 per gift
(Advanced sales only)

If you wish to make a purchase or anything else, please copy and paste the link below:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ltsa/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=76683>

Thurrock Community News



Essex Fire Museum Open Days
Tuesday 20th February 2024
Sunday 25th February 2024
(10.30am to 4.00pm)



Visits must be pre-booked via:
museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

**Address: Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire station,
Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS**



FREE School Uniform



free for everyone,
no referral needed!

Events

Fridays

3 - 4.30pm

19th January
16th February
15th March
19th April
17th May
21st June



Saturdays

10 - 11.30am

20th January
17th February
16th March
20th April
18th May
22nd June



**Community Church Chadwell St Mary
Defoe Parade (enter from Brentwood Road)**

RM16 4QR

Save the planet 🌍, and your pennies 🪙! 🪙!

Hundreds of items in stock:

- Polo shirts
- Shirts & blouses
- Skirts
- Trousers
- Socks
- Pinafore dresses
- Jumpers & cardigans
- Blazers & ties
- PE kit incl football socks
- Plimsolls
- Black shoes
- Coats

Clean, good condition school uniform donations accepted when space allows. Please check our facebook page to see if we are currently collecting. Search facebook for "The 180 Project"

An event run by The 180 Project, part of Community Church
Registered charity no. 1062301. Tel: 01375 484 101



Maternity Matters Survey

We are interested in hearing your maternity story. We work to better local services for the future

Complete your survey by 29th February and you'll be entered into a draw for a £50 voucher



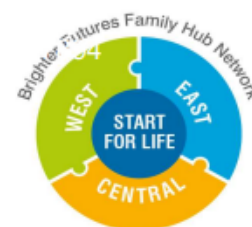
Scan the QR code
or go to: www.healthwatchthurrock.org

For more information:
admin@healthwatchthurrock.org
01375 389883 / 07950744298



Thameside Family Hub

Manor Road, Grays, RM17 6EF
 Email: thamesidecc@thurrock.gov.uk Phone: 01375 387 894



 thurrock.gov.uk

What's on in February 2024

Mondays

Start	End	Activity	Age groups	How to join in
8.30am	12.00pm	Housing Advice for Council Tenants		Book in advance 01375 413820
9:00am	11:00am	Local Area Co-Ordinator – Helen Catterick		Book in advance 07710950318
9:30am	10:30am	Baby Rhyme Time 12th, 19th and 26th February	0 to 12 Months	All welcome
9.30am	10.30am	Bring a Story to Life 12th The Gruffalo 19th- We All Went on a Safari 26th Super Worm	24 to 60 Months	All welcome
11:00am	12:00pm	Baby Massage	0 to 12 Months	Book in advance
11.00am	12.00pm	Bookstart Toddler	12 to 24 Months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Let's Talk to Your Baby	0 to 12 Months	Book in advance
2:00pm	3:00pm	Stay and Play 12th, 19th and 26th February	24 to 60 Months	All Welcome

Tuesdays

9:30am	10:30am	Stay and Play 13th and 20th February	12 to 24 Months	All Welcome
10.00am	12.00pm	STOP – Parenting Programme for Parents of Teenagers		
11:00am	12:00pm	Fun with Sticking– 13th February Fun with Mark Making – 20th February	12 to 60 Months	All Welcome
2:00pm	3:00pm	Sensory Play 13th – 0 to 12 months 20th – 12 to 24 months		All Welcome

Wednesdays

9:00am	4:00pm	Midwife	Ante Natal	Book in advance
9.30am	10.30am	Parents 1 st Coffee Morning/Drop In 14th February	This is an opportunity for you to meet other expectant mums in your area and get information on local groups available to you.	All welcome
10:30am	11:30am	SEND - Just For You 14th and 28th February	0 to 60 Months	All welcome
11:00am	12:00pm	Stay and Play 14th and 28th February	0 to 12 Months	All welcome
1.30pm	2.30pm	Let's Talk to your Toddler	12 to 24 Months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Fussy Eating – 14th February	12 to 60 Months	Book in advance
4.00pm	5.30pm	Young Carers		Referral only

Thursdays

9:00am	4:00pm	Midwife	Ante Natal	Book in advance
9.30am	11.00am	Chatterbox	24 to 60 Months	Referral only
9.30am	11.00am	Parental Outreach Advice session 23rd February		Book in advance
1.30pm	2.45pm	Baby Weighing Clinic– Drop In 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th February	0 to 60 Months	All Welcome
1.00pm	3.00pm	Triple P Baby Parenting Programme	Ante-natal or parents with a child aged 0-12 months	Book in advance

Fridays

9.00am	1.00pm	Speech and Language Drop- In 2nd February		Referral Only
9:00am	1:00pm	Early Interaction Advice Sessions	24 to 60 Months	Referral Only
9.30am	10.30am	Fun, Food and Fitness	24 to 60 Months	Book in advance
10:00am	12:30pm	Job Club – Supported Families Employment Adviser		Book in advance 07776245301
10:00am	4:00pm	Inclusion Visions - Substance Misuse and Support – Drop in	18 + Years	Lorraine. G 07977 792 236
11.15am	12.15pm	Let's Talk to Your Baby	0 to 12 Months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Stay and Play 2nd and 16th February	0 to 12 Months	All welcome

Brighter Futures – Family Hub Offer

Please use this link to see the Family Hub's offer and activity details –

www.thurrock.gov.uk/family-hub-activities

Please see the Thurrock website for details of each Family Hub and what is on offer each month and Face Book for information:

www.facebook.com/groups/thurrockchildrenscentres

Are you registered with the Family Hub? If not, you can do this online.

Visit: www.thurrock.gov.uk/family-hubs



Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

MISSED MMR DROP IN CLINIC

Has your school aged child missed their school MMR vaccine?

[MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

The school aged immunisation service is holding a clinic for any school aged child that has missed their MMR vaccine:

No appointment needed - Just walk in.

**TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
2024**

10.00 – 14.00

**THAMESIDE HOUSE
THURROCK HOSPITAL
LONG LANE
RM16 2PX**

#DOYOURBITESSEX

