



Educate Protect Love Serve

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Newsletter

No. 1

Sept 2018

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Dear Parents and carers,

Sorry for the delay– but I would like to say a huge welcome back to all of our pupils who have returned this year, along with a massive hello to our new pupils and teaching staff who have just started at St Mary's. Summer seems like a distant memory now, but I hope that you all had a wonderful break.

The children all look so smart in their uniform, adding gold to Mary's halo on the jumpers ensures that they now stand out from the crowd, couple this with the gold in the tartan skirts and pinafores the children look amazing. A big thankyou to parents for helping us with the change, we are only too aware of the cost of uniform so making it accessible for everyone is our priority. Please be assured that old style pinafores or skirts and jumpers and polo shirts can be worn for the next year or so at least.

Just a couple of items to make you aware off, Plymouth CAST (our Multi– Academy Trust) are keen to develop a new vision. As such they would like everyone to be involved in developing the vision and values for the MAT. We will be sending letters home shortly to gather your views. Please let us know your thoughts about how you feel the school and indeed the whole Multi-Academy Trust embodies the Gospel Values.

We have also reintroduced as part of our focus work on reading, a 'Book Band' reading scheme for the EYFS and KS1 readers; this will help them to develop key reading skills such as fluency and comprehension.

In KS2 we will be introducing Accelerated Reader– this is a reading system that assesses children's understanding of what they have read. Most other schools within our MAT are already using the programme and have found that the children are fast developing a love of reading. We hope to be sending home a letter with further details in the next week, however if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs Draycott. Mrs Horsley will be running some after school support on helping your child to read using a variety of strategies.

I wish you a very happy term and year ahead, please remember my door is always open so do not hesitate to pop in if you have a concern or a worry.

Mrs A McDonald



Online Safety

It has come to our attention that many of our pupils are playing games and watching films that are too old for them and contain inappropriate content. This is being reflected in their language and behaviours at school. Please read the attached information regarding the 'Fortnite' game and please, *please* ensure you are monitoring what your children have access to. Many of these games have a 'chat' capability that parents are unaware of and pupils have been found to be talking to people they do not know. Online safety is an area that we are developing with the children here at St Mary's as it brings many safeguarding concerns. We need parents to support us to ensure we all keep our children safe.



Mobile Phones



Reminder:

pupils are more than welcome to bring mobile phones to school but they must be handed into the office for safe keeping. Please remind your children.

Dates for your diary

Inset Day: Fri 19th Oct, school closed.

Half Term: Monday 22nd Oct—Fri 26th Oct

Acoustic Guitar lessons: Mondays

Forest School: Year 3 (am) Year 4 (pm) on Tuesdays

Drum Lessons: Tuesdays

Electric Guitar Lessons: Wednesdays

Swimming: Years 2 & 3 on Thursdays

Mass

School Masses are continuing to be held in St Mary's Church . Please find dates and time below—everyone is welcome to join us!

Mass in Church at 10.30am

Weds 19th Sept— Year 6

Weds 26th Sept— Year 4

Weds 3rd Oct— Year 3



Sunday Mass in Church at 10.30am



Year 6 starting the term in the trenches for their topic on WWI! Pupils re-enacted 'going over the top' as a stimulus for writing.



Year 4 had a great start to the term with Forest School, searching for mini beasts and learning all about what they had found. Thanks to Will who continues to inspire the children about the outside world...in all weathers!!



Medicine

Pain killer and other medicines can be administered in school if your child is 'under the weather' but is well enough to come into school. Please bring medicine and complete a consent form in the office.



Golden Rules

- We are gentle
- We are kind and helpful
- We listen
- We are honest
- We work hard
- We look after property

Golden Rules

Remember our Golden Rules! Children need to take responsibility for their behaviours. We reward and praise the best behaviour and ask children to pause, reflect and rectify the bad behaviours - this can sometimes end in missing some of the golden time on Friday.

Swimming

On Thursday 13th September, **Years 2 & 3** started swimming lessons. Please remember to send in your child's swim kit (swimsuit/trunks, towel, goggles & hat if needed) every Thursday!



Parking / Drop off Layby

Please can we remind parents / carers that the layby is for **drop-off only**. Parking is not permitted (unless displaying a disabled badge) and causes a danger to our pupils. Thank you



Attendance - 5th—18th September = 95.7%

Attendance is going to be a big focus this year as we strive to reach the national average of 97% or above!

We will continue with our 100% Attendance Draws, where there are some fantastic prizes to be won for those pupils who have been in school 100% each term plus extra weekly golden time for the class with the highest attendance. Your help to achieve this is greatly appreciated, thank you.

Dinner Money



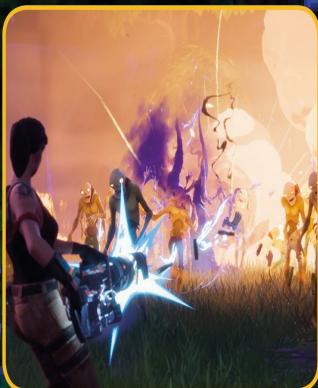
All dinner money must be paid for before meals are taken. Please pay on a Monday for the following week or if you'd prefer to pay for a longer period please contact the office and we can calculate several weeks/half term or full term. Any meals not taken due to absence will be carried over and returned at the end of the term. Meals are **£2.30/day or £11.50/week**. **Please remember to name your child's money and indicate which days meals are required.** Thank you

Headteacher's special mention to:

Mr Beards, our Site Manager, with the help of Mr Quinton & Mr Wilson for working so hard over the summer holiday to make our school look amazing. Thank you



'Fortnite - Battle Royale' is a free to play section of the game 'Fortnite'. The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus' where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find items hidden around the island, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game harder, there is an added twist called 'the storm', which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, making the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.



What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

MICROTRANSACTIONS

New featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called 'skins', 'gliders' and 'emotes', which change the look of the characters but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are made admirable for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass'. When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can play a series of challenges to receive more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whatever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies with each game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and continue to play until they achieve the result they want. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for children to stop playing halfway through as it could affect their position in the game.

IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO

The game was released on mobile in April 2018 meaning it can be played without a games console at home. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students whilst in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is on the game.

HACKER ATTACKS

News site Forbes said it had seen "dozens" of reports online by people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers. Hackers gained access to users accounts in the game and spent hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

Interacting with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from wearing headphones in the game to hear footsteps from other players trying to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes really good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and work towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

'FREE' TO PLAY

The game is free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription to play the game which is chargeable.

NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

Signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, there is no proof of age required. If your child is under the age of 12, it is important to check if your child has the game downloaded.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'V bucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PSN cards. Any giveaway promotion from Fortnite will be in game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'v bucks'. The websites or accounts may ask you to share your account name and password in order to claim the money; if these offers seem too good to be true, they usually are.

WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE

PEGI has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, PEGI say "more graphic and realistic looking violence towards fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters must look unrealistic unless it consists of only minor or trivial injury such as a slap", making the game 'suitable' for children aged 12 and over.

Please see overleaf for Top Tips for Parents



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents



#1 LIMIT GAME TIME

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time your child is playing games on the devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to spend on games. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be hard to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth using a limit of the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

#2 RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

'Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

#4 PREVENT THEM TALKING TO STRANGERS

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means they wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. Your child will still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

#3 SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when spectating them.

#5 LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS

It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

#6 USE A STRONG PASSWORD

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.



Sources

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/store/p/fortnite-deluxe-founders-pack> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-43626075>
<http://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com/> <https://peginfo.org/> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/erikkain/2018/03/12/fortnite-accounts-hacked-how-to-protect-yourself-and-what-to-do-if-youve-been-compromised/#140c9e7ca7f9>



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This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com