

EYFS

Amber

This week, we took our phonics learning outside. We used chalk to practice writing 'ch' and 'sh'.



Ruby

We have been learning about shapes in maths this week. We know the names of some 2d shapes and also 3d shapes. We went on shape hunts and played shape shop too.

KS1

Opal

In science, we learnt about animals and specifically about amphibians. We created a poster about the characteristics and how we can spot them. Ask me to tell you all about them.



Jade

The children in Jade class went on their trip to the Oldham library this week. We had so much fun getting the bus into town, exploring the books and learning about how the library works. We all found fiction and non-fiction books and even books in different languages (bi-lingual books) which were really interesting!



Pearl

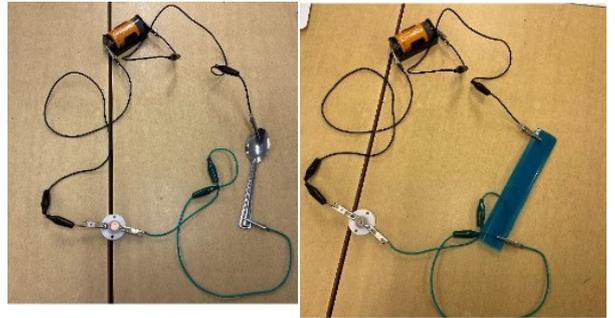
This week in music we learnt how to play the tune of hot cross bun using a glockenspiel. We were so proud of ourselves!



Lower KS 2

Topaz

This week in science, the children in Topaz class carried out an investigation. We made predictions, and then tested if various items were conductors or insulators. If they were a conductor, they completed our circuit and lit the bulb. Ask us what we discovered.



Citrine

Cooperative learning has been a focus in Citrine class this week. In the picture, you can see the children taking part in a 'rally robin' activity - developing their listening skills and discussing their learning about the iconic landmarks of Europe. It is truly inspirational to see the children support one another with enthusiasm and empathy.



Emerald

In music, we have been thinking about how we can warm up our voices. We have been practicing songs and learning new chords on the ukulele. We are excited to perform for you all again soon.

Upper KS2

Amethyst

Amethyst class have recently started Samba drumming sessions. They are really enjoying getting to know the sounds that different types of drums can make.



Tanzanite

In science, we have conducted an experiment looking at thermal conductors using ice. We discussed the importance of working scientifically as we recorded our results.



Sapphire

In science, we have continued our investigation into thermal conductors and insulators. This week we have tested how well different materials keep things cool.



Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

Amber	Kenzel	For being a superstar and adapting to change.
Ruby	Savannah	For having a fantastic attitude to learning and joining in during carpet times.
Opal	Emily	For being super positive and helpful all the time.
Jade	Poppy	For persevering and working hard on mastering her numbers 0-20.
Pearl	Genevieve	For being resilient with all her learning.
Topaz	Aaliyah	A fantastic attitude to her learning all week.
Citrine	Ibrahim	Ibrahim has displayed excellent communication skills and has worked extremely hard to support others around him. He is a natural leader, and it is great to see him taking the opportunity to use those skills.
Emerald	Vanesa	For her love of reading in school and practicing at home.
Amethyst	Harvey	For always contributing to class discussions. Harvey always has his hand up.
Tanzanite	Ahad	For being a fantastic role model to those around him and demonstrating an amazing attitude to his learning.
Sapphire	Leticia	Leticia will be leaving us this week. She has been a great role model while at our school. Hard working, resilient, positive and a great friend. We will all miss her.

Principal's Reading Champions: Arfa, Rodiyah, Charlie, Aneta, Romaisa, Zayaan, Adriel, Halima, Ellie-May, Mohsin, Urwah

Principal's Award: Aleeza: for being positive and resilient even when times are challenging. You are an extremely important member of our school!

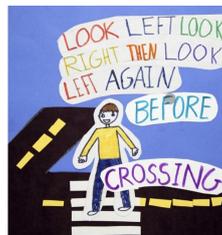
Emily J – super thoughtful and helpful to everyone

Joshua O & Zara A – fantastic role models showing care and kindness to others

Jmal - for persevering with his writing targets and reaching his current goal, which he is really proud of.

Crossing Patrol

We are currently experiencing intermittent levels of school crossing patrol outside Alt Academy. This means, that there will be some sessions where there is not a crossing patrol on site. Whilst staff on duty can support a child crossing the road if they appear to be in danger, this support is not consistently available and is not to be relied upon. Please support your children to be safe on the crossing. If your child walks to and from school alone, please discuss road safety with them.



Word of the Week ...

engagement

participation taking part



I predict that the word of the week is ... because ...

sharing

involvement

Upcoming trips and payments for these

Year 1 & 2 Lytham St Annes beach visit – Tuesday 23 April 2024

As part of their learning around Great Britain and holidays, all Year 1 & 2 children will be attending the seaside.

Cost £11– please pay via Parent Pay.

Year 3 & 4 Museum visit – Wednesday 22nd May (all day)

Linked to their topic on Ancient Egypt, all Year 3 & 4 children will be attending Manchester museum to enhance their learning.

Cost £7 – please pay via Parent Pay.

EYFS Farm visit – Wednesday 8th May (all day)

Linked to their topic on animals, all Year EYFS children will be attending Cockfields farm to enhance their learning.

Cost £10 – please pay via Parent Pay.



Programme of Coffee Morning Agenda 2023-24

Coffee mornings will take place every Tuesday morning at 9:00am in the KS2 hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Here is the agenda for this half term..... please come and join us!



6th Feb – Coffee, chatter & natter

13th Feb – Action Together – voluntary opportunities to promote self esteem, confidence & wellbeing

Fizzy drinks (including Lucozade, Prime and Fanta)

All children have a water bottle in their classrooms that they can access regularly throughout the day. All staff members encourage children to have a drink at regular intervals as this helps them to learn.

We do not allow any energy drinks or fizzy drinks in school. Please leave these at home.

Thank you for your support with this.



Football Cards and Pokemon cards

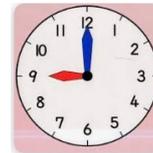
We have had a sudden influx of children bringing Football cards and Pokemon cards into school. These are not allowed in school for many reasons. Please speak to your child about keeping personal belongings at home. If these cards are seen, they will be removed by staff members. Please speak to your child's class teacher if cards have been removed as they will only be returned to parents/ carers. Thank you for your support with this.





Reporting absence

It is a parent/carers' responsibility to notify school about their children absence as close to 9am as possible.



Punctuality

It is important that your child attends school every day and on time. Arriving late to school is unsettling for children and disrupts the start to their day.

Did you know? 10 minutes late every day = 33 hours lost learning each year!

To support good punctuality, have good bedtime and morning routines in your home. If mornings can be hectic in your household, prepare as much as possible the night before. The school day starts at 8.30am when breakfast club opens and classroom doors open at 8:45am. The pupil entrance gates close at 9:00am to parents bringing their child to school. Please ensure your child is in school before the registers close. If your child arrives after this time, then you must take your child to the Main Office to sign them in late. These late procedures are in place so that every child is entered onto the register correctly and can be accounted for in the event of an emergency. Let's work together to make sure all children are in school on time and starting their learning straight away.

Top Tips to help get to school on time every day:

- Show your child that you are interested in what they have done at school
- Get everything ready the night before school
- Arrange appointments before or after school or during the school holidays
- Set your alarm and your child's alarm clock – see who can get up first!
- Come to breakfast club
- Catch an earlier bus or set off a little earlier if you walk to school

If you are struggling, please speak to a member of our family support team who will be happy to help!



Attendance

Overall attendance year to date – 93.4%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

Pearl – 95.56%

Citrine – 96.17%

Our target is 96%



Don't let your child catch it

- make sure they get the MMR vaccine

The number of young people catching measles has risen across Europe and the UK. Children are offered MMR vaccine to protect against measles, mumps and rubella just after their first birthday and a second dose at 3 years 4 months. For the best protection they need both these doses.

It's never too late to be vaccinated.

For more information contact your local GP surgery or visit: pha.site/mmr

If you need to contact an emergency or out of hours service, it is important to phone ahead if you are experiencing any of the signs and symptoms of measles.



Image courtesy of iStockphoto.com

immunisation

the safest way to protect your child

Public Health Agency, 12-22 Linenhall Street,
Belfast BT2 8BS. Tel: 0300 555 0114.

www.publichealth.hscni.net www.nidirect.gov.uk

11/09

It's Children's Mental Health Week from 5-11 February, and this year's theme is 'My Voice Matters'.

Do you know about Kooth and Qwell?

You can access the service via the following links:

[Home - Kooth](#)

[Home - Qwell](#)

If you would like some support with these links, please speak to Roseena who will be able to help.

kooth | Qwell

Supporting the mental health of children and young people in your school community



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

There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.

AGE RECOMMENDATION

13+

What parents need to know about FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE

BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar setup. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.

IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction is up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time played and a preoccupation with thoughts of the next gaming session. Realistically, it must be down to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.

FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?

While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying) it does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called 'V-Bucks' and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bucks can be earned in-game with enough play time.

SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to everybody and don't require additional money to play, though battle passes for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will typically allow a player to earn experience faster and gain fun in-game items by completing a host of daily challenges.

CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform. To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account. Doing this removes the age-old boundary of not being able to play together because you don't have the same console and opens up a whole new world of playing online with friends.

IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as 'E', as it contains cartoon violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit will want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.

Top Tips For Parents

BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card information afterwards as it can be very easy to purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion would be capping the spending at around £50 - this is the normal retail price of a game.

GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into their groups in a game. It's difficult to predict what another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good idea for friends playing together, to be grouped together. The only real countermeasure to interacting with strangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic communications, which can be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who you're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.

LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so be flexible when it's time to put it away. The approach of 'one more game' as opposed to '10 more minutes' will stop any complaints that a match is still ongoing. Better still, play with your child and take it in turns; that way you're helping control the time played and can keep an eye on what they're experiencing.

TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. If you approach as a collective, it will be easier to know when their friends are online and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help curb expectations on spending money on battle passes and skins if you stick together.

CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS

It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, quick and complex problem solving and communication; that's not to mention the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, there are benefits to screen time which might not be immediately obvious.

PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF

There's no substitute for sitting down and playing the game yourself to learn all about it. Fortnite is available for free on almost anything you can imagine, even your smartphone, so there's never been a better time to get involved and see what all the fuss is about. You never know, you might even be able to impress your children when you show them your impressive Victory Royale tally!

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

#1 VICTORY ROYALE

<https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/mar/07/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide-video-game-multiplayer-shooter>, <https://www.psychguides.com/behavioral-disorders/video-game-addiction/>, <https://www.polygon.com/2018/3/23/1746648/cross-platform-crossplay-ps4-xbox-pc-switch-ios-mobile-enable-friends-compatible-matchmaking70IE7d>, <https://www.esrb.org/ratings/34948/Fortnite/>

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