

What a fantastic start we have had at Wesley over the past two weeks – the children have returned from the half term break with exceptional attitudes towards their work and it has been incredible to walk around school and see this positivity flourish and the children making excellent progress in their learning. I have been particularly impressed with the increased attitudes towards a calm and resilient environment in which the children are in the pursuit of excellence whilst loving God and others. The team here at Wesley are working incredibly hard to provide the very best for our children and this is very much being seen across school in all that is being complete in and out of the classrooms. I know this will continue and we are in for a good half term on the run up to Christmas!



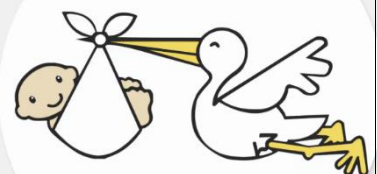
Worship

Collective worship is incredibly important to us all here at Wesley, as it is a time that we can all come together as a family within school. Each day we have a different focus that takes place and this is completed every week. On a Monday we focus on our fruit of the Holy Spirit for the week – this is a collective

aim for the whole school and a way in which we fulfill our vision by shining like a star as a child of God. This is then celebrated on Friday at our celebration assembly through our star award for a child who has demonstrated this from each class. On a Tuesday we are visited by Rev Blayze White, our minister from Wesley Methodist Church, who runs the worship on this day. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated minister to school who visits each week and is a real part of the school. On Wednesday's we have a range of focuses from our school culture and ethos to the British Values and ensuring that children demonstrate tolerance, respect and dignity towards all, whilst understanding all of the British Values. On Thursday, we have a class assembly which is conducted through a video from members of Epworth Trust. Each week a different school or leader will complete this for the children and it is a fantastic opportunity for the children to see other leaders and children from different schools. So far this year the children have met all of the school's Headteachers, Director of Education and CEO: Mrs Julie-Ann Hewitt, through these assemblies and this half term the children from the schools will take charge and deliver this. Then on Friday we have our celebration assemblies in which all are invited to share in the achievements of our amazing children!

Congratulations and Good Luck!

This week two amazing members of our Wesley family will be finishing with us to begin their maternity leave. Mrs C Newman and Miss S Kyle are both beginning their maternity this week and we will see them later on into 2024. I am sure both will visit us when their new additions arrive, and being only three days apart it is a very exciting time indeed. We will miss them both dearly and know the children will too as they both have such a wonderful influence and impact here at Wesley. I am sure you will join us in wishing them, their families and most importantly their new babies the very best start to life just before Christmas this year.



Disco time!

On our first week back after half term, our wonderful PTA put on yet another fantastic bonfire disco for all of our children through school. It was wonderful to see them enjoying themselves so much and having a great time with their friends and staff. We have a lot of gratitude for our PTA as they are all volunteers and complete all of this work in their own time and throughout everything they do, the children and their experiences are at the heart of it all, meaning our children get the very best every single time.



Year 5 & 6 emergency service visits!

Over the past two weeks our pupils in Years 5 & 6 have had some amazing visitors who have supported our children in being safe in our local environment. Our first visitors were members of the Whitefield Fire Service who attend school to speak to our pupils prior to bonfire night about the dangers



of fireworks and fires, and how to ensure they protect themselves at all times. The children also had opportunities for a Q&A session and even got to wear some of the uniform. This visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all and it was wonderful to see how knowledgeable our children are in terms of being safe around fires. We were then also visited by our local PCSO's who came to speak to our children about how to be safe in our local environment. The children were thoroughly engaged and had a wide range of questions about Radcliffe, specific areas, and recent things that have happened in the area. It was clear our children had vast knowledge of this, and again showed their maturity and knowledge by being aware of how to be safe and what to do in certain circumstances. The PCSO's were able to offer the children advice and support and also about their roles in keeping our local community a safe place. We want to say a huge thank you to Whitefield Fire Service and our local Radcliffe PCSO's for visiting us.



Attendance matters:
every day counts

Why is it important to attend school regularly?

School attendance is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential. Higher attendance in school leads to; giving children the best possible start in life; the ability to keep up with their work; they achieve better results; and they will develop further friendships and social skills.

Number of days off school a year	Percentage attendance	Number of lessons missed	Level of concern
0 days	100%	0	Perfection
2 days	99%	10 lessons	Excellent
5 days	97%	25 lessons	Good
10 days	95%	50 lessons	Slight concern
20 days	90%	100 lessons	Concern
30 days	85%	150 lessons	Significant concern

We have begun to see a slight decline in our attendance and we want to strive for the very best in terms of having our children in school as much as possible. The above table shows the impact of days of school, and even just 10 days off school equates to 50 lessons missed in a year. If you child is feeling slightly unwell or under the weather we would ask that you send them in and we will look after them and if anything was to change we can contact you, but it is best to have your children in school each and every day. We really want to work on improving this attendance now after such an incredible start to the year and to see the children in school every day – thank you for your support on this!

Remembrance

This week we worked with our children on the importance of Remembrance Sunday and why we come together at this time to remember those who have fallen, not only in the World Wars, but all of those who have given their lives since in conflict. We discussed how we can show our respects and our Year 6 Prefects have been selling poppies through school. Our Year 5/6 Turing class also completed their

class assembly on Thursday at Wesley Methodist Church focused upon Remembrance. We then came together as a whole school on Thursday 9th November to complete our two minute silence together next to the hill at the front of school where all of our children had placed their poppies.





ONE KIND WORD

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying week and Children in Need

Monday 13th November will mark the start of national anti-bullying week. We will be completing a range of activities throughout school with all children to support them with strategies and what to do if themselves or others are ever subject to any element of bullying. We take this very seriously at Wesley and ensure that our children feel safe at all times and that the children know they have adults they can speak to and will support them. Over the week, we also want to balance the bullying discussion with seeing how we can use kindness to help and how we can show this to ourselves and others too. Each

class within school will be completing an activity relating to kindness, from making items for the local shelters, to posting notes to our neighbours and many more. We will be sending home with every child a '14 days of kindness' booklet (this will run over two weeks) and we ask that every child writes down one thing they do each day to be kind to somebody else. If all children and staff at Wesley complete this we will have done over 4500 acts of kindness, which is simply incredible and a real sign to the children the impact we can have as a collective! At the end of the 14 days the children will be invited to bring in their booklets back to school and these will be discussed in school. On Friday 17th November, the final day of anti-bullying week, we will be celebrating Children in Need and invite all children into school in their own clothes on a 'crazy hair day' to raise money. We ask for a donation of £1 per child. Thank you for all of your support in all we do.



Year 5 & 6 Online safety parental meeting

At Wesley, we ensure our computing curriculum gives all of our children a clear understanding of how to be safe online. We have a large focus on this regularly and it is paramount that in this day and age, our children know and understand how to keep themselves safe. The vast majority of issues we deal with in school relate to some form on online use. I would like to invite parents from Years 5 & 6 into school on **Wednesday 15th November at 5.30pm** to discuss further. Currently there are over 2000 apps made available to children on a daily basis – this can be incredibly hard to keep up with. There are also a range of things that children can now access online that they shouldn't necessarily have access to and this can become quite unsafe quickly without them understanding. I hope this meeting will be information and support parents/carers in knowing how to keep your children safe when online.



Online Safety

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FORTNITE

CHAPTER 4

AGE RESTRICTION
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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 Gerald 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.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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