

16/01/2023



MARSH GIBBON
— CE SCHOOL —

Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors

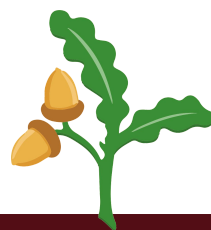
A very Happy New Year to you all.

This term has started off well and the children have settled in quickly to their routine and learning following the Christmas break. Being such a short term, believe it or not we only have another three full weeks left of this half term.

Whilst we always hope to start the new year optimistically, with our Action for Happiness calendar on ClassDojo for example, we know school families continue to face challenges around health and finance.

As always, we encourage you to be open with the school about circumstances so we can support and signpost help as much as possible. Discreet and sensitive conversations can be organised with any member of staff you feel most comfortable speaking to.

Mrs B Brown
Headteacher
office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk





Parent Governor Vacancy

We presently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing Body. This is an exciting opportunity to really help shape the direction of the school. If you are a professional, with a passion for education, we invite you to consider joining our Governing body.

The school has a proven track record as a "Good" school. We are on a continuous journey to provide the best possible provision for our pupils and staff. Therefore, we are looking for experienced individuals to join our Governing Body.

If you are a driven professional with expertise in one of the following fields, we would love to hear from you:

- Finance & Accounting
- Business & Marketing
- Leading in the Education sector
- Safeguarding & Child Protection
- HR or Health & Safety

If you would like more information about this advert, please contact the school office on 01869 277 268 or email office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk. Please note that all prospective governors will be required to complete an application form including supplying references.

All governors also undergo DBS and other safeguarding vetting prior to being appointed.



Consideration for School and Community Neighbours



Since the development of the village shop and housing in Berry Close opposite the school, there has, understandably, been an increase in traffic and parking.

We ask that you are considerate of the residents of Berry close by not parking down their private road and on their grass verges.

The grass verges are becoming churned up and these are maintained by the Berry Close residents.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



During the end of the Autumn term, many of our children took part in local PE festivals.

We are extremely proud of all the children who took part in these festivals. They showed excellent team collaboration and support for one another.

Year 1 and 2- Multi skills

Year 3 and 4- Netball

Year 5 and 6- Football





Maths Information Evening

Tomorrow evening, Tuesday 17th January, Mrs Martin and Miss Trafford will lead a Maths Curriculum session. The evening will focus on our method of teaching maths using the Maths mastery approach.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide you with an understanding of the Maths Mastery approach and how we teach maths here at Marsh Gibbon.

The session will take place in the school hall from 6pm and should last for approximately 30-45 minutes and we ask that you enter via the main reception door. Please do let us know if you are able to attend by completing the form on Parentmail



In order to be more sustainable at school we are trying to reduce the number of paper letters and permission slips we send home. We will be using the 'forms' section of Parentmail more to collect this information so please ensure you have registered and we have your most up to date email address.

Please see [here](#) for help with Parentmail.

THIS SCHOOL IS
NUT FREE



Cereal Bars & Nuts

Please can we remind parents that, due to serious staff and pupil allergies, we are a no-nut school; we continue to intervene with children who are provided with snacks or packed lunch items.

Cereal bars, although an ideal healthy snack, often contain nuts so please do check the packaging before providing them to your children.

Absence

A reminder please to contact the school office either via Parentmail 'absence', the absence email (absence@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk), or leaving a message on the school absence voicemail if your child is due to absent from school that day.

Young Voices



On Wednesday 25th January, our school choir will be travelling to the Birmingham Resorts Arena to join 1,000s of other children from all over the UK to sing and perform together. We cannot wait, the children have been practising so hard!

Online Safety

Please find on the next page information about keeping children safe whilst gaming online. The age recommendation for Fortnite is 13 and up, but each child is different. The Entertainment Software Ratings Board rates Fortnite "T" for teen, which means ages 13+.



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.



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 (teen), as it contains cartoonish 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.



Celebration Certificate



Well done to our latest Celebration Certificate recipients:



EYFS

Arthur, Winnie, Arlie, Henry,
Whole class, Daniel, Amias.



Y1

Amy, Oscar, Eric, Phoebe
Jack, Cory, Phoebe, Maisie.



Y2

Freddie, Kieran, Koryn, Isaac,
Jack, Brooke, Mason.



Y3

Noah, Chloe, Romeo, Jack,
Paige, Georgia, Maisie, Neave.



Y4

Raya, Marcus, Poppy, Chloe,
Vini, Bobby, Vivi, Joshua.



Y5

Olivia, Ben, Keira, Jemima, Arthur,
Connor, Lucas, Holly.



Y6

Connor, Laurel, Bella, Indie,
Tom, Brooke, Sam, Indie

DIARY DATES

JAN

- Tues 17th - Maths at Marsh Gibbon parent workshop 6pm – 7pm
- Wed 25th - School Choir Young Voices
- Tues 31st - Invasion Games Y1/2 (invite)
- Tues 31st - Governors - Mgmt Committee 7-8pm

FEB

- Tues 2nd - Governors - Teaching & Learning committee
- Fri 10th - Last day of half term
- Mon 20th - Back to school

MAR

- Wed 1st - Y3 Swimming starts
- Thurs 2nd - World Book Day
- Tues 21st - Full Governing Body
- Wed 29th - Easter Service at church 9.30am
- Fri 31st - Last Day of term
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- 8th May Additional bank holiday
- 9/10/11/12 May Year 6 SATs
- 15th May 2023 Year 2 SATs
- 15th – 17th May 2023 Year 6 Residential Culmington Manor
- 12th June 2023 Whole School Sports Afternoon
- 19th June 2023 Reserved Whole School Sports Afternoon
- 4th July 2023 Transition Afternoon

