



**Aine Gale – Principal**

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Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parent,

### Christmas Productions / Concerts

We have been rehearsing really hard to prepare for our school Christmas concerts and are looking forward to family and friends coming to watch them and celebrate the children's and teacher's efforts in putting the performances together. We still have a few tickets remaining for our Christmas productions and concerts. If you do not want to miss out, please see Mrs Eatwell or Mrs Sheppard in the school office for current availability of tickets. Key Stage 2 pupils who are performing at the evening concerts must be in school for 6:45pm please. The concert will start at 7pm. All pupils in Years 5 and 6 are expected to attend both evening performances in order to make the performance the best it can be for our audiences.

### School Gates

Just a reminder we lock our school gates by 8:55am after all children are in class. If your child arrives after the start of school at 8:45am they need to come into school via the school office. As we regularly run after school clubs at school we will also now be locking all our school gates after school by 3:45pm. If you are picking up from an after school club you will need to come via the main entrance.

### Value of the Month for December is Respect



Respect is feeling good about myself.

Respect is knowing I am unique and valuable.

Respect is knowing I am lovable and capable.

Respect is listening to others.

Respect is knowing others are valuable too.

Respect is treating others nicely.





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## Christmas Post

Children are able to send Christmas cards to each other through our Christmas post. This will start on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December. The post box will be situated in the main entrance. To ensure each card gets to the correct child, please write the child's first and last name and the class they are in on the envelope.



## Notices

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December we are having our school Christmas dinner. If your child is having a meal, they can wear a Christmas or funny hat while they are eating in the hall (please ensure the hats are named).

Christmas disco Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December:- KS1 = 5:30-6:30pm, KS2 = 6:45-8pm. Please see the posters around school for more information.

The PTA are holding Breakfast with Santa on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December. If you have booked a place, please bring your child to the office entrance for 9am and collected them from the hall at 11am.

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December, which is the last day of term, children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper as it is 'Save the children' Christmas jumper day. A £1 donation to Save the Children would be appreciated.



## Flu Vaccines

Virgicare are coming into school on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. The deadline for booking your child (Reception to year 5 only) is Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. You can register using the link sent on Schoop and email.

## Breakfast Club

Due to rising costs, we are having to increase the charge for attending Breakfast Club to £2.50 per session. This increase will take effect from January 2019.





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## Online Safety

Online safety is the responsibility of both schools and parents. Technology is rapidly changing and it is important for us to keep up with the latest developments so we can better safeguard our children. At school we teach the children about keeping safe online as part of our computing and PSHE curriculum. We however find that children using various technology at home sometimes the difficulties that occur at home can at times overspill into school. We have recently had reports of Fortnite being played at home that is causing concerns for some.

Fortnite is an online video game where players compete to be the last person standing in a post-apocalyptic world. The most popular version is Fortnite: Battle Royale, which sees up to 100 players pitted against each other to stay alive on an island. Players can build and demolish structures, and collect weapons, supplies and armour to help them along the way.

Players shoot each other using a range of lethal weapons, but the brightly-coloured, cartoon-style graphics and lack of bloodshed mean it doesn't feel too gory or graphic.

To play, the age recommendation is **12 and above** due to 'mild violence', although you don't have to provide your age when creating an account, so younger children can still log on easily.

### **Child safety on Fortnite:**

#### **What are the concerns?**

You may have seen news reports or heard concerns raised about the:

- **Communication between players:** a chat function allows players to talk to each other either over a headset and microphone, or using messaging. Children could use it to speak to strangers, or it could put them at risk of cyberbullying.
- **In-app purchases:** players can build up large bills on their parents' accounts by buying cosmetic items like outfits for your character and better-looking weapons (otherwise known as 'skins').
- **Addictive nature of the game:** anecdotal stories tell of children staying up all night to play, or falling asleep in lessons after playing for too long. Some commentators attribute this to the communal feel of the game - you can play with your friends - and the game is different every time you play.

#### **What safety options are available to parents?**

- Use the parental controls on the gaming device. Most devices allow you to **set time limits** on game play, **set age limits** for content, and **restrict in-app purchases**.
- Visit the website 'ask about games' for links to detailed instructions on the device your child uses - the site covers Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Apple and Android phones, and Nintendo Switch.





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### **Ask About Games:**

[www.askaboutgames.com/advice/parental-controls](http://www.askaboutgames.com/advice/parental-controls)

The battles in Fortnite last around 20 minutes. When trying to limit your child's screen time, make the most of this natural stopping point. Set a limit in terms of matches rather than hours and minutes, or set time limits in 20 minute increments.

### **Turn off the voice chat feature**

Speak to your child to make sure they know this feature exists, and encourage them to use the options below if they encounter someone who is offensive or inappropriate.

You can disable the voice chat function in the game if you:

- Open the settings menu (the 3 lines on the right-hand-side of the screen), then choose the 'cog' icon
- Select the 'audio' tab
- You should be able to turn off 'voice chat' by tapping the arrows next to it You can also 'mute' individual players in the game by:
- Pausing the game
- Hovering over the player you wish to mute
- Selecting the mute button (a loudspeaker icon)

### **Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour**

You or your child can report players who make them uncomfortable using the in-game feedback tool (located in the main menu).

You can also use the 'support' section of the Epic Games site (the makers of Fortnite). You're asked to select the platform you play the game on, the game mode you're playing, and then you can select 'report player'. You can provide more detail such as the player's name, and attach a screenshot.

### **More sources of support**

- Non-profit organisation Internet Matters has put together 5 top tips to manage children's screen time.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/5-top-tips-to-manage-childrens-screentime/>

- The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has a range of resources for parents on internet safety.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

- The NSPCC has also teamed up with O2 to offer advice to parents. You can call their free helpline on 0808 800 5002, or make an appointment with an O2 Guru in an O2 store.

<https://guru.secure.force.com/O2DeskStoreLocator>





## Dates for your Diary

Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Breakfast with Santa (9am-11am)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Concerts
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Rec / Yr 1 Christmas play to parents am Squirrels/Hedgehogs Christmas play to parents
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Rec / Yr 1 Christmas play to parents am Squirrels/Hedgehogs Christmas play to parents Christmas dinner Christmas disco
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Panto Dick Whittington
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day End of term 2
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>TD Day</b>
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Term 3 starts

## Carol Concerts

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Meerkats, Otters, Badgers, Tigers and Jaguars All above classes 2pm
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Meerkats and Year 5 & 6 7pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 4, 5 & 6 7pm

