

The Mosley Academy – Newsletter

Issue 2

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The Golden Rules

At The Mosley Academy we successfully adopted the "Golden Rules" behaviour guidelines.

The "Golden Rules" are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| • We are gentle | <i>We don't hurt others</i> |
| • We are kind and helpful | <i>We don't hurt anybody's feelings</i> |
| • We listen | <i>We don't interrupt</i> |
| • We are honest | <i>We don't cover up the truth</i> |
| • We work hard | <i>We don't waste our own or other's time</i> |
| • We look after property | <i>We don't waste or damage things</i> |

As a reward for keeping the "Golden Rules" the children will have "Golden Time" on Friday afternoons which provides a choice of different activities as a reward for keeping the "Golden Rules" during the week.

Stars of the Week

Reception – Alfie

Class 1 – William

Class 2 – Theo

Class 3 – Alysia

Class 4 – Ben

Class 5 – Nerea

Class 6 – Daniel

Headteacher's Award – Rory



Attendance:

Reception - 98.2%

Class 1 – 97.5%

Class 2 – 99.6%

Class 3 – 99.2%

Class 4 – 99.2%

Class 5 – 97.8%

Class 6 – 97.7%

Overall – 98.2%

Well done children!

Harvest

Sadly we will not be able to have our normal Harvest Festival this year. However, we will still be able to make a collection for the YMCA food bank. We are asking for food donations to create our harvest display on Monday the 28th September. All the food from our display will be donated to the YMCA food bank. The display will be created (hopefully on the yard so everyone can see it) ready for Friday 2nd October. We support this charity every year and we know there are more people in need than ever before due to the Coronavirus crisis. The food bank will gratefully receive packaged (not fresh) goods.

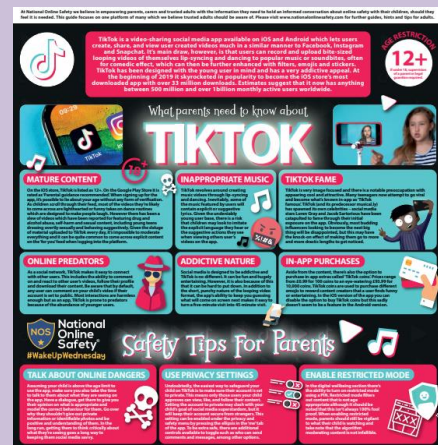


Ourselves

This week we have been talking about thinking for ourselves in our small assemblies, and listening to stories based on the theme. The children have thought about the importance of not copying others.

National Online Safety

This is a really useful website for advice and guidance on the internet / apps / social media / games <https://nationalonlinesafety.com> There are numerous guides available like the one below and on page 2.





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 an area, 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 constitutes as 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 done 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) 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 being, 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 concern is access 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. Sooner 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 producer. 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.



<https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/nov/07/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide-what-game-should-you-allow>, <https://www.povdtybills.com/belieford-4-borders-video-game-addiction/>, <https://www.polygpn.com/2018/02/21/146646/cross-platform-crossplay-pc-xbox-oc-switch-ue4-mobile-usb4c-fronad-compqibw-nastm/skgr70R70>, <https://www.esrb.org/rating/14948/Fortnite/>

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