



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 35 – Friday 19th June

Let the sun shine!

It looks like the sun is going to shine over the next few weeks and the temperatures rise. Please can we ask for your help with the following:

- Sun Cream - parents and carers should apply sun cream to their child before they come to school. We encourage that you apply the 8 hour sun cream which is now widely available. If children need to reapply sun cream, please send the bottle clearly labelled with your child's name. Staff are able to remind and encourage the children to apply sun cream however we request that you also show your child how to do this at home as well.
- Hat – please send your child to school with a hat so that they can wear this during outdoor activities.
- Water - please send your child to school with a water bottle. We have places where children can refill these throughout school.

Outdoor Education Day – Thursday 25th June

We are looking forward to our Outdoor Education Day on Thursday 25th June, when children will enjoy a range of exciting outdoor activities, including sports, bird feeder building and natural art. We will also begin work on improving our outdoor area for future use. Children should come to school in warm, old non-uniform clothing suitable for outdoor activities, along with sturdy footwear, a warm coat, a picnic blanket and a water bottle. Children will enjoy a picnic lunch outdoors. Those who usually have a school dinner will be provided with fish fingers and chips. We hope for good weather and look forward to sharing photos from the day on Seesaw!



Spennymoor Gala Day - Saturday 4th July

Don't forget to pop the date in your diary for a Western themed parade with school. We need your help to come along to the parade in your best Western outfits, cowboy boots and hats and show Spennymoor what Team SGS are made of. Don't forget that anyone taking part in the parade can gain free access into Jubilee Park for the remainder of the Gala Day. Details of times and meeting places will be confirmed closer to the time.

SpringFest Summer Fair - Thursday 9th July 1 - 4pm



It's back, and it's going to be bigger and better! After the amazing success of Christmas at Springmoor, we have decided to make SpringFest not only a festival of wellbeing, but also a summer fair to raise a few funds for all the amazing things we do at school. SpringFest has always been one of the highlights of the school calendar and we would love for you to join us again this year. It's a perfect opportunity to invite all parents or other family members to come along and enjoy the afternoon with us in our school grounds. You can take part in a range of wellbeing activities (we'll have to persuade Mr Webb to get hit with wet sponges again this year!) but also have the chance to support local businesses on their stalls at the fair. We will of course have the ever-popular food vans and ice cream man to keep everyone fed and watered. If you, or anyone you know, would like to book a stall, please contact the school office. Stalls can be secured with a £10 donation to school fund. We can't wait to see what this year's fair brings!

SpringFest – Chocolate Donations

As we look forward to our Springfest in July, we are kindly asking for donations of chocolate items for our Chocolate Tombola. Last year, the tombola was a fantastic success and we are hoping to make this year's event even bigger and better! Any donation, large or small, would be greatly appreciated. All money raised will help provide the children with exciting opportunities and experiences for the children. Thank you for your continued support.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Daisy W	Year 4	Ava R
Year 1	Erin W	Year 5	Chloe V
Year 2	Frankie G	Year 6	Hannah H
Year 3	Ronnie R		

Attendance and Punctuality

Overall statutory attendance for the week is 92.6% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 3 with 96.9%. The winning classes this week was Owl Class with 96.9% - well done!



The overall school attendance for the academic year is 93.4% for the whole school and 94.3% for children in Reception to Year 6.

The Primary starts at 8:30am, with the gates opening from 8:20am. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 293 late minutes and lost learning time.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 22 nd June	1:30pm – Y5/6 Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Wednesday 8th July</i>
Monday 22 nd June	1:45pm – Reception Father's Day Event
Tuesday 23 rd June	2:30pm – Oak Class Assembly
Thursday 25 th June	Outdoor Education Day
Sunday 28 th June – Wednesday 1 st July	Y6 Residential to Newby Wiske Hall
Monday 29 th June	2:30pm – Birch Class Assembly
Tuesday 30 th June	2pm – Y1 Parent/Carer Workshop
Wednesday 1 st July	2pm – Y2 Parent/Carer Workshop
Wednesday 1 st July	2:30pm – Kestrel Class Assembly
Thursday 2 nd July	2:30pm – Maple Class Assembly
Friday 3 rd July	10:15am and 2pm – Buttercup Stay and Play
Monday 6 th July	Reception – Visit to Seaham Marina
Monday 6 th July	2:30pm – Raven Class Assembly
Thursday 9 th July	SpringFest
Friday 10 th July	Years 3 and 4 – Visit to Jarrow Hall
Monday 13 th July	2:30pm – Owl Class Assembly 2:30pm – Elm Class Assembly
Tuesday 14 th July	2:30pm – Swallow Class Assembly
Wednesday 15 th July	Mock Junior parkrun 9am – KS1 9:30am – KS2
Wednesday 15 th July	1:45pm – Nursery Graduation
Thursday 16 th July	9am – Year 6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 17 th July	2pm – Year 6 Guard of Honour
Friday 17 th July	3pm Close for Summer
Summer Holiday	
Tuesday 1 st September	PD Day – School Closed
Wednesday 2 nd September	PD Day – School Closed
Thursday 3 rd September	Start of New School Year – Open to Children

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

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. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often 'gone when they're gone'.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means 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 any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.

