

Abbey Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 21st November 2025

Autumn Term 2025- Issue 6

News and updates

We have had a brilliant start to this half term, and last week we were treated to a wonderfully poignant Remembrance Day assembly from Y5. The children really were excellent in getting across the importance of this special day and read poetry and sang so well—well done Y5.

Thank you for your support of Children in Need last Friday, the children joined in well and raised £111.36 for the charity.

The children also took part in our annual NSPCC assembly on speaking out and staying safe, and the recognition of the children's work is recognise on the last page of the newsletter.

Parking at drop off and pick up

Last week we had a disappointing phone call from a local resident, to say that she couldn't park in the resident spaces opposite the school, at the end of the day. What made it worse is that when she spoke to the driver, she was met with verbal abuse. Can I ask that parents are respectful of the request to not park in parking spaces that are for residents, and that when they are asked to move, they do not use disrespectful language in front of children. I have contacted the PCSO to alert them to issues at the end of school particularly, included parents parking on the grass and the zig zag lines, therefore endangering children's lives.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Fortnite

Please see next page for an online safety guide that explores Fortnite's newest updates, outlining potential concerns, including spending pressure, screen time increases, and unfiltered voice chat with other players.

Book Bus Visit— Monday 1st December

We're excited to welcome The Book Bus to our school on the above date. Every class from YR to Y6 will have a chance to hop aboard the Book Bus during the afternoon.

- The suggested amount to bring to school is £5 -£10 cash or voucher. Please bring this in a named envelope that can be given to the class teacher in the morning.
- Parents/Guardians are welcome to browse and shop after school. Payments can be made by cash or card.
- All books are discounted, and the school receives 15% commission from the very first book sold - this helps us purchase even more books for the school!

Raising the profile of RE

Mrs Baker, our RE leader, is going to set-up a curiosity cube and have a different artefact each month, the challenge for our children will be to find out more about the artefact with prizes for the information they find and bring to Mrs Baker. If anyone has photos of children or families doing something that relates to their culture so we can celebrate it, please bring into the school office or see Mrs Baker at the end of the day on the KS2 playground.

PTA update

Christmas raffle tickets will be on sale each day & at EYFS performances. Also don't forget the Christmas Fayre on the 10th December after school. The PTA will be paying for the transport for EYFS & KS1 to go and see Father Christmas and a chocolate treat with the money raised.

Lastly we have added some dates to the diary as the PTA will be running three movie afternoons for Y1-Y6— letters are coming out soon. YR will also have a movie afternoon, date to follow!

Christmas Lunch date is now confirmed as Thursday 11th December— letters have come out to book a lunch on this day. No sandwiches or Jacket Potatoes will be available on this day.

Also on this day children can wear a Christmas jumper, or Christmas hat or any festive wear.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

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 emoticons. 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.

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.

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!

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 iDN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

There's something for everyone
on The Book Bus

All aboard, next stop
YOUR SCHOOL!

The Book Bus will be holding a bookfair at your child's school.

We invite all children, parents, and carers aboard The Book Bus to purchase from our hand-picked selection of quality books—always at fantastic value, with up to 70% off RRP.

Every book sold helps provide free books for your school's classrooms and library, supporting a love of reading for all!



Don't forget to place your child's money in a sealed envelope so they can safely spend it during class.



How to Pay (this bit's for the grown ups)

Pay by Cash or Card

We will be available at school collection time to take cash or card payments on the bus.

Buy a Voucher

You can buy a voucher which can be redeemed by your child on the bus.

Visit www.thebookbus.co.uk for more info

Not able to make it to the fair?

Visit our website and purchase books to be delivered to directly to your house.



www.thebookbus.co.uk

Your Speak out. Stay safe. certificate

Awarded to:

Abbey Primary School

A massive thank you and a big well done to all pupils for being such great listeners and taking part in *Speak out*. Stay safe. with Buddy.



Chris Sherwood
Chief Executive

Date: November 2025

Thank you for
helping to keep
more children safe!



NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Dates for the diary

Thursday 27th November—UK Parliament week assembly and School Council elections & after school after school PTA Movie afternoon for Y1/2—The Grinch

Monday 1st December—Academy Conversion to St Bart's MAT.

After school parents and children will be able to board the Book Bus, and children can bring no more than £10 to spend.

Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd December, 9.30am—EYFS Nativity for parents

Wednesday 3rd December—after school PTA Movie afternoon for Y3/4—The Grinch

Thursday 4th December—after school PTA Movie afternoon for Y5/6—ELF

Wednesday 10th December—PTA Christmas Fayre, after school

Thursday 11th December—Christmas Lunch and Christmas dress up day (Christmas jumpers, hats or festive dress)
2pm—Parent's Mental Health Workshop where we will be looking at BSL.

Sunday 14th December—Pudding Run organised by Sneyd Styders.

Tuesday 16th December—final swim session for Y6

Wednesday 17th December—Carols Around the Christmas Tree at 5pm for Y1-Y6 children and parents.

Thursday 18th December—9am WOW of the term, 1.30pm finish for Christmas holidays.
PTA Christmas Raffle draw.

Friday 19th December—TRAINING DAY—no children in school

Monday 22nd December and Tuesday 23rd December—Holiday Activity Programme running

