

Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone that came to the quiz night on Friday. It was a resounding success and really good fun! Big thanks to Sophie and Vicky for being quiz masters, and the Friends of Hillcroft for organising the evening. We are delighted to announce that the profit from the event was £420.00 which is really amazing! Friends of Hillcroft hope to hold another Quiz Night in the Autumn Term.

Ladyland Farm

The children in Reception had a lovely day for their visit to Ladyland Farm last Tuesday. Ladyland Farm is a local historic, family run, working farm that specialises in educational visits. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip which enriched their current topic 'Why are carrots orange'.



Birdbox News

Our blue tits have been busy laying, we hope they will start sitting on the eggs very soon. If you would like to follow their progress, please go to www.seenature.org.uk click on 'live stream' and look for the Hillcroft logo. All the schools that have a green dot are streaming live. If you are interested, look at Whyteleafe School, their nest is slightly further along and you can watch the chicks in the nest. The parent birds are in and out feeding them constantly.

NSPCC warning over popular game Fortnite

The NSPCC have launched new advice for parents amid concerns over a game function that automatically allows users to speak to other players through voice and text chat functions. This means that children may be open to being contacted by strangers.

According to research conducted by the NSPCC, 25% of children had already been contacted online by a stranger. They have advised parents to turn off the voice chat system in the game to ensure children avoid inappropriate contact.

For more information please click on the link below:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/technology-43988210>

Warmer Weather

Now the weather is getting warmer and sunnier please can you ensure that all children have water bottles and sun hats in school and they have suncream applied.

Please also ensure children have their PE kit in school each day.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 14 th May	SATs Week KS2
Wednesday 16 th May	Perform Workshop for KS1 and EYFS
Monday 21 st May	SATs Week KS1 Dorking Halls Music Festival
Tuesday 22 nd May	Parent E-Safety Workshop at Whyteleafe School
Friday 25 th May	Break up for half term
Monday 4 th June	Back to school
Wednesday 13 th June	Parents Meeting for parents of children starting school in September
Friday 15 th June	Mufti Day
Saturday 16 th June	Summer Fair
Friday 29 th June	INSET Day
Tuesday 3 rd July	De Stafford Induction Day for Year 6
Wednesday 4 th July	De Stafford Induction Day for Year 6
Friday 20 th July	Last day of term

School Terms and Holiday Dates 2018 – 2019

Autumn Term 2018	
INSET Day:	Monday 3 rd September
INSET Day:	Tuesday 4 th September
Term Starts: Children Return	Wednesday 5 th September
Half Term:	Monday 22 nd October – Friday 26 th October
INSET Day:	Friday 23 rd November
Term Ends:	Wednesday 19 th December

Spring Term 2019	
Term Starts: Children Return	Monday 7 th January
Half Term:	Monday 18 th February – Friday 22 nd February
Term Ends:	Friday 5 th April

Summer Term 2019	
Term Starts: Children Return	Tuesday 23 rd April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May
Half Term:	Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May
INSET Day:	Friday 28 th June
Term Ends:	Friday 19 th July
INSET Day:	Monday 22 nd July



FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE



'Fortnite - Battle Royale' is a free to play section of the game 'Fortnite'. The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus' where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find items hidden around the island, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game harder, there is an added twist called 'the storm', which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, making the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and IOS.



What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

MICROTRANSACTIONS

Micro-transaction items are in-game only and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. There are cosmetic items, called 'skins' 'weapons' and 'emotes', which change the look of the character but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of items in the game. The skins are made available for players to purchase and some cosmetic items are exclusive items. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass'. When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can play a series of challenges to receive more rewards (earned by spending) through different tiers. Whatever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

HACKER ATTACKS

Users also notice that it had some 'glitches' or reports online by people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers. Hackers gained access to many accounts in the game and spent hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

Signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, there is no proof of age required. If your child is under the age of 13, it is important to check if your child has the game downloaded.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

Interacting with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from working together in the game to have feedback from other players trying to improve their game. Working together makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes really good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and work towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

There are many comments on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'V Bucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PSN cards. Any platform generated from Fortnite will be in-game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'V Bucks'. The website or accounts may ask you to claim your account name and password in order to claim the rewards. If these offers seem too good to be true, they usually are.

IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies with each game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and continue to play until they achieve the result they want. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for children to stop playing halfway through as it could affect their position in the game.

IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO

The game was released on mobile in April 2018 meaning it can be played without a game console at home. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students whilst in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is on the game.

'FREE' TO PLAY

The game is free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription to play the game which is compulsory.

WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE

ESRB has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenades, hand saws, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, ESRB say 'some graphic and realistic looking weapons feature fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters must look unrealistic unless it consists of only violence or direct injury such as a slip, raising the game's rating for children aged 12 and over.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents



#1 LIMIT GAME TIME

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time your child is playing games on the devices. Be aware that the game is available on IOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to spend on games. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be hard to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth using a limit of the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

#2 RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

'Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

#4 PREVENT THEM TALKING TO STRANGERS

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means they wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. Your child will still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

#3 SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when specialising them.

#5 LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS

It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

#6 USE A STRONG PASSWORD

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.



Sources: <https://www.nerdwelt.com/en-GB/what-is-fortnite-battle-royale-scams/> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-43826078> <https://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com/https://epicinfo/https://www.charismacore.com/fortnite/2018/02/12/> <https://www.nerdwelt.com/en-GB/what-is-fortnite-battle-royale-scams/>