



# Kew Woods News

Friday 7th January, 2022



## Welcome back

Happy New Year to all of our families. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas. We were delighted to welcome our pupils back to school this week. It was wonderful to see their happy faces and they have all been working hard this week.

During this week, the classes have reflected on the Christmas period and looked forward to the year ahead. They talked about the significance of New Year and resolutions they may have heard people making. They have been encouraged to reflect upon the positive aspects of the last twelve months and things they would like to achieve this year.

We have also started to welcome our new early years pupils into school. Our new nursery children have visited school this week and are now starting their regular sessions. We hope they will be very happy and thrive at our school and we extend a warm welcome to their families.

Headteacher  
Christina Greaves, BA  
Hons

Tel: 01704 533 478

Please visit our website:  
[www.kewwoodprimary.co.uk](http://www.kewwoodprimary.co.uk)

### ATTENDANCE:

School attendance this week is 95.3% which is below national average. Well done to class 2W who had the highest attendance at 99.1%

### Dates

#### January

4th Term starts

11th Interventions start  
(invite only)

#### February

14th - 18th (inclusive)

Half-term



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# Interventions

Interventions for pupils who have received letters inviting them to sessions will start on Tuesday 11th January. It is important that children attend the session offered regularly. If you do not wish to take up the place please advise your child's class teacher so that the place can be offered to another child.

# After School Clubs

Due to the increase in Covid nationally, we have made the decision to delay the start of after school clubs this term. This will allow time to monitor the rates in school and make any adjustments required. We will update you in the next few weeks via text regarding the delivery of after school clubs this term.

# Well Being Award

We are very proud that we currently hold a Wellbeing Award, achieved in 2018 for promoting positive social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and wellness for pupils and staff. We are in the process of applying for a re-accreditation for this kitemark.

In order to evaluate our current provision, we would like your input. Your views are important in helping us as a school to understand what we are doing well and how we can do even better. Therefore, next week, you will receive a link via ParentApps to an evaluation form that we would like you to take the time to complete. The information gathered will help us to plan our next steps and identify where we can further enhance our current practice.



This Week's Class Dojo Winners	
Joshua	RK
Olivia W	RW
Adam	1K
Harley	1W
Maya	2K
Freddie	2W
Bryony & Tom	3K
Nathan	3W
India N	4K
Oscar	4W
Mason	5K
Lexie	5W
Poppy	6K
Tristen	6W

# School Uniform

As we start the new term, please can all pupils attend school in full uniform. Trainers should only be worn on allocated PE days for the class. On PE days the children should wear either their school jumper or cardigan, a navy blue sweatshirt or a school tracksuit top. In addition, can parents ensure that their child brings a coat to school with them on a daily basis. Many thanks for your support with this.

# Covid Update

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take Lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.

This also applies to children under 5, with lateral flow testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and the person being tested does not have a high temperature, self-isolation can be ended after the second negative test result and return to an education setting from day 8.

Children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LF test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result.

We hope that parents will find this the information in the updated guidance from the Department for Education useful.

As mentioned before Christmas, demand for supply teachers is extremely high to cover classes in case of staff absence. We would like to thank staff for their flexibility in supporting classes and individual pupils and ensuring the children are educated on site. We would also like to thank parents for their support and understanding at this challenging time.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

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**3**

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First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

## IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can be quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

## REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

## COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or 'toxic' behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

## POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

## USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision however, this can be a great lesson in money management for children.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours, of course, isn't healthy but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

### TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

### DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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