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Head of School: Mr K Scanlon



St Anthony's Catholic Primary Sch
Fordbridge Road,
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Friday 23rd October 2025

This half term, we are growing to be eloquent and truthful in what we say of ourselves, the relations between people, and the world.



Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice, lying and greed. If people all over the world would do this, it would change the earth.

William Faulkner – American writer

Fr. Sean's induction as parish priest of St. Anne's and St. Anthony and St. John the Baptist parishes, will take place on Friday 24th October at 7pm. Following the Mass at St. Anne's church, there will be refreshments available in the hall. Fr. Sean extends a warm welcome to you all to attend.



Uniform

Winter uniform can be worn after October half term

Girls' Uniform - Winter

Grey skirt, white blouse (with tie) royal blue school cardigan or sweatshirt, white socks, grey, white or black tights, and black shoes. Girls can choose if they wish to wear grey school trousers (not fashion trousers). Leggings are not permitted.



Boys' Uniform - Winter

Grey trousers, white shirt (with tie) and school royal blue V-necked sweatshirt, and black shoes.



The school photographer will be in school on **Monday 3rd November** to take individual and sibling photos of the children. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct winter uniform as detailed above. If your child has PE on Monday 3rd November your child is to bring their PE kit with them in their bag.

The photographer will be ready and set up in the hall from 8:15am if families would like to come and have family photos taken if you have young children.

Online Safety for Parents and Carers

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.

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 *IGN*, *TechRadar*, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Free bus travel for Parents



Funded by
UK Government



FREE bus travel for parents this October half term

All day, unlimited travel from
27 October until 2 November

Parents, guardians and carers can enjoy
unlimited free bus travel across the
West Midlands during these dates.

How to claim

Applications are open from Monday 6
October until Wednesday 15 October.
Just scan the QR code (or visit tfwm.org.uk/october) to apply!

Once applications close, we'll email you
with instructions on how to redeem your
free travel through your Swift account.



Big Brum Youth Theatre

**Are you interested in
joining?**

Open to all Year 6 children

October Half Term
Tuesday 28th October 2025

Elmwood Family Hub, 37 Burtons Way,
Birmingham, B36 0UG



Please email
katie@bigbrum.org.uk
to sign up or for further
details

Lunch menu for w.b. 3rd November

		LUNCHTIME				
		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FOOD FESTIVAL <small>87 Aspens</small> WEEK 1 Autumn Winter 2025/26 01/09/25, 22/09/25, 13/10/25, 03/11/25, 24/11/25, 15/12/25, 05/01/26, 26/01/26, 16/02/26, 09/03/26, 30/03/26	THE MAIN EVENT	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Slice with Wedges B	Meatball Marinara Pasta B	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Skin on Roasties and Gravy C	Bangers, Mash and Gravy B	Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Chips B
	MEAT-FREE MAGIC <small>Veggie Dish</small>	BBQ Cheesy Sweetcorn Pizza with Wedges B	Veggie Korma with Rice B	Roasted Vegetable Strudel, Skin on Roasties and Gravy B	Veggie Bangers, Mash and Gravy A	Cheesy Bean Wrap with Chips B
	RAINBOW ALLEY <small>Vegetables and Salads</small>	Peas	Sweetcorn	Carrots and Cabbage	Mixed Greens	Baked Beans
	BIG TOPPING <small>Filled Jackets</small>	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo B
	DESSERT TROLLEY	Butterfly Pastry Biscuits B	Shortbread B	Banana Bread and Custard B	Apple Cinnamon Buns B	Lemon Drizzle Cake B
What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today? 	AVAILABLE DAILY DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT					PASTA TWIRLER AVAILABLE EVERY DAY TOPPED PASTA HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE C

Due to school dinners being cooked fresh, please ensure that you pre order meals that your child will eat. Unfortunately, we cannot offer alternatives

Changes to ordering school lunches...

Please check your emails for information regarding our **new simplified lunch ordering system** that will make life easier for families starting in school from **Monday 3rd November (you can start ordering from Sunday 2nd November)**. Currently, our process involves two separate logins—one for ordering meals and another for making payments. We understand this can be time-consuming and confusing, so we're moving to a **single login system via ParentPay**.



Special menu for 5th November

SPARKLE SPECTACULAR

5th November

Bonfire Banger Hot Dogs
with Sweet Potato Wedges
and Rainbow Slaw

Or

Quorn Bonfire Banger Hot Dogs
with Sweet Potato Wedges
and Rainbow Slaw

And

Toffee Apple Sponge & Custard



Diary Dates



Y6 SATS

Year 6 weekly booster starting from Thursday 6th November for all pupils from 3:15 till 4:15pm

2025

Fri 24 th Oct	Whole School	STAFF INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Monday 26 th October - Friday 31 st October 2025		
Mon 3 rd Nov	Whole school	Individual and sibling class photos
Mon 3 rd – Fri 7 th Nov	Year 5	Y5 Bikeability
Tues 11 th Nov	Year 3	Y3 Cinema trip to Cineworld NEC
Weds 12 th Nov	Year 2	Y2 Cinema trip to Cineworld NEC
Weds 12 th Nov	Year 6	Y6 parent workshop from 9-10am
Fri 14 th Nov	Rec – Year 6	Flu immunisations
Sat 15 th Nov	Year 6	Confirmation Commitment Mass @ 5pm
Weds 19 th Nov	Whole School	Whole school Mass @ 9:15am - Year 4 leading. Parents and family members welcome
Tues 25 th Nov	Year 5	Y5 Cinema trip to Cineworld NEC
Weds 17 th Dec	Whole school	Whole school Mass @ 9:15am - Year 3 leading. Parents and family members welcome

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:

Monday 22nd Dec - Friday 2nd Jan 2026



Diary Dates



Term dates 2025 - 2026			
	Term starts	Half term	Term ends
Autumn	1 st September 2025	27 th Oct – 31 st Oct	19 th December 2025
Spring	5 th January 2026	16 th Feb – 20 th Feb	27 th March 2026
Summer	13 th April 2026	25 th May - 29 th May	20 th July 2026

Inset days: 1st September, 24th October, **5th January**, 23rd February, **13th April**, 20th July

**** The deadline for secondary school applications is:
31st October 2025 ****

**** Year 6 weekly booster starting from Thursday 6th
November for all pupils 3:15 till 4:25pm ****

P.E Days

Week beginning Monday 3rd November

Reception – Friday

Year 1 – Monday & Wednesday

Year 2 – Monday & Friday

Year 3 – Tuesday & Friday

Year 4 – Wednesday & Thursday

Year 5 – Tuesday & Thursday

Year 6 – Tuesday (swimming) & Thursday

