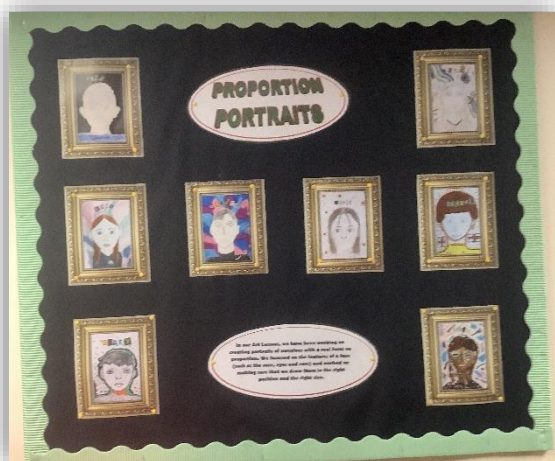
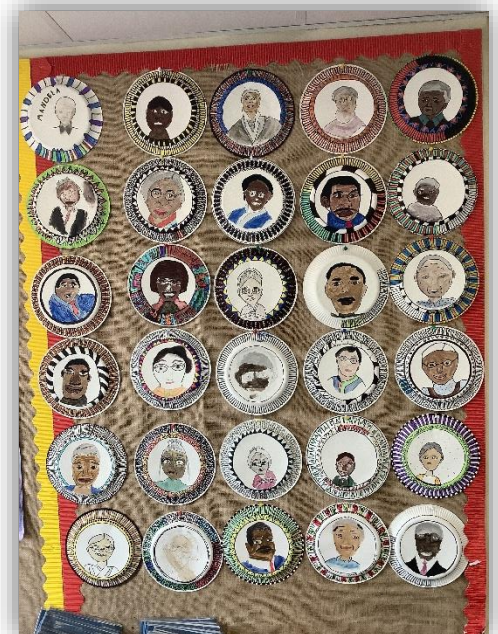
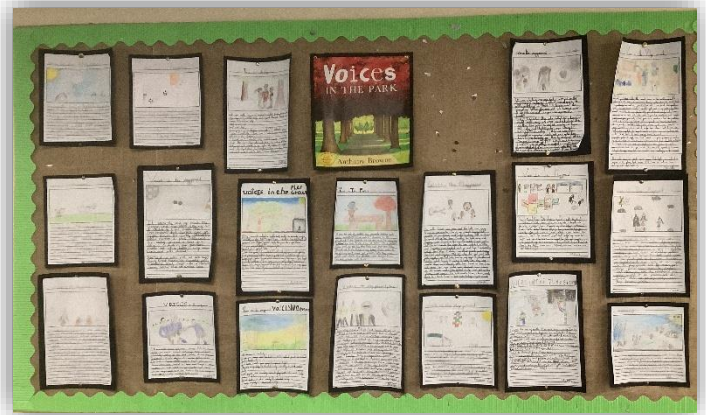


Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

Curriculum news

Here is a selection of the wonderful work on display in classrooms and corridors around the school, which showcases some of our Holbrook curriculum this half-term.



- Reception** – Scissor skills and houses
- Year 1** – Dragon stories
- Year 2** – Map making
- Year 3** – Growth Mindset artwork
- Year 4** – Story writing
- Year 5** – Proportion Portraits
- Year 6** – African plates

Parent Consultations

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at our Parent Consultation evenings this week. The home-school partnership is tremendously important, and we would like to thank you for your support.



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

With over 850 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.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 services. 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 their 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.

[@wake_up_weds](#) [www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.10.2025

The National College

Safeguarding - online safety

Fortnite's latest season is packed with eye-catching features – but that can mean longer screen time, pressure to spend, and the lure of party chat with strangers. This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide shines a spotlight on what parents and educators need to know to help young players stay safe.

From comical dance emotes to realistic weapons and big-name collaborations, Fortnite is a cultural heavyweight. But even with its PEGI 12 rating, many younger children are joining the action. Our new guide explores the risks – and offers useful, clear advice for trusted adults.

Click on the poster for further information.

Teacher training

Are you considering a career in teaching? Find out more at this informal event coming up soon at Tanbridge House School and via this link

<https://www.inspiringfutureteachers.org/tanbridge>

Reminder

As autumn moves towards winter, please ensure that your child returns to school with a coat and the correct uniform after half-term, thank you.



Tanbridge Teacher Training



Are you considering a career in teaching?

Join a hands on school-based teacher training course to gain QTS and a PGCE training in schools local to you in Sussex.

Come along to our informal, friendly information event to find out about the SCITT training route and how it could work for you!

Register your interest by clicking the link in our instagram bio or emailing us at teachertraining@ths.uk.net.

Tanbridge Teacher Training Information Event
Monday 17th November - 4-5pm

Tanbridge House School - A281 Guildford Road Horsham RH12 1SR



[@tanbridge_th](#)

[@tanbridge_th](#)

[Tanbridge Teacher Training SCITT](#)

Take a look at our socials for more information, clips of trainees in action and frequently asked questions answered!

Poppy Appeal



After half term, we will be offering pupils the opportunity to purchase a poppy for Remembrance Sunday. Poppies and other Royal British Legion merchandise will be on sale from Tuesday 4th November until Friday 7th November before and after school. Please note that it will be a silver/gold collection only, with a suggested minimum of 20p for a poppy and £1 for other merchandise.

CUT OFF DATE Thursday 23:59		FOR WEEK COMMENCING
30 th October		10 th November
6 th November		17 th November
13 th November		24 th November
20 th November		1 st December
27 th December		8 th December

Diary Dates (new additions in bold)	
Mon 27 th -Fri 31 st Oct	Half term
Monday 3 rd November	INSET - school closed to pupils
Thursday 6 th November	Y1 trip to Hever Castle
Friday 7 th November	Y5 Remembrance Assembly
Wednesday 12 th November	Individual & sibling photos
Friday 21 st November	Y5 trip to Newhaven Fort
Thursday 27 th November	Y4 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace
Saturday 29 th November	Friends of Holbrook Christmas Fair

Have a restful and enjoyable half-term.

Kind regards,

Ian Holmes
Headteacher