

## 8th November 2019 Newsletter

November	
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Remembrance Service at the memorial. The School Council will be laying a wreath, to remember all those who were affected by the wars This will be alongside other community groups. Please join us if you would like to.
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Any children who are members of a uniformed group/organisation for example Rainbows/Brownies/Beavers – you are invited to wear your uniform to school on Remembrance Day.
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am Starfish class assembly Children in Need day – children wear own clothes- School Council have decided this can be anything colourful.
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup>- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Book Fair all week after school in School Hall
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am Birthday Assembly parents with children who have a birthday in November are invited to attend
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	Christmas bazaar– in school hall after school
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.15 and 2.15pm Reception Christmas productions – parents/carers welcome (details to follow)
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.15 and 2.15pm Year 2 Christmas productions – parents/carers welcome(details to follow)
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.15 and 2.15pm Year 1 Christmas productions- parents/carers welcome (details to follow)
<b>Every Monday (term time only)</b>	Parent and Baby/Toddler group – Puppies room 1.15pm-2.45pm
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Birthday assemblies/ Christmas service <b>in church</b> – each year group at a time. Reception – 9.10, Year 1 9.50 am, and year 2 10.40am

	<i>Weekly school attendance</i>	<i>Days missed across the school this week</i>	<i>Best class attendance for the week</i>	<i>Overall attendance for the year</i>
	<b>95.14%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>Polar Bear</b>	<b>95.12%</b>

	 <b>Reading award</b>	 <b>Star of the week</b>	 <b>Active Award</b>	 <b>Star Table</b>	 <b>Feet on Friday</b>
	<b>Autumn</b>	<b>Bradley</b>	<b>Blake Chelsea</b>	<b>Primrose</b>	<b>Chelsea</b>
	<b>Amelia</b>	<b>Tomas</b>	<b>Albie Aaliyah</b>	<b>Szofia</b>	<b>Amelia</b>
	<b>Ethan</b>	<b>Evie</b>	<b>Poppy Lilly</b>	<b>Henry</b>	<b>Ethan</b>
	<b>George</b>	<b>Kyra</b>	<b>Felix Jessica</b>	<b>Reuben</b>	<b>Ava</b>
	<b>Kiara</b>	<b>Darcy H</b>	<b>Kamile Charlie</b>	<b>Emily H-W</b>	<b>Darcie</b>
	<b>Ariella</b>	<b>Jessica</b>	<b>Perry-Joe Jessica</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Chloey</b>
	<b>Reuben</b>	<b>Amelia</b>	<b>Freddie Hanna</b>	<b>Archie</b>	<b>Oliver</b>
	<b>Jaxson</b>	<b>Emma</b>	<b>Reece Ava P-G</b>	<b>Reece</b>	<b>Lydia</b>
	<b>Ariana</b>	<b>Zayyan</b>	<b>Amelia Zayyan</b>	<b>Emily</b>	<b>Lucas</b>

**Bonus Coin Winner of the Week – Fox**

**Punctuality Pup – Fox**

**What we have been learning.....**

**EYFS**



In EYFS this week we have been learning the story Stickman. We really enjoyed finding out about the different places he visited on his journey. We decided to use our own imaginations to take Stickman on our own adventures. We used the writing toolkit to draw his adventure and some of us tried hard to write the initial sounds for the character, setting, problem and resolution. In Maths we have been continuing to compare quantities and have used the language fewer and more. We even had a try at representing our counting out on a white board after placing the required number on a fives frame i.e. If I had 3 on a fives frame I could

decide to represent this using 3 drawn lollipops, 3 drawn lines, 3 drawn circle etc. In RE we have continued to learn stories from the bible. This week finding out about what happened to Jesus and his disciples when they got caught in the storm. In PSED we have thought about personal possessions that are special to us and how we would feel if they were to get lost. Just a little reminder that all children do need a warm coat in school. We use the outdoor area continually and the children also use the main school playground at lunch time and it can get quite chilly with the northerly wind.

## Year 1



This week in Year 1 we have really enjoyed exploring the season of Autumn as it reaches an end. We had a wonderful morning exploring various things associated with Autumn using our senses. We felt soft, smooth conkers. We heard the sound of fireworks banging in the dark sky. We experienced the musty smell of smoke from a fire. We saw gigantic, bright orange pumpkins. Our favourite thing, however was tasting delicious hot chocolate and scrumptious marshmallows! The children used their fantastic describing to create their own wonderful Autumn poems. In Maths we have been exploring addition and the four addition equations we can make from a part, part whole. This was quite a challenge and we were incredibly impressed with how the children persevered with learning this. We have enjoyed learning about the music from Fantasia this week; what fun we all had with instruments as we tried to recreate the sounds within this piece of music. We have also loved continuing our Disney dance, this week with Peter Pan where we flew elegantly through London before becoming Pirates in Neverland.

## Year 2



This week we have continued to be inspired by our solar system and have written amazing poems about planets. We based it on a poem we had rehearsed called "6 ways to look at the moon". We used metaphors, adjectives within our writing and thought of some really great ideas! Mrs Kent was so impressed that she gave out lots of Headteacher stickers! In Maths we have continued to use money, making amounts, comparing amounts and finding totals. Please can your child practise using pounds and pence at home to reinforce their coin recognition? During our Science day we have begun to explore habitats. We started off by categorising objects in our environments that are living, dead or have never been alive. We then explored micro habitats why they are suitable homes for various mini beasts. We explored a woodland habitat, discussing what grows there, lives there and how seasons affect them. Please remember to send in your child's toothbrush in a named bag on Tuesday for our life skills lesson practising brushing our teeth!

## Year 2 parents

As we are an Infant School, once your child finishes in year 2 they will move on to Kennington Academy or another school. There is an admission process which parents need to go through to secure a place for year 3 which involves completing an application form on line and submitting this by January. You can apply from **5<sup>th</sup> November** until **15<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. We will holding joint prospective parent school tours which began on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Please see below for other dates- you need to call Downs View school office to book a place.

Date	Time	Tour begins at:
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>Downs View</b>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Downs View</b>

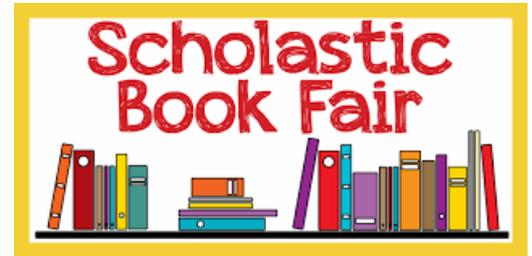
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Downs View</b>
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>Downs View</b>

### **Aldi sticker**

If you have any stickers at home please send them in! We were so lucky to have some donated from another school which has enabled us to fill the poster. This will allow us to get some new kit. Thank you for your support.

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

We will be holding a Book Fair after school in the school hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November until Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November.



You will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of different books – prices start from £2.99- good to browse for Christmas presents! The school receives commission for every book sold which will result in even more books for class libraries.

### **Christmas Card Competition**

The children of Downs View have been given an exciting opportunity! We have been invited to take part in a competition to design a picture for a Christmas card for our local MEP, Antony Hook. We have many talented and creative artists within our school and I would like to challenge them to create a picture for a Christmas card at home. They can be any size and the children can create them in any medium (paint, pencils, collage etc) but the picture must be inspired by one more of the following values:

- kindness,
- peace,
- generosity,
- friendship.

(See below for ideas)

The winner of the competition will have their picture printed on Christmas cards for Antony Hook and posted across the UK, Europe and worldwide. On top of that the winner's school will be presented with £100 of book tokens, with runners up receiving book tokens of £50 and £25.

Pictures need to be handed in by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Let's get Creative!



### **Phonics Workshops**

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the workshops this week. It was great to see so many of you and we hope that the information given out helps you with your child's learning. We still have a Year 2 workshop on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, so look forward to seeing you there. The power point presentation will be available through our school website shortly.

Message from the Friends....

'On Monday 2nd December, the Friends of Downs View Infant School are hosting the annual Christmas Fayre.

We are looking for people to help at the event, especially if they work for one of the companies. These companies offer Match Funding. There are many large organisations, such as Abbey National, Morrisons, Argos and BT to name but a few who offer this scheme.

If you work for a company that has a Match Funding policy, any money you raise could be matched by your employer. Companies may match the fundraising total for an event, or for the stall that their employee is working on.

We would be grateful if you could see if your employer has a match funding scheme, or if they are willing to match fund any of our events.

If you can't help out this time, but you know the company you work for has a match funding policy, please let us know. This could be a really large source of income for the Friends.

If you are able to help us, please let the Friends know, [friendsofdownsview@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdownsview@gmail.com). Or you can leave a message with the school office and we can discuss your company's requirements.

Thank you The Friends Comittee



There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.



# What parents need to know about FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE

### BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar setup. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.

### IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction is up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time played and a preoccupation with thoughts of the next gaming session. Realistically, it must be down to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.

### FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?

While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying) it does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called 'V-Bucks' and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bucks can be earned in-game with enough play time.

### SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to everybody and don't require additional money to play, though battle passes for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will typically allow a player to earn experience faster and gain fun in-game items by completing a host of daily challenges.

### CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform. To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account. Doing this removes the age-old boundary of not being able to play together because you don't have the same console and opens up a whole new world of playing online with friends.

### IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as teen, as it contains cartoony violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit will want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.



## Top Tips For Parents

### BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card information afterwards as it can be very easy to purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion would be capping the spending at around £50 - this is the normal retail price of a game.

### GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into their groups in a game. It's difficult to predict what another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good idea for friends playing together, to be grouped together. The only real countermeasure to interacting with strangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic communications, which can be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who you're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.

### LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so be flexible when it's time to put it away. The approach of 'one more game' as opposed to '10 more minutes' will stop any complaints that a match is still ongoing. Better still, play with your child and take it in turns; that way you're helping control the time played and can keep an eye on what they're experiencing.

### TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. If you approach as a collective, it will be easier to know when their friends are online and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help curb expectations on spending money on battle passes and skins if you stick together.

### CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS

It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, quick and complex problem solving and communication; that's not to mention the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, there are benefits to screen time which might not be immediately obvious.

### PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF

There's no substitute for sitting down and playing the game yourself to learn all about it. Fortnite is available for free on almost anything you can imagine, even your smartphone, so there's never been a better time to get involved and see what all the fuss is about. You never know, you might even be able to impress your children when you show them your impressive Victory Royale tally!

### Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



<https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/nov/07/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide-video-game-multiplayer-shooter>, <https://www.psychguides.com/behavioral-disorders/video-game-addiction/>, <https://www.polygon.com/2018/3/23/17146848/cross-platform-crossplay-ps4-xbox-pc-switch-ios-mobile-enable-friends-compatible-matchmaking?01E74>, <https://www.esrb.org/ratings/34948/Fortnite/>