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# FRIDAY FLYER

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Dear Parent/Guardian

May I ask for your help in improving Midhurst CofE Primary School? We are constantly trying to improve the education that we offer the pupils of our school and are now at a stage in the school year where we need you to tell us how well you think we are doing and how we can improve the things that are important to you. Please spare 10 minutes to complete a questionnaire by going to

<https://survey.gl-assessment.co.uk/s/RMGZB5/>

and logging on using the password provided below.

Your parent password is: **MID55101Pa**

*The password is case sensitive.*

By completing the questionnaire, you will be telling us how you think we should be spending our time and resources, to make our school the best that it can be for your child.

There is also a questionnaire for your child in Year 3 or above. We would really value you helping your child complete this by going to

<https://survey.gl-assessment.co.uk/s/T6TI8T/>

and logging on using the password provided below.

The pupil password is: **MID55102Pu**

Each completed questionnaire is vital in finding out what parents and children think. Answers will be treated in the strictest confidence and will make a difference to how we run the school and plan for the future.

With every best wish

Mark

## **SCHOOL MEALS IN SCHOOL – HAVE YOUR SAY – I KNOW, ANOTHER SURVEY – SORRY!**

Chartwells, our school meal providers, have asked me inform you that they are currently running an online survey, enabling you to have a say in your child's school meal. Chartwell's mission is to make sure they feed your children delicious, nutritious food to help them get the most out of their day. Please share your thoughts by filling out their short survey.

[Complete the Survey Here](#)

## **KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE**

I want to spend a little time talking about a game many of our children are playing online. Obviously, if your child is not playing this, then please ignore this and accept my apologies.

The game in question is called Fortnite. It is a free online survival game, in its basic form, with players working together on various missions against an enemy that are trying to kill them.

Despite Fortnite having a PEGI rating of 12, many of our children have been playing this game online. We are aware that for some families this is causing issues at home as the children try to assure their parents that 'everyone is playing it' and that they don't want to be the only one not allowed. We are concerned that not all parents will understand what the game involves and so we are attaching some information which you might find useful when deciding whether or not your child should play the game.

You will, of course, make your own decisions about this for your child. However, should you decide to ignore the 12+ age restriction, can we urge you to sit with your child at some point when Fortnite is on the screen and to keep an eye on how your child is behaving online towards others, who is in their shared online community at any given time and how they are behaving towards your child.

Currently, staff in school are spending time with some children each day, dealing with the emotional fallout from having played Fortnite the previous evening. When they are playing as teams, if one member of the team has to stop playing for whatever reason, or makes a mistake, it has an impact on their mood in school and how they interact with each other in school. We're sure that you will be as anxious as we are to limit the issues that are arising from this game to an absolute minimum.

Please do take the time to have a read of the following guidance on Fortnite which will give you the facts about the game. Whilst we are certainly not experts on the game, if you have any questions or want to discuss any further, please do pop in.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

CHAPTER  
**4**

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
**12**

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

## 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), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The Walking Dead* to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as *Street Fighter*. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from *Alien* or who Geralt from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers – of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, Playstation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's retailing store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that 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 your child knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

David Coleman is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site [GBGee.com](http://GBGee.com) and has worked in the gaming industry for around 14 years. A big-time gamer in his spare time and someone who's been advocate of online safety, writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including BBC and Tech Radar.



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National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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## A REMINDER ABOUT THE WRAPAROUND CARE WEST SUSSEX PARENTS SURVEY

The national wraparound childcare programme is part of the childcare reforms announced at the 2023 Spring Budget

The government's ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8.00am to 6.00pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation.

To support this ambition, the government announced that it will provide start-up funding over two academic years to support local authorities and providers in England to introduce or expand childcare provision on either side of the school day, which parents of primary school-aged children will be able to pay to access.

As part of the Local Authorities statutory duties around sufficiency we are required to understand the supply and demand of childcare places and any gaps in provision, including how these gaps will be addressed.

We are looking for views from all parents and carers of children aged 0-14 years (and up to 18 for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) about how you currently use childcare, and how this may continue to change in the future.

To support this knowledge and understanding it is important that we include the voice of the families so we can better understand if the childcare available is meeting your needs.

The questions and length of the survey will vary depending on the age of your child/children but should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Importantly your feedback will help us to shape improvements to the future of childcare delivery in West Sussex and support the availability of childcare provision to meet continuing demand.

Please do complete this survey by clicking the following link

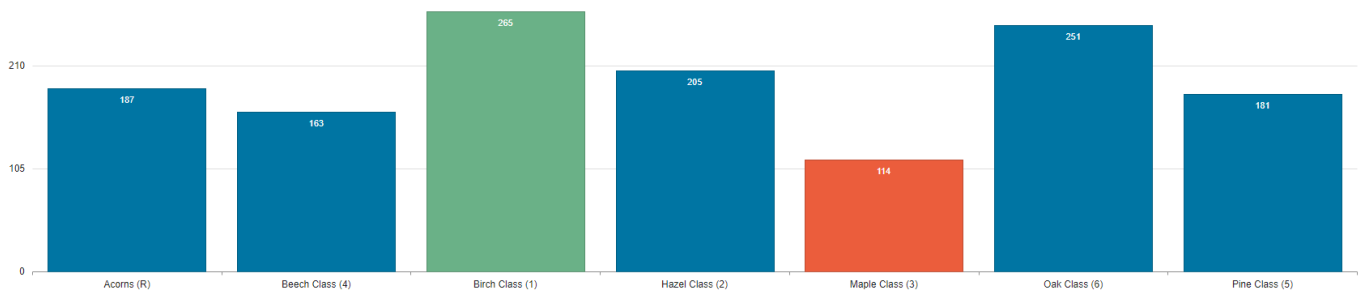
<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/family-information-service/surveys/parent-childcare-survey>

If you have difficulty accessing the survey please do make an appointment to come and see me and we can complete the survey together.

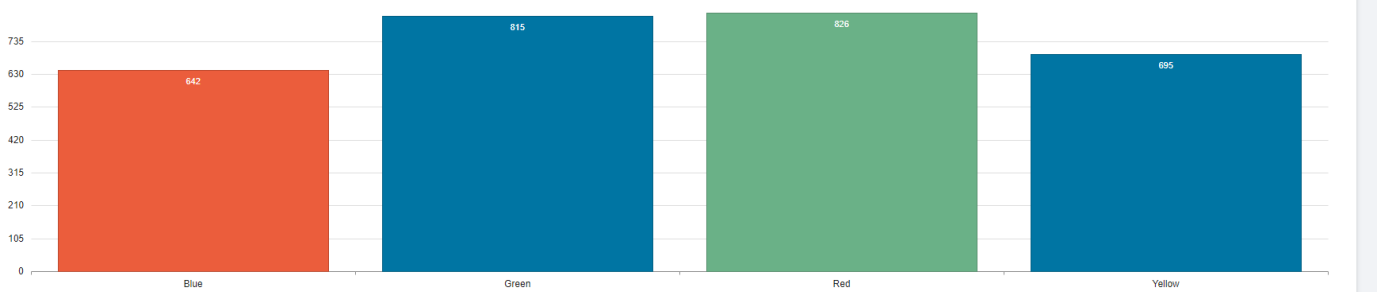
Thank you

## REWARD POINTS

Congratulations to Birch Class for gaining the most Reward Points this week with 285 points. Well done Birch Class!

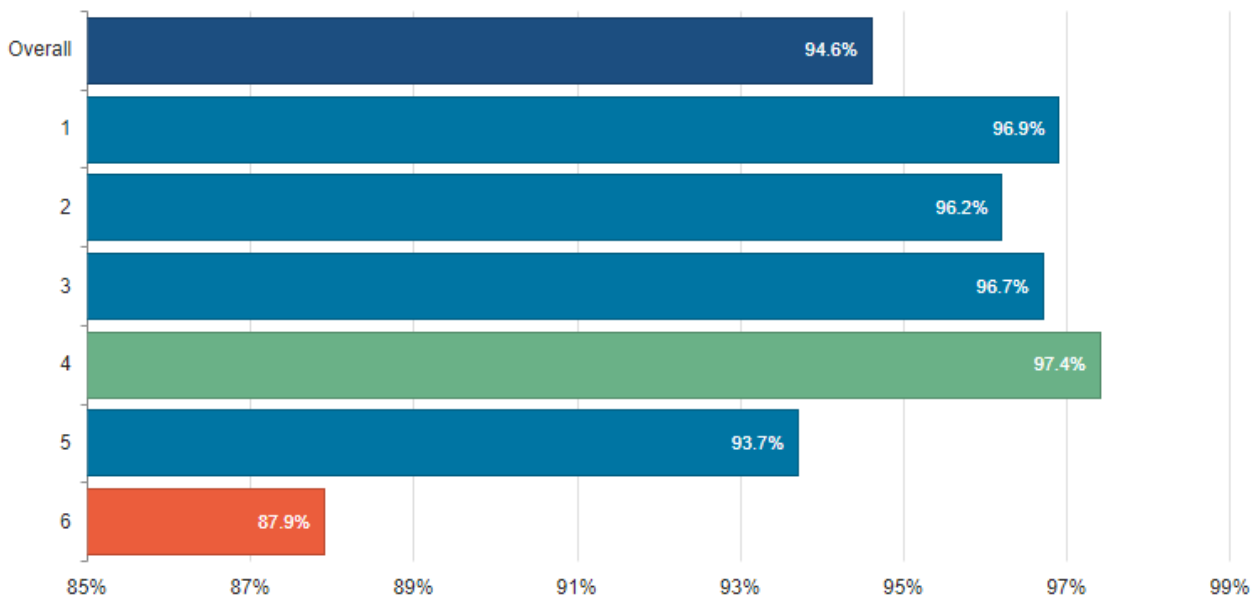


Arun House have taken the lead this week from Rother House with 826 points!



## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

This week's overall attendance percentage is 94.6%. This is 0.4% under our target. Let's work together to make next week above!



**This week's attendance champions!**

Congratulations Beech Class, this week's attendance champions with 97.4%

## A MUSICAL DAY WAS HAD BY ALL!

Pine and Beech Class were lucky enough to head to the Children's Concert at Chichester Festival Theatre on Tuesday. We listened to an orchestra play a few different excellent pieces, conducted by Jonathan Willcocks and compered by Neil Henry. They played Piazzolla's Libertango, Ron Goodwin's 633 Squadron and also Haydn's Trumpet Concerto.

The children all had an excellent time and represented the school beautifully. A special mention to many of our can-can dancers including Mrs Mepstead, who did an amazing job!



## MAPLE CLASS FOREST SCHOOL



Our first Forest School group have been enjoying the dry weather, whittling sticks, toasting marshmallows and having fun exploring the woods.



Date	Event/Activity	Details
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Year 1 & 3 PE today Dance club	Don't forget your PE kit 3.30 - 4.30pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Years 2, 4, 5 & 6 PE today Aspire football club	Don't forget your PE kit 3.30 - 4.30pm
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 1 & 2 PE today Choir club ArtSMASH	Don't forget your PE kit 3.30 - 4.15pm 3.30 - 4.30pm
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Years 3 & 6 PE today Swimming Little woods forest schools  Big woods forest schools Dance club	Don't forget your PE kit Year 4 am Year 2 Group 1 (please wear kit and bring uniform) Year 5 Group 1 (please bring kit in) 3.30 - 4.30pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 5 PE today Big woods forest schools  Cross country club	Don't forget your PE kit Year 3 Group 1 (please wear kit and bring uniform) 3.30 - 4.15pm (LAST ONE)
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 1 & 3 PE today Year 5 trip to Winchester Science Museum and Planetarium Dance club	Don't forget your PE kit See letter for more information  3.30 - 4.30pm
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Years 2, 4, 5 & 6 PE today Aspire football club	Don't forget your PE kit 3.30 - 4.30pm
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Year 1 & 2 PE today Choir club ArtSMASH	Don't forget your PE kit 3.30 - 4.15pm 3.30 - 4.30pm
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Years 3 & 6 PE today Swimming Little woods forest schools  Big woods forest schools Dance club	Don't forget your PE kit Year 4 am Year 2 Group 1 (please wear kit and bring uniform) Year 5 Group 1 (please bring kit in) 3.30 - 4.30pm
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Year 5 PE today Big woods forest schools  MRC Cross country	Don't forget your PE kit Year 3 Group 1 (please wear kit and bring uniform) Details to follow for those involved



# The PTA Cake Raffle is back!!



Alternate Fridays starting  
on the 19th of January.



**Pictures of some of the amazing cakes previously made.**



# PTA Alcohol, toy and book amnesty!

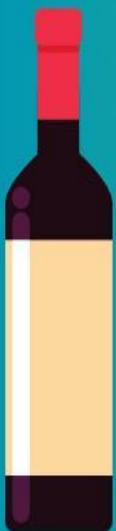
We know January is for some a month of no alcohol and clear outs.

So why not bring any unwanted alcohol, books and toys to us?

Please drop off at the office from the 15th of January to the 26th of January.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Items will be used for future PTA events.





# CINDERELLA

## The Pantomime

SHOWING 2ND-4TH FEBRUARY

FRIDAY 2ND: 7:30PM

SATURDAY 3RD: 2:30PM | 7:30PM

SUNDAY 4TH: 2:30PM

**Herbert Shiner Hall, Petworth**

TICKETS: ADULT £10 | CHILD £7 | FAMILY £28

(FAMILY OF 4)

BOX OFFICE: AUSTENS, PETWORTH

ONLINE BOX OFFICE: [WWW.PETWORTHPLAYERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.PETWORTHPLAYERS.CO.UK)

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



# BEE READY FOR THE BEES



## WE NEED TO HELP THE HIBERNATING BUMBLEBEES WHEN THEY EMERGE IN THE SPRING

Bumblebees that have been hibernating during the winter months use up important reserves of energy, stored as fat in their bodies. Once temperatures rise, bees emerge and need to feed on nectar from flowers to gain energy.

Look out for our 3D poster competition, where children can **WIN** a flower garden starter kit for their classroom!



## FEEL SUPER WITH OUR FOOD SUPER HEROES!

## OUR FOOD SUPER HEROES ARE DESIGNED TO EDUCATE CHILDREN ABOUT FOOD AND NUTRITION IN A FUN AND ENGAGING WAY

Silvertop is supercharged and super strong. Just like milk, he is a source of calcium, which is what all children need to grow and build strong bones and teeth. We encourage them to drink plenty of milk, so they can feel super like Silvertop too.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### YOUR FEEDBACK HELPS SHAPE EVERYTHING WE DO AT CHARTWELLS

Our mission is to make sure we feed children delicious, nutritious food to help them get the most out of their day. Please share your thoughts by filling out our short survey.

[Complete the survey](#)





★ | Kickstar Sports

# KICKSTAR LEAGUES



**THE GRANGE LEISURE CENTRE, MIDHURST**

**BOYS & GIRLS 7 - 11 YEARS WELCOME**

**EVERY MONDAY ( 5:15 - 6:15PM )**

**MATCHES! MATCHES! MATCHES!**

**COMING  
SOON!**

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY**  
[WWW.KICKSTARTSPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK/KICKSTAR-LEAGUES](http://WWW.KICKSTARTSPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK/KICKSTAR-LEAGUES)



**ADUR**

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES CENTRE**

# **VENTUREDAYS**

**Fun multi-activity days for 8-13 yr olds**



**MONDAY 12TH - FRIDAY 16TH**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**[www.adurcentre.org.uk](http://www.adurcentre.org.uk)**



# PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

## Are you a parent of a child with

- Special education needs & disabilities (SEND)
- On the SEN register at school
- Has an education health care plan (EHCP)

We want to know more about your perspectives and experiences of being a SEND parent. Your child does not need to be diagnosed but be identified as having SEND. We want to talk about home life, education and any use of support services.

Interview can take place online via teams or face to face if local



please contact for more information

Samantha Tilley  
University  
of Chichester  
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