



Wensley Fold CE Primary Academy

"Make Each Day Count"

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WENSLEY WEEKLY

Thursday 2 October

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www.wensleyfold.co.uk

User Name: parent Password: parent

Dear Parent

APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW VICAR

We are delighted to share the news that a new Vicar – Father David D'Silva has been appointed to St Silas' CE Church and will be working across Wensley Fold and St Silas' schools.

Father Paul has been covering the role on a temporary basis and will be in post until Jan 2026. He will be really missed by all at school.

WEEKLY VALUE

Our school values are Courage, Compassion, Trust, Respect and Aspiration.
We continue to focus on the value 'Trust'.

ONLINE SAFETY

As part of a lesson on 'Using IT Safely Online' in Year 2, quite a few children mentioned that they played games online which were out of their age range restrictions. Games such as 'Fortnite' (12+), 'Call of Duty' (18+) and 'Grand Theft Auto' (18+) were named as games they play. We just want parents to be aware of this and bring your attention to the posters at the end of this newsletter which contain safety tips on each of these games.

MACMILLAN CANCER RESEARCH FUNDRAISING COFFE MORNING

Thank you to everyone for the amazing turnout last Friday and for all the donations we received. We have raised an amazing £680.

HARVEST 2025 SHARING AND GIVING

On Friday 17 October we will be celebrating Harvest at St Silas Church. If you can, please donate contributions of tinned or packet food so that we can share our food with those who are homeless. Donations are welcomed from today onwards to be handed in to class teachers. Many thanks for your support.



SCHOOL DINNERS

Please can we remind parents to pre-book their child's meals in order for them to receive a meal of their choice, also can parents check the year group for Grab 5s before ordering. Thank you.

APPOINTMENTS IN SCHOOL TIME

A kind reminder to try to book dentist and doctor's appointments in the school holidays or after school where possible. Thank you.

CLASS OF THE WEEK

Class	Sessions attended	Sessions missed
Rec Q	99.3	2
Rec S	100	0
IB	98.7	4
1A	99.3	2
2C	96.3	11
2W	98.7	4
3B	99.0	3
3A	99.0	3
4M	100	0
4K	99.3	2
5S	98.0	6
5B	94.3	17
6G	98.7	4
6HW	98.0	6

Well done to Classes – Rec S and 4M.

RECEPTION – JAM SANDWICHES

Over the next two weeks, we will be making jam sandwiches with the children using white bread, margarine and jam. Please let the Reception teachers or the office know if there are any problems with your child joining in with this activity. Thank you.

YEAR 1 LOCAL WALK – WITTON PARK

As part of their Science topic on trees and plants, Year 1B will be visiting Witton Park on Thursday 9 October and Year 1A on Monday 13 October. Please ensure your child has a suitable coat on the day. All children who take part in Forest Schools will continue as normal. Thank you.

YEAR 2 CORPORATION PARK

As part of their Science topic on trees and plants, Year 2 will be visiting Corporation Park next Wednesday 8 October to look at trees and their seeds. Please ensure children have a suitable waterproof coat and wellingtons on the day. Thank you.

YEAR 2 CLITHEROE CASTLE

As part of our history topic on castles we have organised a visit for our Year 2 classes to Clitheroe Castle on Monday 17 November, where the children will learn about events and individuals that have shaped the castle from the Norman Times to the present day. The price of this trip will be £17 to cover the cost of the coach and entrance fee. Children should wear their school uniform. A waterproof coat may be required depending on the weather. A packed lunch will be provided by school, however if you wish to send one from home please indicate this on the consent page. Please log in to ParentPay by Friday 7 November. Thank you.

YEAR 3A GIRLS

As a reward for their excellent behaviour, all the girls in Year 3A will be having crisps and drinks tomorrow (Friday) during Golden Time. Please notify the school office if you do not wish for your child to take part. Thank you.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR

Come along and join us for this workshop on Tuesday 14 October 2025 from 9am to 11am or Wednesday 15 October from 1pm to 3pm.

This workshop will help and support parents to understand what is driving their child's behaviour.

The workshop is part of the Henry Programme for a healthy start, brighter future topic delivered by the Early Years team from Blackburn with Darwen.

Please contact Ms Emam/Mrs Khan if you would like to attend.

Thank you.

NURSERY – YEAR 6 FLU IMMUNISATION

The vaccination team will be coming into school on Friday 21 November to administer flu vaccinations to all children in Nursery – Year 6.

Please complete and return the consent form to school by Friday 17 October, even if you do not wish your child to have the immunisation. Thank you.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY AWARDS – TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

KS1 Person of the Match	-	Bilal Hussain (1B)
KS2 Person of the Match	-	Eesa Ijaz (4M)
KS1 I ate well today	-	Aliyar Akber (1A)
KS2 I ate well today	-	Eesa Safdar (4K)
Class of the week	-	RS & 4M
Class of the week (w/c 15/9)	-	6HW

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Come along to our Parent and Toddler group every Thursday at 8.45am-9.45am in the school hall. A chance to meet other parents and have a fun time with your little ones.

We have the following activities this half-term: 9 Oct – Role Play

ASTHMA INFORMATION

We have asthma colouring sheets and other asthma activities available at the office if you wish to learn more about asthma and discuss asthma with your child. Please see Ms Emam.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2026

If your child's 5th birthday is between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027 you need to make arrangements **NOW** for admission in September 2026. You must now apply using the online application at www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions. The closing date for the applications is 15 January 2026.

SECONDARY ADMISSIONS 2026

Parent of children in Year 6 must now apply for their child's secondary school for September 2026 using the online application at www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions. The closing date for the applications is 31 October 2025.

SCHOOL CLUBS

If for any reason your child will not be attending their club you **MUST** inform the office before the end of the school day.

RECEPTION FUND

If you haven't already done so, please can parents of children in Reception pay £5 for the Autumn term or £15 for the whole year, at the school office. Thank you.

MILK

Milk money is now due for the Autumn Term for all infant children; however all Reception children will receive free milk up to the term in which they have their 5th birthday. Please can parents online on ParentPay. Thank you.

100 BOOKS READING CHALLENGE

If you would like to sign up for the 100 books reading challenge, registration forms are available from Mr Desai in the school library after school. Please note the library is open to specific year groups on certain days from 3.15pm - 3.30pm



Monday	–	Reception classes and/or siblings
Tuesday	–	Year 1 classes and/or siblings
Wednesday	-	Closed
Thursday	–	Year 2 classes and/or siblings
Friday	–	Years 3,4,5 & 6 classes and/or siblings

SUMMER HOLIDAY CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITIES

If your child has completed any of the CU Challenges or any activities at the library (including the summer reading challenge) over the holidays please ensure you send the evidence to Sara Burton via s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk or 07805929965. You must still remember to send your child's CU passport in to school so it can be

updated, please post in the BLUE CU box at the school office. If you prefer you can send the evidence of the challenges into school together with your child's CU passport so it can be checked and updated. The deadline for all challenges will be next Tuesday 7 October. All passports which have been handed in this week will be returned once they have been stamped.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY MEMBERSHIP

If you have recently signed your child up on ParentPay to join Blackburn Children's University please note all new CU passports will be issued to new members **by Thursday 9 October.**

OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

Details of activities during October half term will be sent out later next week, please keep an eye out.

WOMEN'S ONLY FITNESS CLASSES

We will be running another women's only fitness class after the half term holidays for 6 weeks. Please keep an eye out for further details which will be sent out next week.

CHURCH EVENT

BEACONS NOT BYSTANDERS

A Free Family-Friendly Day of Environmental Awareness and Action for the Local Community

St Silas

Saturday 4th October
St Silas Church,
Preston New Road,
BB2 6PS
10.30am - 3.00pm

Planetary display by local schools

Eco Stalls & Activities

Key Speaker

Street Food or BYO

Children's Multi-Sensory Undersea World

Question Time Panel

Workshops

For more information, contact:
frpaulp@yahoo.com
07866696891

newground together

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
4

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), 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.

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.

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 rotating 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

Wayne Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and experts site Gamescan and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he's also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and games, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



Call of Duty is undeniably one of the most recognisable video games on the planet. The first game was released for the PC way back in 2003, and the franchise has spawned a whopping 16 titles to date, and featured on almost 20 gaming consoles and devices. Despite being one of the most popular games on the market, CoD has never been a stranger to controversy; themes of war, terrorism and other adult subjects parents and guardians might feel uncomfortable exposing their children to, have always been a part of the series. The latest iteration, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare, is no different, even doubling down on some of these mature themes. So with that in mind, here's a helpful guide to aid you in navigating the world of Call of Duty.



What parents need to know about CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE



VIOLENCE AND GRAPHIC CONTENT

Call of Duty has been given an 18+ rating due to "violence against vulnerable and defenceless characters, motiveless killing of innocent characters, graphic violence and use of strong language." Despite the rating, the game is still extremely popular amongst under 18s who could be exposed to violent themes or foul language that parents and carers may not deem suitable or age appropriate for their children.



INCREDIBLY RAW CAMPAIGN

The single player campaign in Call of Duty: Modern Warfare focuses around a war in the fictitious Middle Eastern country of Urzikistan. It features special forces operations, large open battles, chemical weapons and torture. Infinity Ward (who developed the game) have gone on record saying this is the most realistic and grounded game they've ever made, so it stands to reason that the campaign has generated a huge amount of controversy, especially in today's heated political climate. While younger players might not fully grasp what's going on on screen, it's bound to raise some uncomfortable questions if they're left to play it unsupervised.



CHATTING TO STRANGERS

By far the biggest pull for players to Call of Duty is the expansive multiplayer. As well as offering up a wide variety of competitive game modes, Modern Warfare also includes some co-op gameplay modes. Ideally, this means players and children can join a group with their friends and play together online. However, players can play against or with anyone in the world and, with no filter, the language used may often be inappropriate for young children. Due to the competitive nature of gaming and the fact conversations are not moderated, your child could also be at risk of cyberbullying.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare has promised to be the best yet. The game features a number of new game modes and now includes crossplay for the first time, whereby players can now play each other across any device (i.e. Xbox, Playstation or PC). As always tends to be the case when a new game is released, players spend large amounts of time getting to grips with the new features and the repetitive nature of COD means children can find it difficult to stop playing and realise their limits.



LOOT BOXES SWAPPED FOR BATTLE PASSES

Previous versions of Call of Duty have included 'loot boxes', which have been widely discussed in the news and are considered by critics to essentially promote a form gambling. Players could unlock items as they progress but wouldn't know what they were purchasing beforehand. Modern Warfare however has swapped loot boxes for 'battle passes'. This means a greater level of transparency as players know exactly what they are buying, how they will be unlocked and when they will receive them in the game.



Safety Tips For Parents

STICK TO THE PEGI RATING

It really can't be stressed enough how much this game is not for younger children. While you could argue that most of the horrific scenes are in the single player campaign, and you can just play multiplayer and co-op to avoid them, those modes are not without their shortcomings. For example, one of the killstreaks you can attain in multiplayer is white phosphorus - a chemical weapon that can do indescribable things to the human body. This really comes down to the personal judgement of the adult, and the emotional maturity of the child, but if there's still any doubt, stick to the PEGI rating - it's there for a reason.



BE WARY OF GORE AND VIOLENCE

There's no getting around the fact that this is an incredibly realistic game, from the themes down to the gameplay, and that includes the amount of gore in the game. While there is an option to disable dismemberment of bodies in the game (options > general > dismemberment off) it still includes a rather visceral amount of violence that is prevalent throughout.



STAY SAFE DURING IN-GAME CHAT

By default, Modern Warfare allows multiplayer in-game lobbies to have an open chat feature. This basically means that anybody in the lobby with a mic can hop in and say whatever they like. Naturally, this could lead to some profane language or undesirable viewpoints being expressed. Turning this off is as simple as going to the game options, clicking the audio tab, then setting voice chat to off. Be aware that this also disables the mic on your end too, so the safest and best option is always to make sure children are in a party with their friends before they start the game, then they can still chat to each other without outside interruption.



TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT THE THEMES

Modern Warfare at its heart, is a game about good vs bad and the gray areas in between. Morally complex characters and situations are more prevalent in today's modern age than they've ever been before, and it does carry some important political and social commentary. If you're okay letting children play the game, it's definitely worth sitting down with them to discuss the themes and why it's important to approach them critically. For example, Captain Price is clearly a good character, but he does questionable things in order to achieve his goals. Does this make him a bad character? If kids are old enough to see these situations, they're old enough to question why.



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 GAMINGBible. 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.

