



Wensley Fold CE Primary Academy

"Make Each Day Count"

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WENSLEY WEEKLY
Thursday 13 November
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www.wensleyfold.co.uk

User Name: parent Password: parent

Dear Parent

WEEKLY VALUE

Our school values are Courage, Compassion, Trust, Respect and Aspiration.

We are focusing on the value 'Aspiration' this half-term – having hope for the future.

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PATTERN 2025-26

After careful consideration the governors of the school have decided to make a small change to the holiday pattern for this academic year. This is to bring us in line with most schools in the local authority and to support families who may have children at different schools who want to take a family holiday in the summer term.

The changes will be:

End of Summer Term 2026 will now be Friday 17 July.

There will be NO closure on Friday 19 June for an INSET day. School will be open on this day.

Thank you for your understanding with this.

CHILDREN IN NEED

The annual Children in Need charity appeal will be held tomorrow (Friday) and we are holding a **non-uniform day** to help raise money for the charity. To help support the event, we are inviting children and staff to wear non-uniform in exchange for a charitable donation, no more than £1. There is no particular dress code theme, however, for this charity event, if children wish, they can be 'spotacular' by wearing clothing with spots, dots, bright yellow or Children In Need/Pudsey branding. No football shirts please.

There is no expectation that children must take part, families are free to choose. However, we do ask that there is respect for other's choices to join in or not. We would like to thank everyone in advance for their support.



NSPCC – YEARS 2, 5 AND 6

The children in Years 2, 5 and 6 will be participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe. Programme*** this half term.

Speak out. Stay safe. is a national programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand how to keep themselves safe. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried about anything and know who they can speak to.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities, which we have reviewed, alongside an NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshop for children aged 6-7 and 9-11.

The content is delivered in an engaging, age appropriate and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy.

Should you have any questions about this, don't hesitate to contact school.

VIDEO GAME AND TV CONTENT

Some Reception children have been sharing that they play Fortnite and know about the Squid Games Series. Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12 years+ due to frequent scenes of mild violence and Squid Games has a rating of 15+ due to its scenes of death and violence.

It may be that older siblings are playing or watching the above so please be aware of times when access to the TV or games are shared. Please see the Fortnite and Squid Games guidance shared in Wake Up Wednesday this week.

SPELLING HOMEWORK

Earlier in the year we explained how we were changing our homework expectations to ensure we only gave homework that matched to class learning and was meaningful.

There is a little confusion about spelling homework and how this is completed.

The children have a spelling and handwriting lesson each week in school. Spellings taught in the weekly lesson are sent home weekly so that they can be learnt and practised that week until known. The sheet sent home combines the spellings and handwriting practice.

A common problem with spelling practice can be that the spellings are learnt for a weekly test then forgotten quickly. To check that this doesn't happen we test half termly from a mix of the spellings sent out to see how many have been securely retained from the practice over the last 6 weeks.

To support the children please can you help with the learning of the weekly spellings on a weekly basis, going over them regularly so they are retained fully and not forgotten. This will support spelling success in the long term.

Thank you for your support with this.

Mrs Whittingham

READING FOR PLEASURE – THE NEW WENSLEY FOLD BOOK CLUB

Our new **Scholastic Book Club** is up and running!

Go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/wensley-fold/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online or if you would rather have a paper copy of leaflet showing the books available to buy then just come into school to collect a free leaflet!

For **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20p** in Scholastic Rewards. We use these rewards to buy new books for our school libraries. The deadline to order has been extended to Sunday 23 November. The books will be delivered to school and given out to those who have ordered.

If you need any help with orders, don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your support!

PARENTS EVENING

Parents' evening will take place on Thursday 27 November. Parents will need to book appointments on line by clicking on the link or browsing to

<https://wensleyfoldce.schoolcloud.co.uk/> and following the instructions. The parents' evening link will open at **6.00pm tomorrow (Friday 14 November)**, in order for parents to book their appointments. Appointment times will be strictly limited to 5mins long and teachers will be using timers to help keep to the schedule. Please note there will be no clubs after school on this day. Thank you.

NURSERY PARENTS EVENING – PRE SCHOOL ONLY

Please book in your parents meeting with the nursery teacher next week. Thank you.

CLASS OF THE WEEK

Class	Sessions attended	Sessions missed
Rec Q	90.0	30
Rec S	94.7	16
1B	91.3	26
1A	98.3	5
2C	100	0
2W	99.7	1
3B	96.7	10
3A	97.7	7
4M	99.7	1
4K	94.3	17
5S	99.7	1
5B	96.7	10
6G	94.7	16
6HW	96.7	10

Well done to Class – 2C

YEAR 3 DT

In preparation for DT week in the coming weeks, please can children bring in cereal boxes, tubes and plastic tubs of different sizes. 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 next 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. Children should wear their school uniform. A waterproof coat may be required depending on the weather. Thank you.

YEAR 5 JORVIK MUSEUM

As part of their history topic on Vikings, Year 5 will be visiting Jorvik Viking Centre in York on Wednesday 26 November, where they will take part in a series of workshops. The price of this trip will be £26.50 to cover the cost of the coach and entrance fee. Please login to ParentPay by Friday by Friday 21 November. A packed lunch will be required (no cans or bottles please). Children should wear their school uniform. Please note the coach leaves at 7.30am prompt and will return approximately 5.00pm.

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.

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 will have the following activities this half-term:

20 Nov	-	Physical Play
27 Nov	-	Playdough play
04 Dec	-	Woodland Bingo
11 Dec	-	Let us get creative

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.

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

OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CHALLENGES

If your child has completed any of the CU Challenges 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. Please note the deadline for all challenges is next Friday 21st November.

If you have already handed your child's Children's University passport in for any challenges please note that these have all been return to classes today. Please do look out for this as no responsibility will be held by the school once they have been returned.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY WIZARD OF OZ ACTIVITY – SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

This activity is full. If any spaces become available they will be added on to ParentPay at 12.15pm tomorrow (Friday).

If you have already signed your child up please look out for a confirmation email (sent via the school email system) which will be sent out by tomorrow (Friday). This confirmation will have a link to the online consent form, which must be completed by next Friday 21st November. Failure to complete this consent form will mean your child cannot attend. If you do not receive this email please contact Sara Burton on 07805929965 (please leave a message if there is no answer).

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', 'pirate' or 'party'). These regular releases 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 £10 (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

Nigel Cooper is Editor in Chief of gaming-related expert site [GamesRadar](https://www.gamesradar.com) and has written on the gaming media for several four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing regularly about facts and myths, his articles have been published on influential sites including National Geographic.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

AGE RESTRICTION
15+
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed to young audiences by the nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show, *Squid Game*. The series, rated 15+, is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread in various guises across online platforms, with a heightened risk of children and young people potentially viewing unsuitable content. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what *Squid Game* is all about.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that *Squid Game* contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children at face-value. The name "*Squid Game*" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like *Squid Game*.

VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, *Squid Game* has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the *Squid Game* trend, creating content such as "How to Draw *Squid Game* Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid Game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable talking you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen *Squid Game*, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing *Squid Game*" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the teachers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch *Squid Game*, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech hub *The INQUIRER*, Carly now works as the news editor for *Computer Shopper* and *If Pro* and writes for a number of publications including *Forbes*, *TechRadar*, *Test*, *The Metro*, *switch* and *Wired*.



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