



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Issue 454
20th October 2023

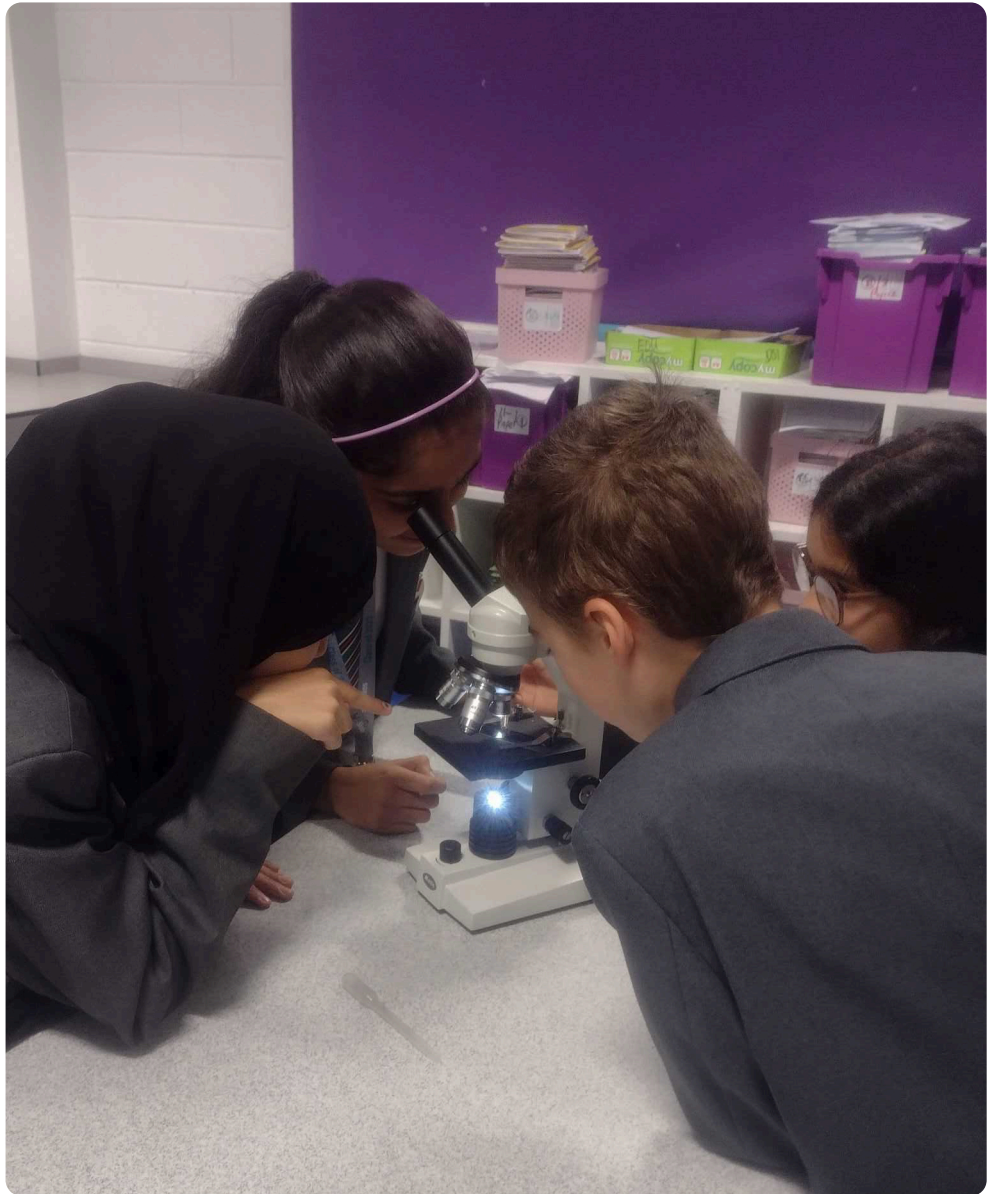
Science Enrichment Newsletter

STEM club

This week in the STEM club pupils (pictured) were examining some little critters with a light microscope! Collected from a local pond, pupils were able to observe daphnia, which are common water fleas! Such is the quality of the microscopes, pupils could even observe the motion of internal organs! Next week we will be investigating different electrical conductors!

Astronomy club

Astronomy club students this week built prototype models for spacecraft and rocket designs. Students soon realised how important it was to be precise during construction in order to allow the rockets to fly smoothly and consistently.



Science Career of the Week

This week's career is 'Pilot'. As an airline pilot, you will carry passengers and their luggage to a specific destination. Cargo pilots will fly aircraft specifically modified to only transport cargo. Information about experience opportunities, providers, entry requirements and much more can be found here: [Science career of the Week](#).

Please speak to Mr. Burke, who will provide you with more information about this, or any other, science career.



Sharples

SCHOOL

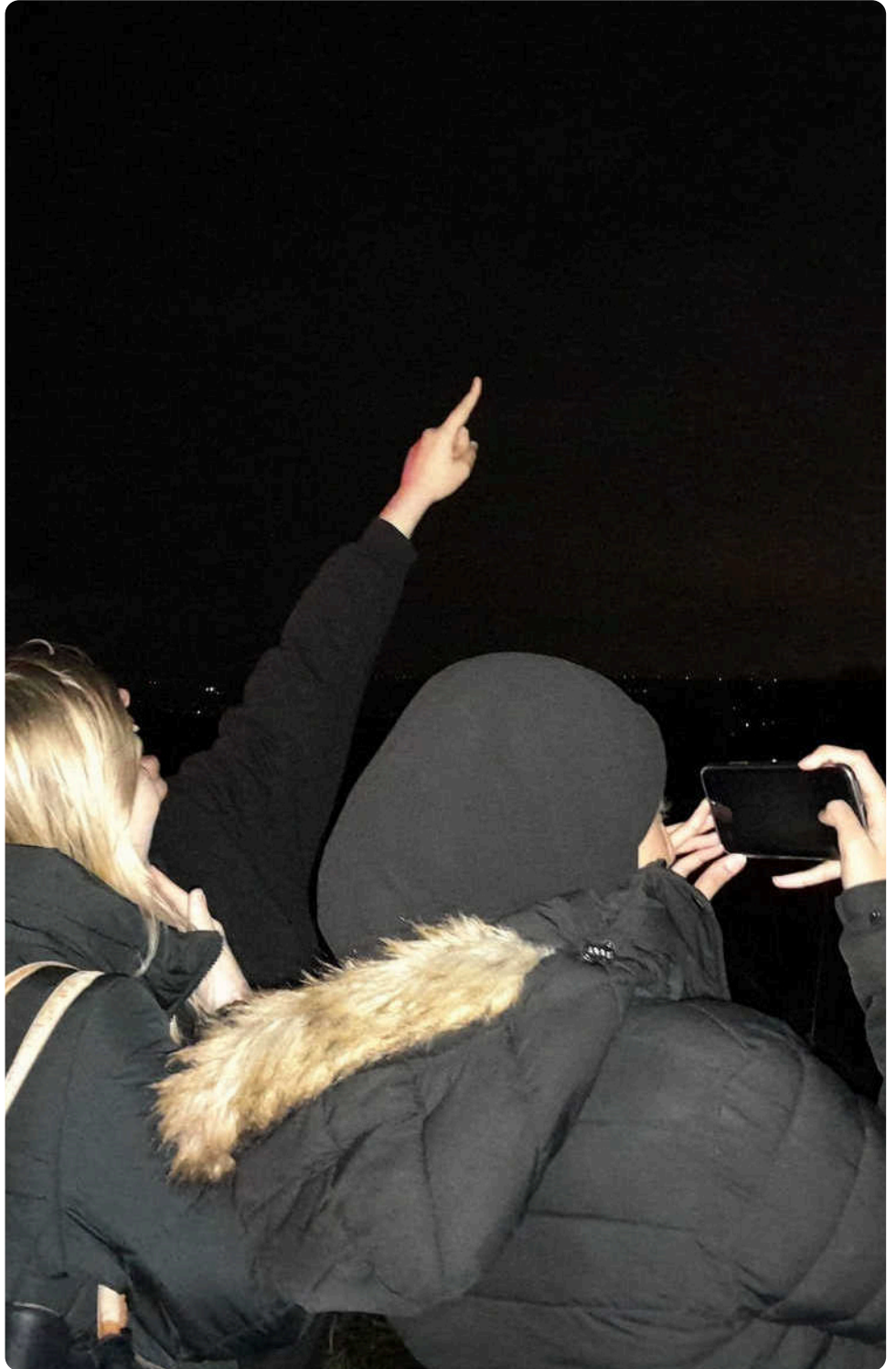
Newsletter

Revision Skill of the Week

Revision skill of the week is.. 'Self-quizzing'. This technique is a vital part of your revision armoury. This can be done using knowledge organisers, covering up pieces of information and testing yourself to remember what was there. Alternatively, you can use recall questions, concealing the answers and checking after completion. Or, you can use an online quiz which will check your answers for immediate feedback.

Star party

On the 28th October, Sharples Observatory will be hosting a 'Star Party' (previous Star Party pictured right). This is to mark a partial lunar eclipse, where we will be able to see the shadow of the Earth cast onto the lunar surface. It is also a great opportunity to take a look at a range of objects in the night's sky through our telescopes. More information can be found later in the newsletter.



Mr. Fowlds - Science Enrichment Coordinator

Sharples School, Hill Cot House, Hill Cot Rd. Bolton, BL1 8SN

Tel: 01204 333253

Fax: 01204 333250

www.SharplesSchool.co.uk



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Year 10 Netball Tournament



A big well done to Year 10 on their performance in the Bolton Schools Tournament on Tuesday night. Placed in a difficult group, the girls knew they had a tough task on their hands. However, the girls demonstrated some of the best netball they have played all year with the stand out performance being against Ladybridge. Winning 2 of their matches wasn't enough to take them through to the semi finals but the girls should be very proud of how they performed!

Sharples School, Hill Cot House, Hill Cot Rd. Bolton, BL1 8SN

Tel: 01204 333253

Fax: 01204 333250

www.SharpleSchool.co.uk



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

English Department's Stars of the Week

Work of the Week

Year 7

Fatima N for great work on her short story ending. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 8

Umar E has written excellent so,so sentences. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 9

Falak has drafted a beautiful paragraph exploring an extract from Malala's autobiography. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 10

Zulal M for great tracking of A Christmas Carol. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Year 11

Neyla I for a great A Christmas Carol response. [Click here to view the work.](#)

Readers of the Week

Year 7

Grace H for always reading clearly and with great expression.

Year 8

Hannah W for reading the character of Mrs Lyons in Blood Brothers beautifully.

Year 9

Ganani K for her lovely reading of The Jungle, capturing the tension of Razi's death!

Year 10

Keelie M as she always offers to read in front of the class and read a lovely description, that she wrote herself, of a Victorian Christmas.

Year 11

Yusuf P for a brilliant impression of Mr Birling in An Inspector Calls.



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Year 8 Boys Football



Year 8 (pictured) continued their 100% start to the season with a convincing 6-0 win against Little Lever. Hat-tricks for both Callum & Elliot, either side of half time, as Sharples entered half time 5-0 up. There were lots of fantastic performances throughout the game and played extremely well to get a clean sheet. This also builds on the win against Ladybridge over the last few weeks.

Next up for Year 8 is Kearsley (A) on Monday 23rd in the Bolton Cup. Well done everyone!

Year 9 Boys Football

Our Year 9 boys football team took on Little Lever in a league fixture last night. With a number of injuries and players unavailable, we only had the starting eleven but this didn't dampen spirits, the boys came out firing, playing great football and taking the lead early with a great finish by Reece C. We should have added to our lead in the first half a number of times but just couldn't find the back of the net. Little Lever managed to get a goal back early in the second half but the boys responded fantastically with a goal from Reece C again after a great delivery by Abdur. Unfortunately tired legs played a part and Little Lever then got 2 goals in quick succession late on in the game sealing the win for our opponents. Great work lads, onto the next one!



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Y7-Y10 Netball vs Bolton & Rivington



On Thursday afternoon, our Y7-Y10 netball teams (pictured) took part in a triangular fixture against Rivington and Bolton in the league. For some Year 7s, this was their first time representing the school and they did a fantastic job! Year 8 managed a 4-1 win over Rivington with Year 10 also securing a victory, winning 6-2. Although no team was successful over Bolton School, Year 10 put up a mighty fight and were even winning at half time through some excellent attacking work from Izzy F, Evie A-S and Agnes M! However, this wasn't enough to hold out for the win and unfortunately the girls let the lead slip in the second half. Overall, a great afternoon of netball! Well done girls!

Sharples School, Hill Cot House, Hill Cot Rd. Bolton, BL1 8SN

Tel: 01204 333253

Fax: 01204 333250

www.SharpleSchool.co.uk



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

English Career of the Month

Speech and Language Therapist

Speech and language therapists help people with speaking and communication problems and those with eating and swallowing difficulties. You can apply for this job through a university course or an apprenticeship.

Skills Required for this role:

- Knowledge of English language.
- Sensitivity and understanding.
- The ability to work well with others.
- To be flexible and open to change.
- Counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Excellent verbal communication skills.

More information:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/speech-and-language-therapist>

Football Year 10 Boys

Year 10 suffered their first defeat in the league for 2 seasons, this week, away at Little Lever. Sharples didn't start the game well and struggled to adjust to the difficult windy conditions. Despite going close a number of times Sharples looked hesitant in defence and were punished as Little Lever were clinical in attack and made the most of their 2 clear opportunities to go 2 nil ahead. It was a much better response in the second half with Josh scoring from a corner to pull a goal back. Sharples piled on the pressure and was rewarded when the lively Ayaan pressed from the front and got his reward with a goal to level the contest. Little Lever then scored within 2 minutes of the restart and were able to hold on to win the game.



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Parent Governor Vacancy

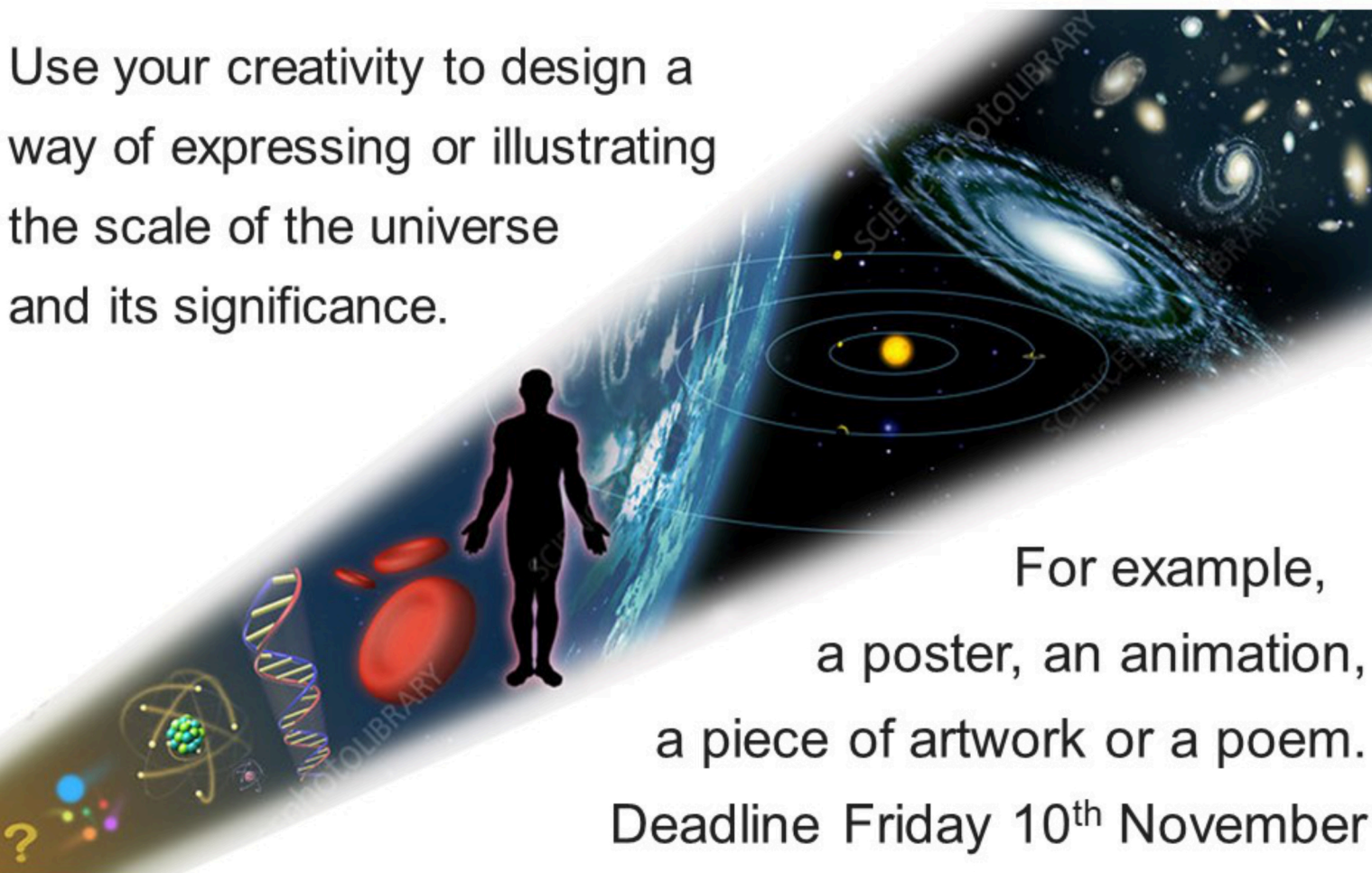
We are pleased to inform you that the Parent Governor vacancy has been filled.

Appointed: Mr Sazid Gija

Congratulations to Mr Gija, we look forward to working with you.

Y10 Maths Competition

Use your creativity to design a way of expressing or illustrating the scale of the universe and its significance.



For example,
a poster, an animation,
a piece of artwork or a poem.
Deadline Friday 10th November



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter

Attendance Information

Reporting an absence:

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school before 9.30am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. The attendance email is the easiest way to contact school as the phone line can get very busy.

The school attendance email is: attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk

If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Attendance Data

Year Groups attendance this week:

Year 7 = 97.88%
Year 8 = 96.13%
Year 9 = 94.35%
Year 10 = 96.24%
Year 11 = 93.76%

Best forms this week:

7ples4 = 100%
8shar3, 8shar4 and 8shar5 = 100%
9P = 99.23%
10A = 98.85%
11A = 98.64%

650 pupils have achieved 100% this academic year.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 26th
October:
Book Club Trip to
Waterstones.

Friday 27th
October:
Diversity Day

Monday 30th
October to Friday
3rd November:
October Half term


Monday 6th to
Friday 10th
November:
Tomorrow's
Engineers Week

Career of the Week: Clinical Scientist

Clinical scientists research and develop techniques and equipment to help prevent, diagnose and treat illness.

Average Salary: £ 

Typical hours:  38 to 40
(per week) a week

You could work:  evenings / weekends
on a rota



Qualifications:

- You can get into this job through a university course, or an apprenticeship.
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English, maths and science
- 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including maths and physics.

Skills required:

- Knowledge of biology.
- Thinking and reasoning skills.
- Excellent verbal communication skills.
- The ability to use your initiative.
- Science skills.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Complex problem-solving skills.
- Maths knowledge.

Relevant Subjects:

- Science, Health & Social Care and Maths.



Careers &
Enterprise
at Sharples School

Information sourced from <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/clinical-scientist>

Sharples School, Hill Cot House, Hill Cot Rd. Bolton, BL1 8SN

Tel: 01204 333253

Fax: 01204 333250

www.SharplesSchool.co.uk



Sharples

SCHOOL

Newsletter



PE Lunch Time Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 Football (Big Astro) - PGR	Y9 Football (Big Astro) - AHM	Y7 Football - (Big Astro) - AHM	Y8 Football (Big astro) AHM & SCU
Netball Yr 7/8 (SH) - SCU & LAL	Y7 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL	Just Dance- all years (SH) - SCU	KS3 Dodgeball (SH) - LAL & SCU	Y11 Football (Small Astro) - JBA
Y8 Football (Small Astro) - JBA	Y11 Football (Small Astro) - JBA	Y7/Y8 Basketball (Gym) - LAL	Y9 Football (Small Astro) - JBA	Y10 Football (SH) - LAL
Boccia (Gym) - SCU & LAL	Sports Studies catch up (G32)- AHM	KS4 Boys Fitness Suite - PGR		
		Y10 Football (Small Astro) - JBA		

WEEK COMMENCING - 23rd OCTOBER



PE After School Clubs - This Half Term

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y7/8 Swimming club	KS3 Netball practice	Yr 7/8 Swimming club	Girls football practice	No clubs
KS4 Netball	Y8 football practice	Y9 football practice	KS4 boys fitness suite	
Y8 football v Kearsley (a)	Y7 football v Little Lever (a)	Basketball practice	Badminton practice	
Sports Studies ALS	Running Club			

- Football and netball fixtures will be arranged throughout the term!



DIVERSITY DAY 2024

Friday 27th October

Wear dress of your own country's
heritage or something unique
to you e.g. sports team

Lunchtime stalls - Food, Arts and
Crafts, Gifts



Raising money for the OXFAM
- providing aid to those in need
around the world





Sharple's SCHOOL

Work Experience 2024



Our Year 10 students are currently looking for Work Experience placements during the week of 12th - 16th February 2024. If you, your employer or anyone you may know can source a placement for our students, please contact our Raising Aspirations Lead Mrs N Patel at n.patel1@sharplesschool.co.uk or contact our school on 01204 333253.

We aim to provide our students with the best opportunities in order to prepare them with the correct skills and knowledge needed for the world of work.



Careers &
Enterprise
at Sharple's School

 Raising
Aspirations



Sharple's
SCHOOL

STAR PARTY

AT THE SHARPLES OBSERVATORY

**SATURDAY
28TH OCTOBER
7-10PM**

**PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE AT
9.30PM (WEATHER PERMITTING)**

**CONSTELLATION BISCUIT BUILDING AND
OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE SUPERCLASSROOM.**

**BINOCULARS AND TELESCOPES AVAILABLE
TO USE. PLEASE BRING ALONG YOUR OWN IF
YOU HAVE ONE.**

PASTIES AND HOT DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE.



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.



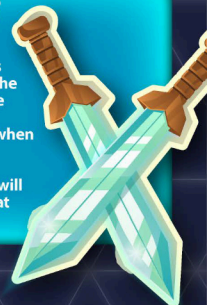
CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

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.



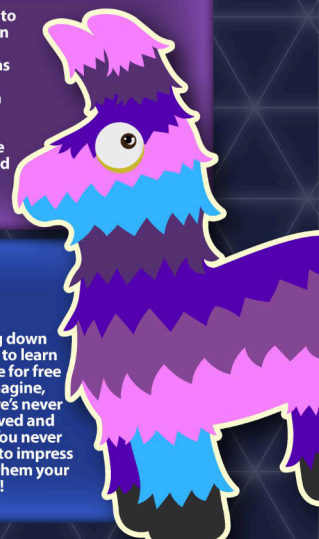
GAMING WITH STRANGERS

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 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.



<https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/mar/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#70IE7d>, <https://www.esrb.org/ratings/34948/Fortnite/>

Early Help

Parenting Drop-in

For all families with children under 18

We know that being a parent is not always easy and that families need extra support at some stage as children grow up.

Targeted Early Help Workers will be on hand to offer advice and support.

We can offer signposting to helpful services, organisations and community groups.

Poor school attendance?

Are they being excluded from school?

Are they anxious or struggling with self-esteem?

Are you struggling with your child's behaviour?

Not sure what services there are available that can help to support you?

Come and join us for a cup of tea and a chat if you want any advice or information about parenting.

Drop-in sessions, 9.30am - 3.30pm

Farnworth King St Centre 16 Sept 7 Oct 28 Oct 18 Nov 9 Dec

Oxford Grove Children Centre 23 Sept 14 Oct 4 Nov 25 Nov

Tonge Children Centre 30 Sept 21 Oct 11 Nov 2 Dec



For more information please contact:

Targeted Early Help Tel: 01204 336215

Email: earlyhelp@bolton.gov.uk

Bolton
Start Well



Bolton
Council