

Important notice for Parents and Carers

For the safety of our children, please only come into school if you have been invited.

Please ask at the office if you need to access the toilet.

This helps us keep our school a safe and secure place for everyone.

Children's safety is our top priority.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

A Few Words from Mr Hancox

As we continue to focus on creating a strong sense of belonging and pride in our school community, I'd like to remind everyone about our school uniform policy. We understand that there may be occasional times when children need to wear trainers or alternative items while waiting for replacements—this is absolutely fine as a one-off. Can I also ask for all clothing to be named. We have so many pieces of clothing in lost property and in this current economic climate it feels very wasteful. We are going to be washing the lost property in the next few weeks and organising them into sizes etc. These will be located in the entrance hall, please feel free to help yourself, and if you have any items to donate,

we'd be very grateful. We will also have a stall at the Christmas Fair for clothes.

A few additional reminders: Earrings should be one set of small studs only—no hoops or large earrings, please, for health and safety reasons; Please avoid large or over decorative headbands, as they can be distracting in class (unless it's a theme or dress-up day); Children with long hair should have their hair tied back to prevent it getting pulled. Thank you for your continued support in helping our children feel part of our school community and ready to learn.

CHRISTMAS FAIR



Ankermoor Primary Academy
Rene Road, Bolehall,
Tamworth, Staffordshire,
B77 3NW

Thursday 11th December
(3.30pm – 5pm)

- Come and meet Father Christmas
- Cakes made by the children
- Decorations made by the children
- Book lucky dip
- Face painting
- A range of professional stalls
- Alcohol/toy/chocolate tombola



Pin the carrot on the snowman
Turkey baps and hot drinks
Raffle with prizes donated by local businesses

We wanted to share with you some wonderful photos of our KS2 children, during their lunchtimes, engaging in the wide range of activities. We are seeing an improvement with well-being, self regulation and positive interactions.

We would greatly appreciate donations to continue our lunchtime development. Donations of any of the following would be greatly received: Suitcases, large tractor/lorry tyres, plastic crates, wooden pallets, cable drums/reels, fabric (Sheets/Curtains), Old wagons and buggies/strollers, large buckets and containers, dressing up clothes / items (in good condition), pots/ pans / metal bowls/ metal spoons / spatulas / plates (plastic or metal).

Please bring any donations to the school office. Your support will help us create a richer, more playful environment for all our children. Thank you for your continued generosity and involvement.

COPING SKILLS

TALK, WRITE IT DOWN OR DRAW HOW YOU ARE FEELING.
Whatever works best for you to express how you are feeling.

WHY ARE THESE STRATEGIES HELPFUL ...
• They can help us manage, understand and ride the wave of big emotions.
• They can also help you feel more resilient when different emotions pop up in the future.
• But it is important to remember strategies take time to learn and practice just like any other skill.

HAND BREATHING
COUNT 1, 2, 3, 4 AND BREATHE IN AS YOU GO UP THE FINGER. COUNT 1, 2, 3, 4 AND BREATHE OUT AS YOU GO DOWN THE FINGER. REPEAT UNTIL YOU HAVE TRACED UP AND DOWN ALL FIVE FINGERS.

COLOUR OF THE RAINBOW GROUNDING.
Look around the room, name something for each colour of the rainbow. Describe each object in turn, pausing to notice the shades, the textures and the feelings. For example, ask how many objects that they can spot which is the colour red...

54321 GROUNDING
5 THINGS YOU CAN SEE.
4 THINGS YOU CAN TOUCH.
3 THINGS YOU CAN HEAR.
2 THINGS YOU CAN SMELL.
1 THING YOU CAN TASTE.

ALPHABET GROUNDING.
Name something for every letter of the alphabet within any category of subject. This could be animals, people's names, foods, countries, special interests etc.
E.g. Alphabet grounding for animals...
A - Alligator.
B - Bear.
C - Cat.
D - Dog and so on...

Staffordshire County Council

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN

This group is for parent/carers of diagnosed and non-diagnosed children & young people.

Join the Autism Inclusion Team for coffee and conversation at Tamworth Family Hub - Basin Lane.

The group will meet every month on a Tuesday between 1.00pm and 2.30pm.

No booking required just drop in. Look forward to seeing you. Our future dates are:

Tuesday 25th November 2025
Tuesday 16th December 2025

For further information please contact
Lana.grant@staffordshire.gov.uk



Become a School Governor!

Parents, carers, and grandparents—your school needs you! Becoming a school governor is a rewarding way to make a real difference in your local school community.

Why Become a School Governor?

- Help shape the strategic direction of the school
- Support and challenge school leadership to improve outcomes
- Ensure the school meets the needs of all pupils
- Gain insight into how schools operate
- Develop valuable skills in leadership, governance, and teamwork
- Make a positive impact on children's education and wellbeing
- Be part of a committed and supportive team

Join Our PTA (please contact the school office)

Thank you to our wonderful PTA who have been working really hard on the Christmas Fair, It will be a wonderful event to raise money for the school.

Be part of something amazing at our school.

Joining the PTA is a fantastic way to support our school, and make a real difference in your child's education.

- Make a tangible difference in school life and student experiences.
- Build a stronger school community and foster relationships.
- Support your child's education and school environment.
- Meet other parents and carers in a friendly setting.
- Take part in fun events like fairs, discos, and quiz nights.
- Be a voice for all parents and help shape school decisions.

Attendance for the year

Owls/Robins (Reception) – 90.7%

Kingfishers (Year 1/2) - 91.4%

Kestrels (Year 3/4) – 92.6%

Sparrow Hawks (Year 5/6) – 95.2%



The Lions	864	The Sharks	866
The Scorpions	926	The Crocodiles	940

25 Reads!

Well done to all of our children who have read 25 times this term, we are very proud of you!

Value Champions – 14th November

Owls/Robins - Zachary C Kingfishers - Emma D Kestrels - Ella R Sparrow Hawks - Blake C

Reception

Bobby B
Zachary C
Poppy D
Aurora F
Evie S
Harper M

Year 1

Soria L
Jayden M

Y2

Robyn F
Jessie-Rose H
Harper J

Y3

Stan C
Ava D
Maisie H
Charlie L
Rebecca M

Y4

Ella R
Zara S

Juan A
Oliver A
Ava C
Isla G
Terence H
Oscar K
Harley S

Y5

Maci A
Charlotte E
Millie H
Harry M
Benjamin M
Lola T
Katherine W
Florence W

Y6

Alfie B
Daisy L
Mya S
Tyler S

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

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 not online, both in terms of connection speed and using up data. You may find that disconnecting young Fortnite players can often be embarrassing about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – you may not expect.

IN-GAME COSTS
Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer optional in-game purchases (limited-time cosmetics, skins, music tracks, LEGO items, and some passes). Children do not need a payment method to play, but they can spend real money to buy V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly on exclusive items that frequently sell out. Some items may not return to the store for years, while battle pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE
There's no spilling blood in Fortnite, but it does offer optional in-game purchases (limited-time cosmetics, skins, music tracks, LEGO items, and some passes). Children do not need a payment method to play, but they can spend real money to buy V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly on exclusive items that frequently sell out. Some items may not return to the store for years, while battle pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT
Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. They can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES
Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular updates can help to hold parents' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change at the end of the year.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Star Wars to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION
Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play sessions with the child's friends to ensure safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER
Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS
Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying tough-to-get items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchase requests go through adult supervision. The key is to set spending limits on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a password or account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for several years. A regular contributor to the Age Stone to try out new tools, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's written for a range of publications and has been published at sites including iDT, TechAdvisor, and plenty more.

The National College

DRUG ALERT

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Drug Information System

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE ABOUT Possible Contaminated Vapes

A report has been provided to us over a concern regarding 'fake' vapes being sold in the Stafford area to children. The vapes appear the same as disposable ones with no markings or stickers etc. on them.

A 15-year-old male was described to have been found "completely out of it and not coherent" in his bedroom following use of the vape. Another individual tried the vape and ended up being transported to hospital via ambulance.

There has not been any forensic testing on the vape yet. There is concern that something else is mixed within the vape.

These vapes are being bought and sold by children within school, before and after.

If you are worried about yourself or somebody else who has taken this substance please ring 999.

If you would like further support and information for yourself or somebody else, please seek support from Stoke-on-Trent Community Drug & Alcohol Service - Home or Staffordshire Connects I to RS (Staffordshire Treatment and Recovery System)

If you receive any further reports regarding adverse effects following taking a substance, please report them to drugadvice@stoke.gov.uk

SPELLING

Spelling Challenge!
We're aiming for most (if not all) children from Year 2 upwards to be able to spell February before the month arrives next term!

Top tip: If they can already spell January, they're nearly there – just remember that sneaky 'r' after the 'b' in February! Let's make spelling fun and achievable – feel free to practise at home and celebrate progress!

Our children have created stars for the Goodie Lights Project, these stars are going to be displayed at the National Museum in Birmingham, along with stars from lots of other children. They have also taken part in many things about remembrance for future generations.

We explored the magic of light at the Abbotswood and the importance of light all around us, especially in relation to remembrance with our very own Abbey the Owl!

Forest Friday

Sparrow hawks have had a very problem-solving day during their outdoor learning!

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. As the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."

Today we have been learning why we celebrate Remembrance Day.

Kingfishers had lots of fun collecting data and recording it on pictograms on the iPads this week.

BBC Children in Need

Thank you to all of the children who raised money for Children in Need, it will go to a good cause!

Autumn 2

- Week 3 – 17th Nov**
 Tuesday 18th - New to reception school tours – 9am (Please contact school office)
 Tuesday 18th - Parent lunch - Kestrels (Y3/4)
 Friday 21st - New to reception school tours – 1.20pm (Please contact school office)
 Friday 21st - Forest Friday - Kingfishers (Y1/2)
- Week 4 – 24th Nov**
 Monday 24th – Bring in old toys for the Christmas Fair (non uniform day).
 Tuesday 25th - New to reception school tours – 9am (Please contact school office)
 Tuesday 25th - Parent lunch - Kingfishers (Y1/2)
 Friday 28th - Forest Friday - Kestrels (Y3/4)
 Friday 28th - New to reception school tours – 1.20pm (Please contact school office)
- Week 5 – 1st Dec**
 Monday 1st - Bring in Chocolate/Alcohol for the Christmas Fair (non uniform day).
 Tuesday 2nd - New to reception school tours – 9am (Please contact school office)
 Tuesday 2nd - Parent lunch – Owls/Robins (Reception)
 Friday 5th Forest Friday – Sparrow Hawks (Y5/6)
 Friday 5th New to reception school tours – 1.20pm (Please contact school office)
- Week 6 – 8th Dec**
 Monday 8th – Wednesday 10th – Laches Wood Residential (Year 6)
 Tuesday 9th - New to reception school tours – 9am (Please contact school office)
 Thursday 11th – Christmas Fair 3.30pm – 5pm
 Friday 12th - New to reception school tours – 1.20pm (Please contact school office)
 Friday 12th – Nativity (Reception) – 2.55pm
- Week 7 – 15th Dec**
 Wednesday 17th – Rock Steady Concert – 9am – 9.30am
 Wednesday 17th - Christmas Dinner (Christmas Jumper day) – 12.15pm
 Wednesday 17th – Carol Concert – 2.45pm
 Friday 19th – Christmas Clothes Day/Party Menu Lunch

Newsletter 5 – 14th November 2025

Fierte Multi-Academy Trust
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 Executive HeadTeacher: Mr David Shakeshaft