

Attendance

 Rabbits	 Squirrels	 Foxes	 Badgers	 Owls
98	95	98	90	81
Whole School –		Year to date –		Target –
92%		95%		96%



Dear Parents and Carers,

We come to the end of our second week of term 6 and what a great week it has been! All the children have taken part in helping the school build a mosaic in celebration of Henry VIII visiting the village five hundred and one years ago, on his way to the major international summit of the time in France called "The Field of the Cloth of Gold". To create the mosaic there has been lots of hard work taking place and the children have been very proud of what they have achieved so far. Thank you to Mrs Golden for coordinating this event.

As I am sure you are aware the Prime Minister announced, earlier this week, that the easing of all restrictions due to Covid-19 has been postponed until 19th July. By then we will have broken up for the summer holidays, so we will have had a whole year at school with significant restrictions. I want to thank every single person associated with the school for their support in adhering to our interpretations of the government guidance. The latest news of course unfortunately means that the procedures we have put in place will remain until we finish for the summer holidays. When we break up on Friday 16th July, we will not be aware of what guidance and restrictions may need to be put in place for when the children return on Monday 6th September and as a result, I will write to parents on 2nd September explaining what procedures will be in place for the new academic year.

The four week postponement sadly means that lots of what we had planned for the next four weeks, will have to change but I am glad to say that some events will go ahead as planned.

- All school trips will go ahead as planned. *Supporting adults will take a self-test the night before and wear masks when appropriate.*
- The Year 6 transition days at the children's new secondary schools have been cancelled. *We are looking at alternative ways that we can support Year 6 ahead of their big change.*
- The transition day on 30th June, for the other year groups to meet their next year teachers, will still go ahead. *Details of who the teachers will be are set out below.*
- Parents evening on Tuesday 13th July will take place by either face to face appointment or by telephone appointment. The face-to-face appointments will take place outside. *Please note, if the weather is not suitable, all appointments will take place by telephone.*
- The celebration afternoon for the whole school will unfortunately no longer take place. *We hope to do something as an alternative in the next academic year if appropriate.*

- The Year 6 play will take place outside (weather permitting) on Thursday 15th July with two showings: 9.30am and 1.30pm. *A final decision on where it takes place will be made on Monday 12th July based on the weather forecast.*
- Year 6 will hold a leavers event on Friday 16th July to which parents are warmly invited. *More details will follow about this in the next week or so.*
- Sports days will now take place in classes, rather than in Key Stages; parents are invited to come and watch but social distancing must be observed. The dates and times for each class are shown in the table below.

Class	Date	Time
Rabbits	1st July	09.30-10.15
Squirrels	1st July	10.45-11.45
Foxes	14th July	09.15-10.00
Badgers	14th July	10.30-11.30
Owls	14th July	1.30- 2.15

Please note the finish times are an estimate

If you have any questions about any of this, please make an appointment to see me.

As previously stated, the children in years R to 5 will have an opportunity to meet their class teams for next year on Wednesday 30th June. They will spend the whole day in that class. Please drop your children off to school as normal on that date and there will be staff on hand to ensure your child goes to the correct classroom and is settled. Home times will remain the same as they usually are for each child.

The Senior Leadership Team have spent a long time putting together the placements for next year with the children's best interests at the heart of the planning. We have decided that due to numbers and the impact of Covid-19 to have 2 classes in Key Stage 1. As can be seen on the list I am not a named teacher with any class but I will be supporting and teaching groups within the Owls class across the week. We are hoping to appoint teaching assistants for Rabbits and Owls class for September in the coming weeks. We will update you about this when we have made the appointments

Class	Years	Teacher(s)	Additional Adults
Rabbits	R	Mrs Golden	Mrs Nunn
Squirrels	1	Miss Macmillan	Ms Axon Mrs Hebbes
Otters	2	Mrs Thompson Mr Brown (School's direct student)	Mrs Hodson
Foxes	3 and 4	Mrs Horsford	Mrs Young Miss Dyson Mrs Bird (volunteer)
Owls	5 and 6	Mrs Siddiqui Mrs Hammond Miss Jones (School's direct student)	Miss B

We are very excited regarding what we have in place for next year and we really think this will bring the best out of all the children. All the teachers will be staying in their current classrooms for next year. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish you all a lovely weekend and I look forward to an exciting week next week, when many classes are taking part in their educational visits.

Kind regards,

Mr Bird

Head of School

CELEBRATION COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Oliver.V

Lia

Sienna

Patrick

Charlie H

Hugo

Casey

Cheyenne

Mollie

Aisha

Freya

Szymon

Jimmydean

Poppie.S

George.F

Louis

Maisie

Iris

Oscar

William

Madelyn



Prayer

Lord God, may our homes and school be welcoming, may our community be encouraging. Let friendship flourish here and let learning fill our lives.

AMEN

In our worship this week, we have been thinking about Refugee Week 2021, and the theme 'We Cannot Walk Alone'. We have thought about how we welcome people into our homes, school and community and what our homes mean to us.



Living and Learning with Faith, Friendship and Fun

Owls

As part of our learning based on Charing's history, Owls class went around the village looking at Tudor houses and their features. We were very lucky to be supported by Mr and Mrs Low who very kindly volunteered to go around the village with us and gave the children a detailed insight into Tudor house architecture.



Living and Learning with Faith, Friendship and Fun



KENT CHALLENGER



On Friday 11th June, 8 children represented the school at the Kent Challenger Games. The games were focused on teamwork and inclusion. The army had organised 4 brilliant activities that allowed the children to work together. Some of the activities involved the children using maths, while others included communication, support for one another and their teamwork. The children represented Charing proudly and really enjoyed the event. They showed all of our school values throughout the event and were respectful to everyone. Really well done!



Badgers.

To kick start our two weeks of learning about Henry VIII's visit to Charing on his way to the spectacular Field of the Cloth of Gold meeting in France Badgers have had an amazingly crafty week. We had a lovely time converting our Tudor Rose bags in to tie die extravaganzas, but even more exciting was learning how to cut and stick tiles for the enormous Henry VIII mosaic the school is making to go on display in the village for many years to come.





Online Safety:

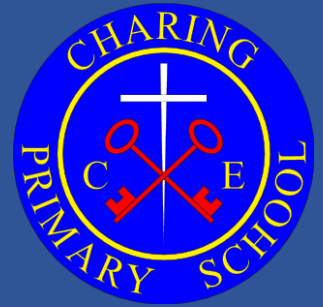
As part of our ongoing work to keep children safe online, we will be sharing information through the newsletter about how to keep your children safe on social media apps and online. Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour and access. This week's poster about **FORTNITE** is at the end of the newsletter. If you need help with a specific app we have not highlighted yet, please talk to Mrs Hammond.

Gosh it's been hot! Please remember to send your child in with a refillable water bottle. Learning is thirsty work!



Dates

for your diary



Owls enrichment activities.

21st, 22nd and 23rd June

Please see letter email sent home on the 17th for details or contact the school office.

Badgers trip 24th June

Next week please can all Badgers remember to arrive at school punctually for our exciting trip to the Chatham Dockyards. Please wear comfortable footwear, bring a packed lunch and remember your sun hats and suncream, or waterproofs!



Squirrels

Wiggly Wild show Thursday 8th July 2021

Please see letter email sent home for details

or contact the school office

Parents Evening

Parents evening

Tuesday 13th July

More details to follow in the coming weeks.



Toddler Group

Charing Primary School Fridays 2-3pm term time only



Year 6 performance!

15th July 2021 – weather permitting

9:30am and 1:30pm

This will be a ticketed event. More details soon...



Living and Learning with Faith, Friendship and Fun



Friday 10th December 2021

Hazlitt Theatre Maidstone

To secure your child's place, please reply to office@charing.kent.sch.uk A £5 deposit will need to be paid by 12th July 2021 with the remainder to be paid in full by 22nd October 2021. All payments will need to be made via parent mail.

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Wimbledon Menu

Thursday 1st July

Marinated Honey, Lemon &
Pepper Roast Chicken
Cheese & Tomato Quiche
Roasted Parsley New
Potatoes Rainbow Coleslaw
Garden Peas Fresh Kent
Strawberries with
Shortbread Biscuit

SPORTS DAY 2021

We've had to make some changes to ensure this event can happen safely.
Please note the new times per class below.

Rabbits Class Thursday 1st July 9:30am-10:15am

Squirrels Class Thursday 1st July 10:45am-11:45am

Foxes Class Wednesday 14th July 9:15am-10am

Badgers Class Wednesday 14th July 10:30am-11:30am

Owls Class Wednesday 14th July 1:30pm-2:15pm

Please note that finish times are an estimate.



Living and Learning with Faith, Friendship and Fun



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/>