



Telephone: 01233 712277

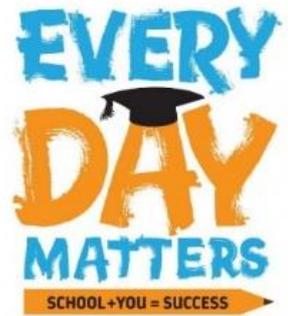
Email: [office@charing.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@charing.kent.sch.uk)

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CharingPrimary/>

# Attendance

 Rabbits	 Squirrels	 Otters	 Foxes	 Owls
91	96	83	91	86
<b>Whole School –</b> 89%		<b>Year to date –</b> 88%		<b>Target –</b> 96%



Dear parents and carers,

It's been a really positive start to 2022 for Charing Primary school. From my desk I can watch the children thoroughly enjoying their outdoor learning, particularly forest school. From looking at the children's books it is clear that they continue to work really hard and are clearly showing their understanding of the learning.

Attendance figures are looking better than last term but they can still be significantly improved. Coming to school is so important, the children miss out on so much if they don't come and regular attendance builds resilience which is an essential quality if someone is to make the most of life opportunities

Next week, all term 3 clubs start, except my football club, and if you have applied for clubs but have not heard back, please contact the office. If you have not put your child forward for a club but would now like to, please again contact the school office. The clubs we have received funding for are KS1 football, KS2 boxing and Forest School. These have all started this week and the children thoroughly enjoyed them. They will run for terms 3 and 4. We are able to run these clubs free of charge thanks to our successful bid for funding from the Reconnect Programme set up by KCC.

I wrote to you all on Wednesday informing you that as a school we are exploring the option of setting up a nursery class within the school. I am pleased to say that I have had really positive feedback from parents regarding this. The consultation form will remain open for another two weeks, so if you know anyone who would be interested, please ask them to submit their interest.

The weather has been really cold this week so please ensure your children come to school with appropriately warm clothing. I hope the sun continues to shine this weekend and everyone has a lovely weekend, ready for another fabulous week beginning on Monday.

Kind regards,  
Mr Thomas Bird  
Head of School

# CELEBRATION COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**Obie-Dean Grayson Jenson Thomas B George F**  
**Sienna Connor Oliver Elliott Casey Joseph**  
**Szymon Jennifer Millie Go Affie S Johnny**



## Prayer

Lord Jesus,

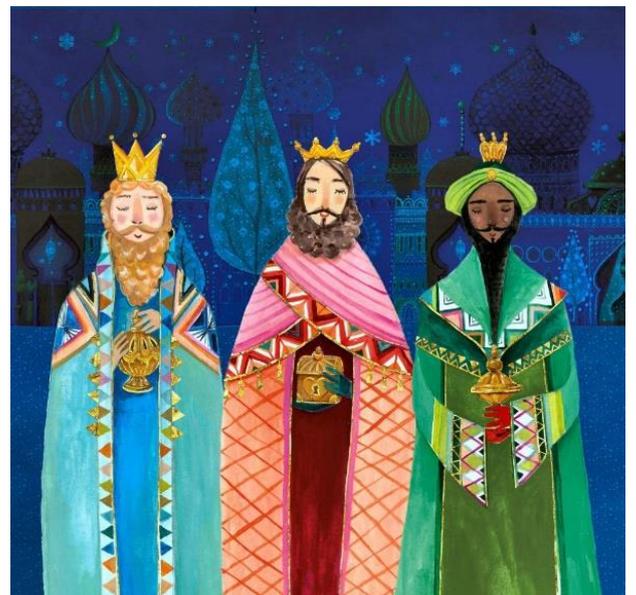
May your light shine our way as it  
once guided the steps of the magi,  
that we too may be led into your  
presence

and worship you

Amen

(Frank Colquhoun)

This week we have celebrate the arrival of the wise men and talked about the importance and significance of the gifts that they presented to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We thought about the confidence that the wise men showed to follow a star, and how we can show the same confidence to follow our own dreams and aspirations.



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We are delighted to announce our new school uniform provider County Print Embroidery. As well as the convenience of online ordering, they are situated in Ashford town centre, just behind McDonalds.



[Charing Church of England Primary School](http://www.charingchurchofenglandprimaryschool.co.uk)  
[countyprintandembroidery.co.uk](http://countyprintandembroidery.co.uk)



We have been pleased to see some of our afterschool clubs start this week. Forest School, KS1 Football and Boxing have been funded by the Reconnect Scheme. Reconnect is a Kent County Council led, community based programme designed to get Kent's children and young people back to enjoying the activities and opportunities they took part in before COVID-19, as well as the chance to try new things along the way.



We look forward to starting some of our school led clubs next week.



As part of our ongoing work to keep children safe online, we are continuing to share information about how to keep your children safe on social media apps and online. This week's poster about FORTNITE 3 is at the end of the newsletter. Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour and access. If you need help with a specific app we have not highlighted yet, please talk to Mrs Hammond.



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Foxes have had a brilliant start to the new term. We have had a fun team building lesson where we made then untangled 'spider webs' and rescued a 'person' from the top of a mountain only using 1 finger each.



In our science we had great fun investigating how sound waves travel through different surfaces.



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**Returning Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

## Toddler Group

**Charing Primary School Tuesdays 2:30-3:10pm term time only**

We invite you to join us every Tuesday for stay and play fun for you and your children. Come along and play, learn, develop and get to know our fantastic school community.

All pre-school aged children/babies welcome.



**caterlink**  
feeding the imagination



### Census Day Menu

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Sausages & Wedges with Tomato Ketchup

Veggie Sausages & Wedges with Tomato Ketchup

Baked Beans Garden Peas

Iced Sponge

Also available: Jacket Potato with Filling

Homemade Bread, Salad, Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt



### Coffee club

With Mrs Nunn

Returning Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February  
2:45pm

All parents welcome



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

CHAPTER  
**3**

AGE RATING  
PEGI  
**12**

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

## IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

## REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

## COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

## POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

## USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision however, this can be a great lesson in money management for children.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours, of course, isn't healthy but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



### TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

### DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

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#WakeUpWednesday

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