

St Martin's Newsletter



Autumn TERM 2025/2026

Friday 7th November

Attendance

Welcome back, this week whole school attendance was **93.4%**. Remember anyone arriving at school after 8:50 am will be marked late. Let's be an attendance HERO!

			
	Attendance	Lateness	Class Dojo
Nursery	89.8%	0	
Reception	94.66%	5	3.35
Year 1	93.24%	2	13.25
Year 2	96.3%	2	10.71
Year 3	96.15%	1	9.65
Year 4	92.92%	7	3.92
Year 5	91.88%	3	9.65
Year 6	92.66%	5	5.85

Year 1 win the bonus break for most average dojos this week.

AntiBullying week

Next week is **Anti-Bullying week** and the children will be focussing on the theme: Power for Good.

After the amazing antibullying messages from RockKidz today, we'll be empowering children to use their Power for Good to speak out, support others, and build a world where kindness wins.

The week will kick off with **Odd Socks Day on Monday 10th**, and the children are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.



Safety Advice

This online safety guide explores [Fortnite's](#) newest updates, outlining potential concerns, including spending pressure, screen time increases, and unfiltered voice chat with other players.

Message from Mrs Ming

What a wonderful first week back of what will be a very busy festive term. We started it in such a lovely way taking part in our Jubilee Pledge day. We had so much food to donate to the food bank and the children really enjoyed thinking about the ways they can make actionable changes to our world. Well done and thank you everyone.



Parent Notice Board

Tuesday 11th November **Y1** Stay and Pray 8.50am

Friday 14th November Children in Need – **Own clothes**

Friday 14th November **Y6** Assembly 9am

Tuesday 18th November **YR** Stay and Pray 8.50am

Friday 21st November **Y2** Assembly 9am

Tuesday 25th November **Pre-School** Stay and Pray 8.50am

Wednesday 26th November **Y6** and **YR** Mass 10am

Friday 28th November **Y1** Assembly 9am

Clubs

Clubs begin again next week and will run until week beginning 8th December.

Tuesday:

Y3 and **Y4** Christmas Arts and Crafts with Mrs Moseley

Y4 and **Y5** Christmas Film club with Mrs Parker

Homework club With Mrs Wilson for all children in KS2

Thursday:

Y5 and **Y6** Multisports club with Mr Cullen

Friday:

Choir **KS2** with Mr Scott

Lego Club **YR, Y1, Y2** with Mrs Williams

Catholic Life and Reflection

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel](#) with their families.

All parents and families are welcome to join **us for a whole school** Mass on **Wednesday 12th November at 10am**.

Y1 parents are invited to come and Stay and Pray on **Tuesday 11th November at 8.50am**.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. 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 avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

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. This 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 renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

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 Avatar: The Last Airbender, 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 time with the child's friends for socialisation and 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.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after 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 purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

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!

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 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 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 seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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