# News from Cumnor School

*Autumn Term Number 13* *3rd December 2021*

Dear Parents,

**Covid . . . Chicken Pox . . . Flu . . .**
After a couple of weeks without ANY Covid cases we now have one in Year 2. Please continue with LFD tests and PCR tests if you or your family are feeling unwell or may have had contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid. We are hoping that covid levels remain low in Cumnor and the new Omicron variant takes a while to establish itself around here. At the moment we are planning to go ahead with all our Christmas events as planned, but obviously if the situation worsens then we will have to reconsider the indoor events especially (Nativity and Christmas Services).

On top of all the colds and a couple of tummy bugs, we have had over a dozen children with Chicken Pox recently. The symptoms of Chicken Pox are quite obvious and anyone infected will need to stay at home for 5 days after the onset of the rash.

If your child missed the Flu vaccine a few weeks ago, there is an opportunity to book them in at one of the Oxfordshire Health Centres. You can consent here:

https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/forms/flu

and book online here::

https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/ClinicBooking/Booking

with the Booking Reference Number **OX123146**

Clinics are being held across the County in November and December.

**Teaching Assistant Vacancy**
We are now recruiting an additional Teaching Assistant to work for 3 or 4 mornings a week from January. The post will mainly be supporting the children in our Key Stage 2 classes. If you are interested in this role or know someone who may be, please refer to the school website for more details or pop in to see us. The closing date is Monday 6th December.

**Trips**

Year 1 had a brilliant day at Oxford Castle this week and Year 3 are really looking forward to a Saxon and Viking day at Hill End on Monday.

**CHRISTMAS!!**
We are all looking forward to starting our Christmas festivities. I hope you are able to make the KS2 Candles by Candlelight evening on Tuesday and the Outdoor Christmas Fair on Friday. Don't forget too that children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers on Friday next week.

I hope you have spotted our Advent windows too – a new one every day!

**Christmas Dinner.**
This will be on the last Thursday of term - 16th December, and will include all the traditional Christmas favourites. (Vegetarian version available). We usually have an uptake of close to 100% for this meal and it makes it a lovely start to our afternoon of festivities. The meal is the same price as a normal school dinner (£2.45) and free for Reception and Key Stage 1 children.

**Botley Bridges Food Hampers**
Botley Bridges Family Support, The Community Larder and Food for Charities are again working together to spread some Christmas cheer to local families in Cumnor, Botley and West Oxford.
Last year we distributed over 100 hampers, brimming with a variety of food and gifts, all donated, packed and delivered by local volunteers. With the continuing pressure on family incomes and rising prices many families find Christmas a difficult time.

We are looking to our local community to spread some Christmas cheer. Can you donate?
• Dried food
• Fresh fruit- oranges/bananas/ dates/ pineapple
• Christmas treats
• Wrapped gifts for children or adults - with a removable label saying what the gift is and age/ sex it is suitable for
• Non alcoholic drinks

Donations can be dropped off at St Peter and St Pauls Church Hall, Botley on Tuesday 21st December from 10-4pm. If you cannot drop off at these times please email sue@botleybridges.org to arrange an alternative venue and time. If you would like to volunteer to take in deliveries, pack hampers or deliver please contact Sue Dowe sue@botleybridges.org 07769275084

Requests for a hamper from households on a low income can be made by adults in the following ways:

- Online: https://forms.gle/fJ7qEn4ifBsPSFfN9
- Downloading a form from the Botley Bridges website
- e- mailing to sue@botleybridges.org

**Online Safety**
Please see this week's parent guide to Fortnite.

**From the PTA Committee:**

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree! The **Outdoor Christmas Fayre** is happening at school next ***Friday December 10th***. Please join us to celebrate the season from 3:10pm! The children have all been creating beautiful Christmas crafts to sell and along with their tables, there'll be giftable books to browse and buy at pocket-money prices, games to play (old favourites and new!) and even two tombolas to try your luck at! Yummy refreshments and cakes available too. Cash or card accepted. As there is no big Christmas Fayre again this year, we sincerely hope you will support the school by coming along to this fun-filled outdoor event instead. Friends and family - all welcome!

Holly Jolly Christmas! Today, the eldest child in every family will bring home an envelope of 6 ticket booklets for the ***Big Christmas Raffle***. Please check pockets and school bags for them and return your completed stubs with cash payment, as well as any unsold tickets, to school any morning prior to the draw date of Thursday December 16th. You can just pop your envelope into the collection box by the gate on your way into school, give it to your class teacher or drop at the office. If cash really isn't possible, we will have the card machine available by the school gate collection box. As one of the very

few fundraisers we can run this year, we heartily encourage everyone to participate if you can! Family, friends and neighbours are very welcome to purchase tickets and additional booklets are available.

We have a long and growing list of prizes from generous businesses including *Batsford Arboretum, Blenheim Palace, Chiltern Valley Winery & Brewery, City Sightseeing Oxford, Club Energy Football, Cotswold Falconry Centre, Cotswold Motoring Museum, Dunelm, Fairytale Farm, Fro Goodness Cake, Hobbycraft, Gardens for Good, Goldilox Cakes, Guppy Books, Millets Falconry, Niki's Nails, Oxford Treatments, Prana Yoga Oxford, Thames Art Nails, The Fishes, The Greyhound, The Sleepi Tipi Company, The Story Museum* and *Yarnton Home and Garden* PLUS lots of bottles, toys and other goodies! If you, your business or someone you know, are able to contribute a raffle prize for this year's draw please contact Tara at cumnorschoolpta@gmail.com to let us know. Food, wine, tickets, vouchers of any kind - it all helps to make the draw more exciting and all funds raised go right back into the school. Thank you!

Mistletoe and Wine! If you are attending the KS2 Carols by Candlelight on Tuesday evening, please maximize your festive cheer and stop by the PTA Refreshment Table for a cup of mulled wine and other delicious goodies! You can even enter to win a fabulous Christmas Hamper. Just £1 for a strip of 5 tickets with the winner drawn on the night.

Do You Hear What I Hear? An urgent call for Christmas jumpers! Does your family have a surplus of festive jumpers from Christmases past? Any the kids have grown out of or one that's been sitting in the back of the closet for a few years? Please donate them to the PTA! We aim to hold a Pre-Loved Christmas Jumper Sale where shoppers can find something festive and fun to wear for a great price and those lovely jumpers can find a new home. Please drop them in to the school office or contact cumnorschoolpta@gmail.com to arrange collection from your home.

## Diary Dates

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Monday 6th December | All Day | Year 3 visit to Hill End |
| Tuesday 7th December | 6 – 6.45 | Key Stage 2 Carols by Candlelight |
| Friday 10th December | All Day | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day |
| Friday 10th December | After School | Outdoor Christmas Fayre |
| Monday 13th December | Day | Santa Run |
| Tuesday 14th December | 6pm | Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performamce of Babushka (Year 1 parents invited) |
| Wednesday 15th December | 2pm | Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performamce of Babushka (Reception parents invited) |
| Wednesday 15th December | 6pm | Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performamce of Babushka (Year 2 parents invited) |
| Thursday 16th December | Lunch | School Christmas dinners followed by class parties |
| Friday 17th December | AM | KS1 and KS2 Christmas Services at St Michael's |
| Friday 17th December | 1.15pm | Term ends |
| | | |
| Wednesday 5th January | 8.50am | Children return to school. |

**School Dinners Next Week (week 2):**

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ham and Cheese Pizza OR Cheese Pizza | Jacket Potato with Beef Chill OR Jacket Potato with Cheese and Beans | Roast Chicken OR Quorn Fillet | Sausage Plait OR Vegan Sausage Roll | Breaded fish Fillet OR Cheese and Tomato Pinwheel |

## Online Safety

Please see this week's parent guide to Fortnite.

## Community Links:

Yours sincerely

Ed Read

AGE RESTRICTION 12+

FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE

'Fortnite - Battle Royale.' is a free to play section of the game 'Fortnite.' The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus,' where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find hidden items, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game more challenging, there is an added twist called 'the storm' which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, bringing the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.

# What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

## MICROTRANSACTIONS

Newly featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called 'skins,' 'gliders' and 'emotes,' which change the characters' appearance, but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are attractive for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass.' When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can take part in a series of challenges, receiving more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whichever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

## IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies according to the game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and will want to continue playing until they achieve their desired result. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for them to stop playing halfway through as their position in the game could be affected.

## IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO

The game was released on mobile devices in April 2018, meaning it can be played without the need for a home games console. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students whilst in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is playing this game.

## HACKER ATTACKS

News site Forbes stated that it had seen "dozens" of online reports from people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers, who had gained access to user's accounts in the game and accrued hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

## TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

Interacting with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from wearing headphones to hear footsteps from other players trying to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes really good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and works towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

## 'FREE' TO PLAY

The game IS free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription, which does require a fee.

## NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

Signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with either their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, no proof of age is required. If your child is under the age of 12, it is important to check whether your child has the game downloaded.

## TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'V bucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PSN cards. Any giveaway promotion from Fortnite will be in the game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'V bucks.' The websites or accounts may ask you to share your account name and password in order to claim the money; if these offers seem too good to be true, they usually are.

## AGE RESTRICTIONS

PEGI has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, PEGI say "more graphic and realistic looking violence towards fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters must look unrealistic unless it consists of only minor or trivial injury such as a slap," making the game 'suitable' for children aged 12 and over.

# Top Tips for Parents

## LIMIT GAME TIME

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time a child is playing games on these devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to play the games for. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be difficult to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth imposing a limit on the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

## PREVENT YOUR CHILD FROM TALKING TO STRANGERS

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means your child wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. However, they would still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

## LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS

It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

## RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

'Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to restrict spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to restrict the amount your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

## SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when spectating them.

## USE A STRONG PASSWORD

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.

National Online Safety

*A whole school community approach to online safety*

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

*Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061*



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