



CASTON NEWS

Weekly Attendance

Whole School Attendance – 95.75%

Little Sparrows – 90.57%

Finches – 93.75%

Swifts Class – 91%

Robins Class – 98.95%

Owl Class – 96.92%

Congratulations to Robins Class for having the best attendance figures this week

Vacancy

School Cleaner Vacancy.

The contracted hours are **3 hours per day, Monday to Friday**, any time after **3:00 PM**. The position covers **37 weeks during term time plus 2 weeks of deep cleaning during school holidays**.

Duties include: Cleaning and sanitising all offices, corridors, welfare facilities, and classrooms.

For more information, please contact info@spirecleaningservices.co.uk or call **01603 926100**.

Dates for your Diary

3rd Dec – Owls Parent Event 9:30-10:15am

9th Dec – EYFS & KS1 Nativity performance (more info to follow)

10th Dec – EYFS & KS1 Nativity performance (more info to follow)

18th Dec – Christmas Jumper Day

18th Dec – Christmas Dinner (available to book on ParentMail)

19th Dec – Last day of term

6th Jan – Children return to school

Celebration Worship

Congratulations to all the children who received a certificate or gold star badge in our celebration worship.

Sparrows & Finches Class – Harper

Swifts Class – Nettle

Robins Class – Trey, Thorin, Leo

Owls Class – Loki, Summer



Parking

A polite reminder that all parents should be parking outside the school unless Mrs Disney has given permission for you to park within school grounds - please help keep the children safe.

Attendance

Children should be at school for 8:50am: if your child is late this will impact their attendance record and learning.



CASTON NEWS

Children in Need run Pudsey 2025!

Caston has raised so far, an amazing **£2001.01** for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who had sponsored the children for their Pudsey run. With Parkers Primary total, together as a federation we have raised **£5471.72**

What an amazing achievement!



Book Fair

The book fair has arrived at school! We will be running the Book Fair from 3:20pm until 4:00pm until Tuesday 25th November.

Can you help us?

Our annual Christmas Nativity production is fast approaching, and the children are getting excited! To help us stage the best possible show, we are reaching out to our school community for help with costumes.

We are particularly in need of **Wise Men** and **shepherd** outfits.

If you have any costumes, robes, tunics, tea towels or suitable fabrics that you would be willing to donate, we would be incredibly grateful.

Please drop off any items at the **School Office**.



CASTON NEWS

Little Sparrows & Finches Class held their parent event this week. Thank you to the adults who came in.




We made Rice Krispy cakes and painted rainbows and pumpkins!






CASTON NEWS



Dear Children of Parker's and Caston,

Thank you so much for raising an incredible £5471.72 through your 'Run25' fundraising. Genuinely, that is so fantastic and will make such a difference to the lives of children across the UK.

Please thank everyone who sponsored you. You should all be so proud of this accomplishment!

love, Pudsey 

DONATIONS PLEASE

We'd like to set up a miscellaneous craft box for After-School Club, wet playtimes etc.

If you have any surplus craft supplies at home, we can make them into something fabulous!



**Old magazines
Birthday / Christmas cards
Ribbon, beads
Interesting paper / card / wrapping paper
Wool**





CASTON NEWS

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



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.

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 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.

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.

