

Blackwater Newsletter

Friday 9th October 2020

ISSUE 3

Dear Parents and children,

We have been so impressed by the way in which the children in all year groups have settled back into their school life despite it being quite different from the pre-lockdown Blackwater. We understand it has been hard for some of the children to settle into being sociable and around thirty busy humans again, but we are supporting them in lots of different ways and we can see this is working to help the children.

Equally, the systems which have been put into place to try and keep children and families safe during the school day, and at pick up and drop off times, seem to be working well on the whole and we continue to tweak and adapt these as required.

Although the national infection rates seem to be rising quite significantly, this has not happened in our local area as yet. Please make sure that you continue to take responsibility for all the measures that are in place such as distancing outside the school gates. Please find attached to this newsletter additional information regarding Covid 19 guidance.

Even though the bad weather has really set in, our love of the outdoors has not been limited. We trialled our amazing bell tent for a week before Storm Alex came to visit. It will go up again next week before half term for the children to use for their learning.

Wheal Busy and Luna enjoyed their team building days at BF Adventure. The climbing was 'epic' and 'unreal', what a lovely opportunity to have some team building fun in the Autumn term.

For the next two weeks, our focus will be kindness. We are starting our kind hands tree, which will be displayed in the hall. Staff and children can choose children who have been kind and to write an explanation on a piece of card shaped like a hand. This will be read out in assembly on Fridays. Kindness goes a long way, as we all know and we are looking forward to recognising it more in school.

Best wishes *Mrs Evison*

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"



"Kind," said the boy

Charlie Mackay

Dates for the diary

23rd Oct - last day of term

24th - 1st Nov - HALF TERM

2nd Nov/ 3rd Nov—INSET DAY—School closed to children

4th Nov - start of the Christmas term.

W.b 9th Nov - Online safety week

W.b. 16th Nov - Virtual Parents Evening

Christmas Dates for the diary

11th Dec - Christmas Jumper day

17th Dec - Silly Santa day

18th Dec - Last day of term

FOBs

Christmas Cards

Our wonderful 'Friends of Blackwater' FOBs team have organised a personalised Christmas Card fundraiser. The children have brought home the information to create their own works of art to be printed. For every item you buy, the school raises funds. Closing date: 23rd October.



Wellies and Coats

Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies in school at all times and a coat so that they can use the field and wood at times during the school day.



Food Bank

Thank you to all families who supported out Harvest Festival Food Bank drop off last week. You were amazing and donated SO much food.

Truro Food Bank is very thankful to the children of Blackwater.



Mini London Marathon

THANK YOU for all the children who took part. Our Just giving site is now live: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/blackwatercommunityschool>



We are really looking forward to getting our polytunnel!



Considerate Car Parking

We understand that we are asking KS2 parents to collect your children from the side gate for the Autumn term to support the safety of children, staff and families.

Please can we ask for all parents to park considerately so then we are not impacting on the local neighbours of the school.

Thank you

SafeToNet is an app for parents to help them safeguard their children from online risks like cyberbullying and sexting, whilst respecting their child's rights to privacy.

Online Safety

The BBC have a website and app called **Own It**. The website has a lot of content for children to help them navigate their online lives, and the free smartphone app comes with a special keyboard which can intervene with help and support in the moments that children need it the most.

Whilst there are huge benefits to being online in order to stay connected to family and friends, many parents may feel concerned about the activities and content their children are accessing. This guidance outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to receive support and advice. This information is updated as needed (it's recently added new information on apps) so it's worth another look.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>



'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 items hidden around the island, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game harder, there is an added twist called 'the storm', which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, making the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.



AGE RESTRICTION
12+






What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

MICROTRANSACTIONS

New 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 look of the characters but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are made a desirable 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 play a series of challenges to receive more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whatever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

HACKER ATTACKS

News site Forbes said it had seen 'dozens' of reports online by people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers. Hackers gained access to users accounts in the game and spent hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

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

IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies with each game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and continue to play until they achieve the result they want. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for children to stop playing halfway through as it could affect their position in the game.

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 in the game 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 work towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

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 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.

IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO

The game was released on mobile in April 2018 meaning it can be played without a games console at home. 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 on the game.

WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE

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.

'FREE' TO PLAY

The game is free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription to play the game which is chargeable.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents



LIMIT GAME TIME

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time your child is playing games on the 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 spend on games. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be hard to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth using a limit of the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

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 limit spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

PREVENT THEM TALKING TO STRANGERS

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means they wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. Your child will 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.

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.

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.

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.

Sources: <https://www.microwork.com/en-gb/direct/fortnite-deluxe-founders-pack>, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-43326075>, <https://fortnitehelp.com/fortnite-accounts-hacked-how-to-protect-yourself-and-what-to-do-if-youve-been-compromised/#140c9e7ca799>

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This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

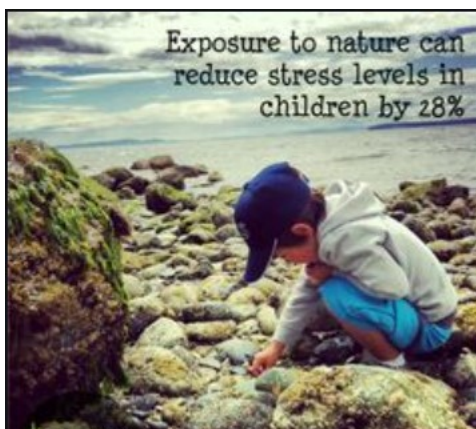
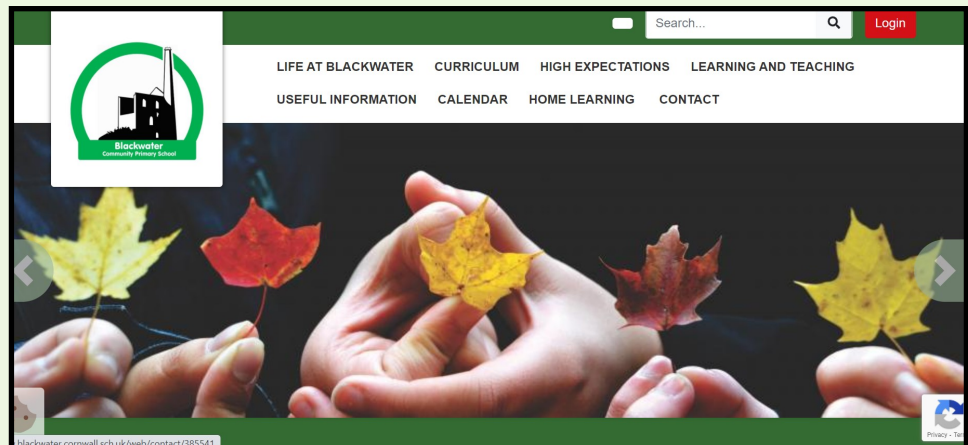
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Community News



NEW WEBSITE

Have you noticed that we have a new website to match our vision and ethos of the school? We think it looks amazing! We are working hard to make sure all the key information is uploaded for after half term. Please let us know if you think there should be anything else on there.



Go outside!

Well done, Hattie!

Hattie had 12 inches of hair cut off and has raised £415 so far for the Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children who are undergoing treatment for cancer and lose their hair.

Her aim is £550 as that is how much it costs to make one wig.

However The Princes Trust also donate thousands of pounds to fund research into childhood cancers.

We are proud of you.





To stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), you should try to avoid close contact with anyone you do not live with. This is called social distancing.

Stay at home as much as possible.

It's very important to stay at home as much as possible.

There are only a few specific reasons to leave your home, including:

- for work, if you cannot work from home
- going to shops to get things like food and medicine, or to collect things you've ordered
- to exercise or spend time outdoors
- for any medical reason, to donate blood, avoid injury or illness, escape risk of harm, provide care or help a vulnerable person.

When outside your home, it's important to try to stay 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone you do not live with.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>



Cornwall Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust has its own Out of Hours telephone support provided by Support Matters Cornwall. This service operates from 5pm to 9am on weekdays and 24 hours a day at weekends and bank holidays. The service is open to all patients (aged 16+) under the care of the Trust's mental health services. Support can be delivered over the telephone, via text, email or web chat. Call free on 0800 001 4330.

This is an unusual time and we are conscious that some people and families will be finding it difficult. We have included some helpline numbers on this page in case anyone finds them useful.

0300 123 3393



"It's alright to ask for help"



116 123



NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

0808 2000 247

24/7 CONFIDENTIAL FREEPHONE



**AT HOME
SHOULDN'T
MEAN
AT RISK**

#YOUARENOTALONE

FIND SUPPORT AT:
gov.uk/domestic-abuse



School Council News

Our new school council met for the first time. They were full of lots of exciting ideas to help improve our school.

Their first challenge is to go back to the classes to think about how we can improve break and lunchtimes in our bubbles.

I can't wait to hear what the class ideas are!



W.B.
2nd Oct

Learners of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Addy H

Wheal Harmony: Pippa B

Wheal Busy: Travis G

Wheal Luna: Layla S

Citizens of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Tegen P

Wheal Harmony: Imogen T

Wheal Busy: Ethan D

Wheal Luna: Ben K

Above and Beyond

Ellie S

W.B.
21st Sept

Learners of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Bodhi R

Wheal Harmony: Freddie B

Wheal Busy: Karenza J

Wheal Luna: Karl O

Citizens of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Wynny M

Wheal Harmony: Perran A

Wheal Busy: Emily S

Wheal Luna: Riley C

Above and Beyond

Mia E

Well done to these children for showing excellent behaviour and learning attitudes. We are proud of you! We hope you enjoy your: certificate, lanyard to wear for the week and a hot chocolate on Monday with Mrs. Evison in the bell tent!

Letters home

Busy and Luna team building visit.

eSchools login details

Portrait photos

Community update

Headlice warning (Luna)

Project 100 letter

MAKATON SIGN OF THE WEEK

Have you noticed that we have started learning a sign of the week as a school This week it was school:

<http://www.blackwater.cornwall.sch.uk/web/makaton/510335>

Please ask your child every Monday for the next new sign.

We will be uploading them onto the website



"Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude." Zig Ziglar

