



Wrockwardine Wood C of E Junior School

'Wrockers' Weekly

'Love, Laugh and Learn'

This Half Terms Value — Joy

Friday 19th January 2024

Year 4 trip to Shrewsbury Museum

On Wednesday we visited Shrewsbury Art Gallery and Museum. We had an amazing day. We split into two classes. 4T explored the museum in the morning looking at all of the artefacts and

artwork and 4C took part in an art workshop. They focused on the patterns and shapes that you can see in sea creatures and plants. They started off by sketching in the museum looking at fossils and shells. Then experimented with clay making shapes and relief techniques. Using their sketches as stimulus they created a clay relief of all of the patterns and shapes they had seen in the museum. Their finished pieces were great! In the afternoon we swapped activities. Everyone had a lovely day and learnt many new facts and art techniques.



Dates for your Diary

3:00pm Tuesday

23rd January

Standon Bowers parents meeting

Mon 5th February

Mental Health Awareness Day

Tues 6th February

Safer Internet Day

Wed 7th February

End of day drop in to see pupils' Art Work.

Friday 9th February

Break up Half Term. Normal time, normal uniform

Mon 19th February

Return to school. Normal time, normal uniform.

Thurs 7th March

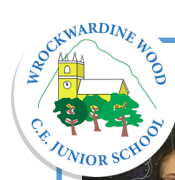
World Book Day

Big Sing Rehearsals.

Our school choir will be performing in the Big Sing later in the year. This is where lots of primary schools get together with the Charlton School to produce and then perform a series of songs together as a choir. A specialist choir coach visited us last week and taught the choir two of the songs, but first they did lots of fun and exciting warm up activities with their voices. There were some very strange sounds coming from the hall! But the choir sounded amazing once they started singing. Well done!



Achievement Award 6S	TA Award	Star of the Week		Headteacher Award
Ruby R	Ashton L	Jay Jay B	5B	Miss Husselbee
Penny M		Dilpreet K	5H	
Chloe H		Leo O	56S	
Rhian C		Kai S	6J	
Ollie B		Katie S	6S	
Lacey A				



Amazing Homework

Last half term we had some amazing Design and Technology and History homework. The children worked really hard to create models, pieces of writing and carry out research. Thank you to parents and careers for all of your support with this. I look forward to sharing the wonderful work completed during our Art Focus.



The Wrockwardine Wood CE Junior School "Living life in all its fullness" challenge.

This week's challenge is to:

Read a poem

We would love to see your photos please email them to: a3129@telford.gov.uk or DoJo to your class teacher.



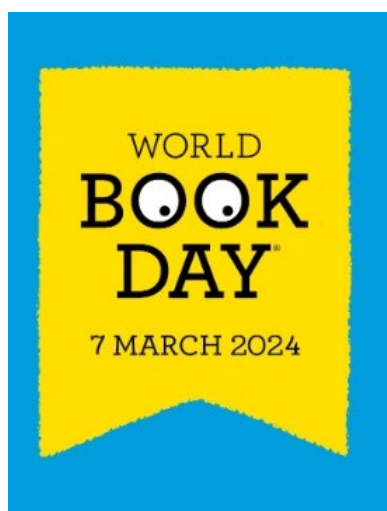
Happy Lunchtime Reward

Last term Miss Steventon's class were awarded with the highest number of pom poms for their outstanding behaviour and attitude on the playground at lunch time. The pom poms are awarded by our dinner staff for good manners, demonstrating our school values and rules and being helpful and kind. The class got to randomly pick an activity out of the golden lunchbox—they picked a class circle time. Miss Steventon arranged for them to have hot chocolate, cream and marshmallows while they shared all of their lovely memories from Christmas around an imaginary fire. Well done 5/6S!



World Book Day!

We are very excited to let you know that we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March here at school! Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book characters or alternatively wear their pyjamas to school on this day and we would love them to bring in their favourite books or stories to share with their class! Thank you all for your support!




PODS

Introducing Our New Counselling Service!

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SUPPORT

At PODS, we understand that life can be challenging, and everyone deserves support. Our new service is a safe space for you to express, explore, and heal, working towards achievable goals to get you on the right path to wellness.

Individual Counselling sessions
Parent Carers or Young adults 18+
Confidential & Judgement free
Tailored Support for Your Unique circumstances
ACCPH Registered & Qualified
Experienced in SEND, LD and Autism
Sessions start from £35

For more information or to book an initial consultation please, contact kerrie@podstelford.org

Wraparound Care

Wraparound Care have been having lots of fun creating shapes with Hama beads. They would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Cotton, our Chair of Governors, for this very kind donation. The children have had an amazing time with them. A very calm and collected activity. The children have a great time at Wrockers' Wraparound playing games, colouring, participating in craft activities and much more.

Children can be booked into After School Club via the booking form available online

[https://
www.wrockwardinewoodjunior.org.uk/parents-info/wrap-around-](https://www.wrockwardinewoodjunior.org.uk/parents-info/wrap-around-)

or from the school office. No need to book into Breakfast Club. Breakfast club opens at 7:30 and after school club closes at 5:30 (4:30 on a Friday).



We had some brilliant entries for our last competition and the arts council members would like to run another one! This time your theme is:

Portrait of a Hero

You can draw or paint a portrait of someone you admire or consider a hero – this could be a historical figure, a family member, author or a well-known personality.

Please bring your original artwork in to Miss Byrne to enter the competition.

Deadline: Friday 9th February

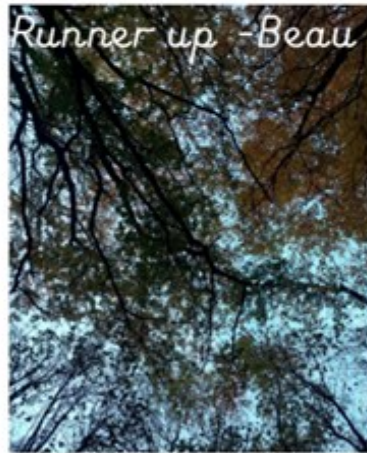


Photography Competition

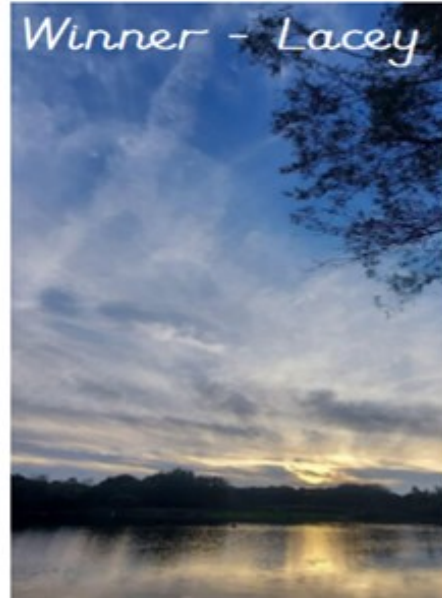
The theme is Autumn!!



Runner up - Amber



Runner up - Beau



Winner - Lacey

We loved all of your photography entries. Here are the runners up and winner! All of the wonderful autumnal photographs will be displayed proudly in school for all to admire. Thank you for taking part - Miss Byrne.



Year 6 trip to Walsall Art Gallery

Walsall Art Gallery by Delilah and Anika

We were all very excited to go on the trip to Walsall Art Gallery. The coach picked us up from school at 9:15 and then took us to Walsall. We arrived at 10 o'clock and Rob from the art gallery met us at the entrance. After we put our coats and bags away,



we went upstairs. The first thing we saw was a pink tuk tuk which was decorated very brightly. There was lots of different types of paintings, sculptures and drawings. We really liked the picture windows so we could look at the changing view outside. We then realised that this was also a work of art! Next, we did some sketching in the portrait room using our drawing skills from our art lessons. Then we all had lunch before having a workshop on silk screen printing. It was great fun!

Attendance

Last week our whole school attendance was 95.59% which is above the national average 91.6%. Well done to 6J and 4C who topped their leagues with 98.44% and 98.28% respectively. Thank you again to all the parents and carers that have called or emailed school to tell us why your child is absent. Please can I remind you that we do require you to call or email on each day your child is absent from school. You can contact us on 01952 387880 and press option 1 or email A3129@telford.gov.uk.



Wraparound Care

The children were having a great time at wrap around this morning dancing along to their favourite songs on Just Dance on the Interactive Whiteboard.



E Safety Support



There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.



What parents need to know about **FORTNITE** BATTLE ROYALE



BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar setup. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.



IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction is up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time played and a preoccupation with thoughts of the next gaming session. Realistically, it must be down to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.



FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?

While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying) it does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called 'V-Bucks' and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bucks can be earned in-game with enough play time.



SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to everybody and don't require additional money to play, though battle passes for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will typically allow a player to earn experience faster and gain fun in-game items by completing a host of daily challenges.



CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform. To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account. Doing this removes the age-old boundary of not being able to play together because you don't have the same console and opens up a whole new world of playing online with friends.



IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as teen, as it contains cartoon violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit will want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.



Top Tips For Parents



BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card information afterwards as it can be very easy to purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion would be capping the spending at around £50 - this is the normal retail price of a game.



GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into their groups in a game. It's difficult to predict what another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good idea for friends playing together to be grouped together. The only real countermeasure to interacting with strangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic communications, which can be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who you're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.



LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so be flexible when it's time to put it away. The approach of 'one more game' as opposed to '10 more minutes' will stop any complaints that a match is still ongoing. Better still, play with your child and take it in turns; that way you're helping control the time played and can keep an eye on what they're experiencing.



TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. If you approach as a collective, it will be easier to know when their friends are online and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help curb expectations on spending money on battle passes and skins if you stick together.



CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS

It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, quick and complex problem solving and communication; that's not to mention the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, there are benefits to screen time which might not be immediately obvious.



PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF

There's no substitute for sitting down and playing the game yourself to learn all about it. Fortnite is available for free on almost anything you can imagine, even your smartphone, so there's never been a better time to get involved and see what all the fuss is about. You never know, you might even be able to impress your children when you show them your impressive Victory Royale tally!

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNLAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

