



Hurst Green Happenings

Spring Term NO 82

14th January 2022

Happy New Year. I hope you all had a great Christmas.

We have a busy Spring term so keep your eyes peeled for the "Dates in your diary" for more information.

We have several announcements to make.

Firstly, we are incredibly sad to announce that Mrs Smith, in the School Office, is leaving Hurst Green at the beginning of February. Mrs Smith has been at our school for 12 years and has been an integral part of our school community. We wish her all the best in her new job. Mrs Russell will be increasing her hours to work alongside Mrs Dennehy in the School Office going forward.

In other news, we are delighted to share the news that Miss Faulkner has announced she is expecting a baby later on this year. She will remain with Year 2 until mid may and we will update you on her maternity cover.

Finally, Miss King is now going to be working 5 mornings a week as part of the Nursery Team as we see an increase in our Nursery class numbers.

We still have some spaces available for Parent Governors. Please speak to the School Office if you require any more information. This is a great opportunity to get involved in the school and our community.

Finally, please can you support your child and class teacher by ensuring that school reading books are returned on time each week so we can issue new books to your child. Thank you.

Labelling Uniform

We are getting an increasing amount of lost property which is unlabelled. Please can we ask that you clearly label ALL clothing, coats, gloves, hats, scarves etc so that we can rehome items when they are left in the classrooms or corridor.



HGSA News

Our Christmas shop raised an amazing **£376** at the end of last year, which will go towards projects including the Life Bus visit, Incredible Eggs (which will be coming to our school in Spring), and library renovations.

This term we are looking forward to hosting the Valentine's Ball disco on 10 February, a sponsored Pancake Flip on 1 March and the return of the Mother's Day shop on 25th March - more details to follow soon!





Year 1 had a great time when they were visited by **Animazing**. They were introduced to a snake, an Owl, some creepy crawlies, a toad and a rabbit. Ms Merritt even kissed the toad but sadly, no prince appeared!

The children were so well behaved and stayed calm during the whole experience which kept the creatures calm and happy. Well done Navigators Class.

We hope to invite Animazing back for our Reception Class as part of their Minibeast topic later this term—more information on this to follow.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER 3

AGE RATING
PEGI 12

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 250 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a battle royale contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Some of the World's most popular games, for example, can become quite costly. In the game, players can buy various items such as cosmetics, which are not necessary to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for older players. However, there are payment methods available to the game, such as the 'V-Bucks' system. Children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £8.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different rewards – including skins, cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for children. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes are more casual), but the highly competitive nature of the game can lead to a competitive spirit. Some players can become quite competitive, and players' desire to win can often cause excessive aggression or 'toxic' behaviour towards others – via the game's chat system, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by scammers. In Fortnite, players can be tricked into giving away their account details to other players. Some players have been known to give away their V-Bucks or even accounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These accounts are usually linked to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for appropriateness because the developer doesn't know what the player will see. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice chat, emotes, dances, and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the creator doesn't know if anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players is seen.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Fortnite-style games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be quite expensive. Parents should be aware of how much their child is spending on the game, and encourage them to stop when they've reached their limit. With supervision, however, this can be a great lesson in money management for children.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach inordinate lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the room for hours, all screen, isn't healthy. It's an easy habit to form, encouraging young ones to look regularly for breaks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and reduce some of the health risks associated with gaming.

Meet Our Expert

Chris Thomas is a UK's leading expert on online safety, with over 20 years' experience in the industry. He's been a pioneer in the area of online safety, having worked with the police, the Home Office, and the Department of Education. He's also been a speaker at many conferences and has written many books on the subject.

TALK ABOUT TALKING

Encourage children to talk about their online experiences. Children will quickly realise that talking with friends online helps to improve their skills. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child about speaking to strangers online, making sound decisions and other potential risks. Encourage them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (like Discord, for example) where players can chat or play. In some cases, these apps can be more risky than the game itself. Parents should be aware of what their child is doing online, and discuss other apps they use while playing.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

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I have over 33 years childcare experience, NNEB Qualification. All my policies are up to date, including First Aid, Public Liability Insurance, Safeguarding, Food and Hygiene Certificate (5 star rated with Tandridge Council), Business car insurance and car seats are available to suit individual needs.

Home made healthy meals provided

Childcare vouchers accepted



I have a warm, safe welcoming household. Family members are all DBS registered. We have a secure garden for the children to play in. I offer fun activities for all ages, cooking, crafts, and games.



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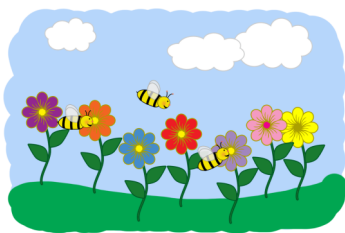
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Spring Term 2022

Saturday 15th January	Closing date for Year R and Year 3 places for 2022
Tuesday 18th January	The Pied Piper perform ' Robin's Winter Adventure '
Thursday 10th February	HGSA Valentines Ball
Friday 11th February	Break up
14th—18th February	Half Term
Monday 21st February	Return to school
Tuesday 1st March	HGSA Sponsored Pancake flip Life Bus Visit
Monday 14th March	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 16th March	Parent Consultations
Friday 18th March	Red Nose Day
Friday 25th March	HGSA Mother's Day shop
Thursday 31st March	Last day of Spring Term
Friday 1st April	INSET DAY

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19th April	Return to school
Monday 2nd May	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 26th May	Break up
Friday 27th May	INSET DAY
30th May - 3rd June	Half Term
Friday 17th June	HGSA Father's Day (or FUDGE) Day shop
Monday 6th June	Return to school
Thursday 14th July	HGSA Summer Disco after school
Friday 22nd July	Last day of Summer Term

Term Dates for 2022/23, along with our INSET Days are now on the School Website.

Email: office@hurstgreenschool.org Website: www.hurstgreenschool.org Phone: 01883 712171

Emergency information regarding the school will be announced on Heart Radio 102.7FM and the school website