



The  
Portsmouth Academy

**Week 17A**

w/c 17 Jan 2022



## Message from Mr Dolphin, Senior Vice Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

As per my communication last week, please ensure that your child is attending school with a face covering as we cannot, and should not have to, continue to provide these to students while this is a national requirement. I must also stress that a hoodie is not a replacement for a coat, nor does it replace the school blazer, and so while we are relaxing the rule around coats in the building, hoodies will continue to be confiscated. If there is a genuine issue regarding your child not having a coat and only having a hoodie, please contact your child's head of year. Thank you to those parents who have already done this.

We are expecting new government guidance for students in the school setting by Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, at which point we will write to you to inform you of any changes. We will also take this opportunity to review our relaxation around coats being worn in the building as the cold weather starts to pass.

Regards,  
Lee Dolphin  
Senior Vice Principal

## At-Home Lateral Flow Testing

We would like to remind parents that it is advised that all students are to continue with the at-home lateral flow testing.

Year Group	1 <sup>st</sup> Weekly Test	2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekly Test
11	Evening of Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Evening of Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January
10	Evening of Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Evening of Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January
9	Evening of Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Evening of Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January
8	Evening of Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Evening of Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> January
7	Evening of Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Evening of Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January

If your child's test result is positive, we ask you to inform us by either emailing [absence@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk](mailto:absence@theportsmouthacademy.org.uk) or completing the digital form at <https://bit.ly/3eL9VHM>

## Heads of Year

### Year 7 – Miss Piper

Team 2026 have had a great start to the new term. It is a joy to see them back in the school along with the other year groups. I will be continuing to drive the Respect agenda this term with a particular focus on the individual habit points that students pick up for being respectful to each other.

Year 7 have returned with very few uniform issues and look very smart in the academy uniform. I would like you however to remind your child of our expectations around uniform:

- Trainers are not permitted unless there is a medical reason.
- Hoodies are not allowed at school under any circumstances and will be confiscated.
- Ties must be worn at all times
- A jumper may be worn but must be a plain charcoal grey v-neck jumper.
- Nose piercings and false nails are not permitted at school.

I would also like you to encourage your child to come to school with a pencil case and their own equipment. Although they have their one:one device, students are still required to do written work in some lessons and will therefore need pens and pencils. If you have some time at the weekend, I would be grateful if one could be purchased if your child does not already have one, please. I am noticing teachers having to give out a lot of pens in class and this slows down learning for others and indicates students are not prepared.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Miss Piper and Mrs Bothma-Lubbe

**PSHE Theme:** L2 on respecting our environment

### Year 8 – Mr Lock

#Team2025 seem to have started 2022 on the right path and have taken on board the aspirations assembly delivered on Tuesday. Special mentions go to 8GAM for 143 HPs, 8JAR for 132 HPs and a greatly improved 96 HPs from 8DAK, well done to all tutees!

Having given them a week to settle back in I will be conducting behaviour learning walks to 8DAK, 8SEY and 8LOP next week. This will be a cycle where I observe 3 different tutor groups per week. This is aimed at capturing all the positive work, not simply the negative and sharing during our weekly assemblies.

We are having a real push on our Be Your Best Self Journals which each tutor will be completing during registration each morning. As a Thinking School we aim to promote self-reflection and encourage you, as parents to ask about your son or daughter's school day and using the common language of;

“What went well?” and “Even better if?”

Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 9 – Mr M. Smith

Since returning to school, Year 9 have had three PSHE lessons, all focusing on the theme of 'respect', particularly looking at our school building, each other and conduct online. Please continue to have this conversation at home as I feel it is an important message for our students to hear.

I have been really pleased with how our Year 9 students have returned to school: they are enthusiastic and ready to learn. However, could I please remind you of our expectations around uniform:

- Trainers are not permitted unless there is a medical reason.
- Hoodies are not allowed at school under any circumstances and will be confiscated.
- Ties must be worn at all times.
- A jumper may be worn, but must be a plain charcoal grey V-neck jumper.
- Nose piercings are not permitted at school.

Whilst we have relaxed our rule around coats in school, it is important to remember that a coat must be worn **over** a blazer and not as a substitute for it. The majority of our students do get this right, and I thank you for your support on this.

A massive congratulations to 9JAM, who currently have the most positive Habit Points in the year group, with 2,183!

If you have any concerns, please do contact me.

Many thanks,  
Mr. Smith

**PSHE Theme:** Sex and Relationships

## Year 10 – Mr Parnell

Year 10s have been thrown straight back into the Spring Term with Mock Exams; the vast majority seem to have responded very well to this and I know that they are all keen to do well (even if they sometimes don't know how to show this!). There have also been 'mini-meltdowns' from seemingly nonplussed students which I think does prove that appearances can be deceptive. Please be mindful of this 'hidden anxiety' within your own children and reassure them that, whilst we want them to take their mocks seriously, we do not want them to panic and get stressed. The science is pretty clear that this is wholly unproductive anyway!

Kind regards,  
Mr Parnell

**PSHE Theme:** Aspire, Achieve, Respect

## Year 11 – Miss Hart

Students began their independent revision in tutor time this week and it has been going extremely well and has helped the year group in realising what little time they have left with us. They have been working well in lessons and the majority of Year 11 students seemed focussed and eager to "get on."

We have had some issues with uniform this week. Year 11 are role models to the rest of the school, so we need to get it right as a team. Hoodies are not allowed in school. These will be confiscated on the gate and given back at the end of the day. If your child is cold, they can wear a charcoal grey v-neck jumper, under their blazer. As well as an appropriate coat over their blazer. Please can you check your child's uniform before they leave for school and issue your child with a note if they are missing any items stated in the uniform policy.

As always, thank you for your support.  
Have a great week.

## Year 11 Countdown

There are **67** school days left until GCSE exams begin.

## Safeguarding – Mrs Rhodes, Designated Safeguarding Lead



### Support for Parents

Call for free and confidential advice from **Family Lives** on 0808 800 2222 if you're finding it hard at home with your child and are struggling to cope.



[Young Minds](#) have a parent's helpline, information and resources.



[Moodspark.org.uk](#) is a website where young people can learn how to look after their emotional and mental health and find ways to help them bounce back when life gets tough.



[NHS Chathealth](#) is a confidential texting service for young people aged 11-19.

Young people can text the school health team about any concerns or health issues on 07520 618850. The number is monitored Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

## Attendance – Mrs Blake and Miss Osborne

### Autumn Term Attendance

Year Group	Percentage
7	92.7
8	89.6
9	88.5
10	88.7
11	84.9

Best Tutor Group	Percentage
7CUT	94.0
8JAR	92.4
9JAM	91.7
10TRA	90.7
11BEG	92.4

Congratulations to the tutor groups from each year group with the highest attendance for the Autumn Term. Prizes, courtesy of Morrisons Anchorage Park, were given to the children to share, along with the attendance trophies for each year group. Now it's up to the other tutor groups to try and win the trophy from them during the Spring Term.

Attendance Attack is back and will be taking place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022. It's the easiest habit point a student will ever receive, all they have to do is be in school!

## Year 7 & 8 Spelling Bee

Scan the QR codes and complete the online form to take part in the Spelling Bee!



### Y8 Spelling Bee

Wednesday 26th January 2022

12.30pm - 1pm

Main Hall



Sign up here!



### Y8 Spelling Bee

Wednesday 26th January 2022

12.30pm - 1pm

Main Hall



Sign up here!



## Text Messages

Download **MyEd** Today

THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST

Scan me with your smart phone camera!

Scan our QR code or visit your App Store

A reminder that we will soon be phasing out our SMS text messaging service. All text messages from the school will be sent to parents through the MyEd app. This app is free to download and use. To ensure you don't miss out on important communication from the school, please download the MyEd app onto your mobile phone.

Please scan the QR code for more information about the MyEd app or visit the Apple or Google Play store to download it.

Please be aware that the app takes 24 hours to sync with the school's systems. After this time has passed, you can search for your child and add them to the app.

## Triple P Discussion Groups

<p>Small changes, big differences.</p>	<p>Small changes, big differences.</p>
<p><b>Triple P Primary Discussion Groups</b></p> <p>Age 5-12yrs</p> <p>Learn how to set boundaries and create routines that work for your family. All sessions will offer basic strategies and ideas for anyone who wants to help their child to be the best they can be.</p>	<p><b>Triple P Teen Discussion Groups</b></p> <p>Age 12-16yrs</p> <p>Learn how to set boundaries and create routines that work for your family. All sessions will offer basic strategies and ideas for anyone who wants to help their child to be the best they can be.</p>
<p><b>Managing Fighting &amp; Aggression</b> Monday 10th January 2022 - 10am-12:30pm at Buckland Family Hub, Turner Road, Buckland, PO1 4PN (02392 733440)</p> <p><b>Managing Fighting &amp; Aggression</b> Tuesday 18th January 2022 - 10am-12:30pm at Paulsgrove Family Hub, Cheltenham Road, Portsmouth, PO6 3PL (02392 385995)</p> <p><b>Dealing with Disobedience</b> Thursday 19th January 2022 - 6pm-8:30pm at Milton Family Hub, Perth Road, Southsea, PO4 8EU (02392 827392)</p> <p><b>Dealing with Disobedience</b> Wednesday 8th December - 10am-12:30pm at Paulsgrove Family Hub, Cheltenham Road, Portsmouth, PO6 3PL (02392 385995)</p> <p><b>TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE CALL THE RELEVANT FAMILY HUB</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.triplep.net">www.triplep.net</a></p>	<p><b>Coping with Teen Emotions</b> Tuesday 25th January 2022 - 6pm-8:30pm at Buckland Family Hub, Turner Road, Buckland, PO1 4PN (02392 733440)</p> <p><b>Getting Teenagers to Co-operate</b> Wednesday 26th January 2022 - 10am-12:30pm at Milton Family Hub, Perth Road, Southsea, PO4 8EU (02392 827392)</p> <p><b>Reducing Family Conflict</b> Tuesday 8th February 2022 - 6pm-8:30pm at Paulsgrove Family Hub, Cheltenham Road, Portsmouth, PO6 3PL (02392 385995)</p> <p><b>Getting Teenagers to Co-operate</b> Wednesday 9th February 2022 - 10am-12:30pm at Buckland Family Hub, Turner Road, Buckland, PO1 4PN (02392 733440)</p> <p><b>Coping with Teen Emotions</b> Wednesday 16th February 2022 - 10am-12:30pm at Milton Family Hub, Perth Road, Southsea, PO4 8EU (02392 827392)</p> <p><b>TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE CALL THE RELEVANT FAMILY HUB</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.triplep.net">www.triplep.net</a></p>

# Fortnum and Mason Platinum Pudding Competition – Mrs Fletcher, Curriculum Lead for Food and Nutrition

Fortnum and Mason are holding a competition for the Platinum Jubilee. Let Mrs Fletcher know that you've entered and you'll receive a habit point!



Do you have a recipe fit for The Queen?



For your chance to be part of history, enter the Platinum Pudding Competition by designing and creating a celebratory pudding to the best of your ability then entering your pudding.

Applications are welcomed from UK residents aged 8 and over. Good Luck!



**Please make sure your recipe...**

- Is genuine, accurate and original
- Is able to be submitted online using the form provided
- Is hand-made (electric whisks and other commonplace gadgets are fine!) by you as an original creation



**Please make sure your recipe does not...**

- Include anything else apart from your pudding's recipe, short description and photo
- Include any names or personal details
- Include any companies that you have copied exactly from somewhere else

**The Deadline for entries on the website is Friday 4th February!**

A good pudding should be joyful and celebratory, and make people smile. But what else might you want to consider?



#### It Tastes Just Right

While our judges won't be able to taste your pudding unless it makes it to the 'five star' of the final round, you do need to ensure the ingredients list is 100% accurate – even a degree of inaccuracy will affect the flavour. And of course, it should taste, well, delicious.



#### Perfect for Home Bakers

Your pudding needs to be easy enough for people everywhere to recreate at home! Try to use ingredients and kitchen equipment readily available to people all over the world, rather than fancy gadgets and rare flowers only grown in your back garden.



#### A Memorable Story

A good pudding is made with passion and pride, so we'd love to hear the story behind your entry. Perhaps this recipe was inspired by Her Majesty The Queen's 100th, has been handed down through the generations of your family, or recalls one of your own special occasions.



#### Fit for The Queen

The proof of the pudding may be in the eating, but this one will be served to The Queen, so it needs to look the part. A few final decorative flourishes always help – and make sure your photograph is nice and clear so the our judges can see your masterpiece in all its glory.



**Enter by Scanning this QR Code!**

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 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 350 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. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

## REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

## COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

## POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

## USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play 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 either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision however, this can be a great lesson in money management for children.

### TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours, of course, isn't healthy but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

### DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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