



Richard Avenue Primary School

Friday Flyer

Weekly Update

Friday 3 May 2024

UPCOMING DATES

RAPS daycare: Breakfast Club from 8-8:45am & After School Club from 3:30pm-5:15pm

Monday 6 May

School closed for **May Bank holiday**

Tuesday 7 May

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by **Reception & Yr 3**

Athletics for **Yrs 3&4**

Swimming for **Y5**

Ukulele for **Y4**

Wednesday 8 May

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by **Yr 1 & 5**

Bikeability for **Y5**

Thursday 9 May

Year 1's assembly for families from 9.10am

Bikeability for **Y5**

Sight test for **reception**

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by **Y5 & Y6**

Swimming for **Y4&5**

Friday 10 May

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by **Y2 & Y5**

Bikeability for **Y5**

Swimming for **Y4&5**

Future dates for your diary

Parent appointments for **1W & 3D - 20th May** from 1.45-6.40pm

Reception assembly for families - **Thursday 23rd May@ 9.10am**

School closes for the May half term holiday - **Friday 24th May**

School re-opens for the second half of the summer term - **Monday 3rd June**

Head Teacher comment Dear Richard Avenue Families, There is never a quiet time in school, and this week has been no different. Although the weather has not been warm, the children have continued to make us smile, working hard both in and out of class. We've enjoyed a visit to Barnes Park, Comando Joe sessions, music, PE, arts and much, much more. We pack every school day with so much; it's a busy time. In order to ensure the children get the very best out of every day, you may want to look at the amount of sleep that different aged children are advised to have each night. This website from Great Ormond Street Hospital is quite useful: <https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/conditions-andtreatments/procedures-and-treatments/sleep-hygiene-children/> For 1W & 3D families, don't forget to book your appointment for the upcoming parent and teacher meetings which take place on Monday 20th May. Letters have been sent home with children. If you can't lay your hands on yours, please let the school office know. These meetings are invaluable and we really look forward to speaking to our families.

We hope everyone enjoys the Bank Holiday weekend, whatever you are doing.

With very best wishes, *Claire McKinney*.

Miss McKinney and all of the staff at Richard Avenue Primary School

Assembly stars. Last week's stars were:

Nursery: Zakariya

Rec: Kaison & Eseosa

Y1: Isla & RH Kaison

Y2: Dhanan & Ethan

Y3: Zach & Poppie

Y4: Fola & Milo

Y5: Jibreel & Atif

Y6: Peculiar



Well done everyone, you are all RAPS stars!

In this week's assemblies. This week we enjoyed a visit from the *Youth for Christ* team who always make us think about important lessons and morals in a lively way. This week was no exception with a focus on teamwork and cooperation.

We have also been talking about what it means to demonstrate good teamwork and cooperation. As this is one of our RAPS values, we have all tried especially hard to work well with others and support our peers.

Remember **TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More.**



Have you logged into your child's **Seesaw** account this week? Staff have shared a number of updates. *If you need a new invitation, please contact your child's class teacher.*

Clubs update. It is good to see that our new after school clubs are proving to be hugely popular with all of the children. Many thanks for your support with the organising of children, which we know is not an easy task. Parents should collect their children from the school yard when our clubs end at 4.30pm. Thank you.

Traffic and parking update. As we are all very aware, the traffic around school at drop off and pick up is a huge problem - in spite of our new yellow lines. We are in continued conversation with our local councillor to try and come up with yet more strategies which will help improve things but this is and will be an ongoing project. When the school was built, there were far fewer cars on the road than there are now and the infrastructure was not built for the increased congestion. We have had a look at where most of our families live and thought it would interest you to see how far and wide our families come, many of whom will need to drive to school not only for the distance but to enable them to go off to work from drop off. However, there are also many families who live very close to school, who could benefit from walking, scooting or riding to school. No matter what you choose to do to get here in the morning, could we please remind everyone that in partnership, we are a team, between home and school. Please do keep this in mind when you are dropping off or collecting your children, and ensure you behave respectfully towards other families and members of the community. When tensions rise because of traffic issues, tempers also tend to become difficult. Please try to be mindful of others and act responsibly at all times. **Be aware that the new yellow lines will be policed over the next few weeks, with parking fines handed out. There must be no parking at all in the area around our school - this also includes dropping off the children. For the safety of the children, this is a no stopping zone.** We thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Year 1's class assembly for families on Thursday 9th May from 9.10am. Please come into school via the main entrance. The assembly will begin shortly after 9am and last for approx. 20 mins. Y1 families very welcome!



Please remember, we have moved over to **Arbor for communications.** All messages are now being sent via Arbor, not School Gateway. If you haven't already, please ensure you download the app to be able to receive important information from us. We are continuing to use Sunderland City Council for payments although will be writing to you shortly about our next step, which will involve moving over to Arbor for payments and out of school club bookings. It's all going very well so far :-)

Safeguarding - staying mentally healthy during test periods. As we head towards a period of the year where children will be taking SATs, GCSEs and A-Level examinations, it is worth revising how we can support young people at what can be a very stressful time. At Richard Avenue, we make every effort to take the pressure out of statutory testing and use these opportunities to celebrate the children's wonderful progress. For children who do find this time of the year more challenging, this series of [support pages](#) from **Young Minds** provides advice for managing exam related anxiety for parents and of course, young people themselves.



Attendance of the week. Congratulations to **1W** who are our weekly winners. Weekly whole school attendance is **94.46%**

CLASS	ATTENDANCE %	CLASS	ATTENDANCE %
NURSERY MORN	86.1	3D	94.7
NURSERY AFT	90.0	3M	94.8
RH	95.0	4G	95.4
RM	91.8	4S	91.9
1G	95.0	5B	97.3
1W	97.4	5W	87.9
2CW	97.2	6C	93.8
2W	95.2	6H	94.0

Attendance Guide	
95% - 100%	Excellent level of attendance
90% - 94%	Good level of attendance
80% - 89%	Concerning level of attendance
Below 80%	Serious concern

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

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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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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Safety
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