



From The Principals' Desk

Dear Families,
Heard of Fortnite?

Fortnite or **Fortnite Battle Royale** is the latest craze being spoken about amongst the kids in our school. Last year, it was buzzing between the Year 5/6s but this year, it seems the 3/4 students are into it. Conversations about the game have even been heard in Prep – 2 classrooms. Apparently it is cool to “play” Fortnite in the school yard. During recent staff and leaders meetings the topic of Fortnite has been raised as our staff are seeing visible negative changes in some students’ behaviour and language. It has also been suggested that this game is leading to some heightened anxiety and distress in some children.

I have accessed the website of the **Office of the eSafety Commissioner** for some guidance and advice to share with you today as this new craze is impacting classrooms and the playground in ways that bottle flipping, fidget spinners, ‘Pokemon Go’ and even ‘Minecraft’ have not!

So what do we know about it?

- Fortnite is a free, online, third person shooter game played on iOS devices and will soon be on Android devices as well. It can also be played on PlayStation 4 and Xbox One.
- The aim of Fortnite is to defeat other players by fighting against them. In Battle Royale, 100 players compete against each other to be the last person standing in player vs player (PVP) combat.
- Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12, **PEGI** have said this is due to the: *‘frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age’*.
- This PEGI rating only takes into account the content in the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers in voice or on-screen text chat.
- In order to play Fortnite you have to create an account which requires you to provide an email address, however you are not asked for proof of age in order to create an account.
- As an online game you play against players of different ages from all over the world.
- Fortnite includes an in-game chatroom. You cannot turn this chat off or choose who you want to play against.

As with all learning – academic, social, emotional, we invite and promote a strong Home – School partnership so that we can support our Willy Kids with the best possible conditions for strong wellbeing and success. If your child is talking about or playing Fortnite, we strongly encourage you to find out as much as you can about the game. The best way to do this may in fact be to play the game with your child. That way you can witness not only the game itself, but perhaps more importantly, the response it elicits from your child. If you have noticed your child is wanting to play it more and more often, is becoming disengaged from regular family conversations or activities, or is not sleeping or wanting to participate in other age appropriate experiences, you may decide to adjust the time he / she is spending interacting with this game.

As a school, we will not endure conversations about Fortnite in the classroom. Furthermore, as with all outside play, play which imitates fighting, such as this game does, will also be actively discouraged. We ask our families to support these messages and be attentive to the online space their children are engaged with. For further information please consult:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/games-apps-and-social-networking/fortnite>
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-fortnite-battle-royal>

The next few weeks will be very busy with a number of events: Next week is SCIENCE WEEK at Willy as well as the week of the annual school Book Fair and next week we celebrate our wonderful Education Support Staff!

Pupil free day on MONDAY

Don't forget our next **Pupil-free Day** (for Staff Professional Learning and Practice) is on Monday August 13th. OSCH Club is taking enrolments for this day. This day will be dedicated to the review of our Willy Kids Program which was first developed many, many years ago.

The purpose of this review is to ensure the longstanding success of the program continues within the context of today's world, promoting strong social and emotional learning amongst our students, in preparation for a happy safe and successful life.

Family Science Night

We had a huge number of families register their interest for the **Family Science Evening** on Thursday 16th. We had originally planned for 130 people to join us. After such a massive interest we have been able to extend this to 156. This is unfortunately still not enough to accommodate all those who wanted to attend. We apologize for this disappointment. Should there be any last minute withdrawals we would hope families could let us know so that we can extend a place to our waiting list.

Reminders:

- Good luck to our sports teams heading off today and throughout the week to take on the other schools at the District level
- Our Book Fair takes place next week in the library. We hope to see lots of visitors supporting this event which in turn helps our school purchase new books for the library.
- Parents must contact the school to inform us of their child's absence ASAP. An automated text message will now be sent to families on the same day their child is absent, via the Compass app.
- Have your say... Our 2018 Parent Opinion Survey is now open for those families randomly selected to participate. The survey closes on Sunday August 26th. We hope yours will be among those submitted. Many thanks to those who have already completed theirs.

Have a wonderful week.

Mat and Andrea

Dates to Remember

Term 3-

Week 5- 13.08.18

SCIENCE WEEK

Mon: **Curriculum day #4**
Tues-Fri: **BOOK FAIR**
Tues: **UNSW Mathematics Competition**
Tues: **School council meeting 6:30pm**
Thurs.: **Family Science Night**

Week 6- 20.08.18

BOOK WEEK

Mon: **The Flying Book Worm incursion**
Tues: **Friends of Willy meeting 7pm**
Thurs **Disco**
Fri **Book Week Dress Up Day**

Week 7- 27.08.18

Mon-Fri: **Prep Swimming Program**
Thurs: **Father's Day stall**
Fri: **District Athletics**

Week 8- 03.09.18

Mon-Fri: **Prep Swimming Program**

Week 9- 10.09.18

Mon-Fri: **Year 3/4 Zoo Snoozes**
Wed: **Kids Share Open Afternoon**

Week 10- 17.09.18

Mon-Wed **Year 3 / 4 Zoo Snoozes**
Tues: **School council meeting 6:30pm**
Wed:: **Year 2 Sleepover**
Thurs: **Senior Music Concert**
Fri: **Footy Day!**
End of Term 3, early dismissal @ 2:30pm