

Churchfields' Weekly Newsletter

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Friday 20th Sept 2024

Dear Parents/Carer,

It has been lovely to get a bit of sunshine this week and to hear all the games and PE lessons happening just outside my window at Atworth. This week I could hear Key Stage 2 enjoying hockey with Lou from Team Bath Buccaneers Hockey Club, who was working with pupils at Monkton Farleigh last term.

School Council Vacancies

This week pupils have also been learning about the School Council and considering whether they would like to join it! The school council plays a crucial role in fostering pupil leadership, responsibility, and community engagement. By giving our pupils a platform to voice their opinions, share their ideas, and take part in decision-making processes, we empower them to take ownership of the school environment. The School Council helps to create a sense of collaboration between all members of our school community, ensuring that the children's voices are heard and valued. It also teaches essential life skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork, which will serve our pupils well beyond their time at school. If your child is considering applying, please encourage them to do so – they need to tell their teacher and then jot down a few ideas at home about why they would make a good school councillor.

Secondary schools

This week I was invited to look around St Laurence school and was really impressed by how calm all the environments were and how polite and well behaved all the students were. All the classrooms had an air of purposeful learning. Luckily it was a guided tour, as I think I would have got lost otherwise!

If your child is in Year 5 or 6, do keep your eyes open and look on websites for open days; the more schools you look at, the better idea you will have of which school is right for your child.

Competition

Although I have had a few colourful entries for the school rules competition, I have decided to extend the deadline until Monday 23rd, so if your child wishes to participate, it's an A4 poster to display the school rules: Ready, Respectful, Safe. I look forward to seeing them.

Wishing you a peaceful and happy weekend.

Best wishes,

Heather

Heather Saunders

Contact details:

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Mathletics

Wow! I know I said that last week but I think I am justified in repeating this week. This may be our highest ever number of mathletics certificates - an astonishing 55! That's nearly half the school, and quite a lot of typing for me...

Bronze : Isabella S, Oliver H, Theo, Sophie Jo, Quita, Alex C, Ted E, Sammy, Isabella R, Hector G, Ryley, Harri S, Coralie, Harley, Hattie D, Henry B, Julia, Esme R, Louie, Chloe, Anouk, Ruby, Elijah, Quinn, Niamh, Scarlett, George R, Joseph, Vinnie, Emily J,

Iris, Imogen W, Morgan, Alexis M, Bodhi C, Maggie, Christina, Branwen, Henry J, Jude, Florence W,

Jasper, Ella B, William CJ, Mali, William J, Rosemary, Jason, Leighton, Oliver CJ, Benjamin

Silver : Jazmyne, Alexis G, Maddox, Felix



Corsham Windband Association is a member of Wiltshire Music Connect. Established in 1981, we currently deliver voluntary class music lessons (brass, woodwind and percussion) in three primary schools. We also provide the opportunity for members (£12 per month including instrument) to participate in 4 windbands. All sessions are held during term time at Pound Arts, Pound Pill, Corsham:

Beginner (new starters): Friday 6 – 6.30pm

Training (up to Grade 2): Saturday 9.15 – 10am

Spectrum (any players): Saturday 10.30 – 11.30am

Youth Concert Band (Grade 3 – Grade 8): Friday 7pm – 8.45pm

Theory lessons: Saturday 9am – 10am

<https://corshamwindband.org/>

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Corsham School Open morning

We are delighted to invite you to our Open Working Morning at The Corsham School on **Wednesday 25th September 2024 from 9am-11am**. This is a great opportunity to visit our school and see it in action on a normal school day.

The morning begins with a talk from Mr Bell, Headteacher, in our Main Hall (S Block Hall) at 9am followed by an opportunity to tour the school with one of our Student Guides. You will have the opportunity to see different subject areas and to ask questions of students and staff. Children accompanied by parents/carers are very welcome.

Whilst there is no requirement to book, if you would like to register your interest to attend, please complete the form on our Open Events page on our website: [Open events - The Corsham School](#)

We look forward to welcoming you on Wednesday 25th September 2024.

Destiny Africa Children's Choir are returning to Wiltshire at the beginning of October. We've been able to arrange for them to visit a few schools in Melksham and Trowbridge, but alas there isn't time for them to visit all of them.

To make sure that no-one misses out, we are putting on a concert at Melksham Assembly Hall on Friday October 11th at 7:00pm.

www.melkshamassembly.co.uk/events

I've attached a poster and a link to short YouTube video of the choir performing. <https://youtu.be/SP8K9DrF7hs>

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Term dates for 2023/2024

<p>Term 1: Monday 2 September – Wed 23rd October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 2nd – INSET DAY (school closed) Friday 4th Oct – INSET DAY (school closed) 	<p>Term 2: Monday 4th Nov – Fri 20th December</p>
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Term 1 & 2

TERM 1	
30 Sept – 4 Oct	Book Week
Tuesday 1 st Oct	Parents evening until 7.30
Tuesday 1 st Oct	Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday 3 rd Oct	Parents evening until 6.00pm
Friday 4 th Oct	INSET DAY (school closed)
Monday 7 th Oct	Harvest Festival Atworth 1.15
Tuesday 8 th Oct	Bedtime stories (5-6pm)
Friday 11 th Oct	MF Open day
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Wednesday 23 rd Oct	End of term 1
TERM 2	
Monday 11 th Nov - Friday 15 Nov	Anti - bullying week
Friday 15 th Nov	Children in need
Monday 2 nd Dec	Open day both sites Atworth 10-2 Monkton Farleigh 10-2
Friday 6 th Dec	School nurse Whole school Flu immunisations
Tuesday 10 th Dec	KS2 Production 4pm/6pm TBC
Thursday 12 th Dec	R/KS1 Production 4pm/6pm TBC
Tuesday 17 Dec	Carols St Michaels Atworth 1:15
Wednesday 18 Dec	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 19 th Dec	Carols St. Peters Monkton Farleigh 1:15
Friday 20 th Dec	End of Term 2

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At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 16

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

ALWAYS ONLINE

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMO/RPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release earmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial. If someone stops playing, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue racking up automatically.

VOICE & TEXT CHAT

Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of choice for how those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unsolicited messages from a stranger, with whom you constantly share your play space.

VIOLENCE

While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even wild animals. The violence isn't especially strong – more comparable to a cartoon or anime at its best – but the fact alone may make some children feel uncomfortable, if they're not yet able to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engaging, as minutes turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing out on the events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game and procrastination around responsibilities like homework.

FREE TRIAL

Advice for Parents & Educators

MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial. If someone stops playing, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue racking up automatically.

PLAY TOGETHER

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it out.

MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character has level 20. That's easily dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend so much on a game.

REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for Violence and Drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can attack enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of **GOBeacon**, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has previously been published at sites including IGN, Techradar and plenty more.



WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: see full reference list on guide page at <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/final-fantasy-14/>

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