



Telford Infant School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Supporting Esafety messages at home

Welcome back to the start of the new school year. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying their new classes and to welcome all the new reception children. Lots of children have enjoyed telling their teachers about the exciting things they have done over the holidays.

The safety of all the children is very important to us and we are becoming increasingly concerned with the number of children in all year groups, who are telling us that they regularly play computer games at home which are not age appropriate. This has led to a small number of children wanting to act out inappropriate games in the playground which clearly we will not allow in school.

One game in particular called Fortnite is currently very popular with lots of children across the world and many of our children are telling us they are playing it or watch older siblings playing it.

The following information has been taken from a web site which helps parents make informed decisions about games and films their child may want to play and watch; <https://www.common sense media.org>

What is Fortnite

Fortnite is a video game for PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Windows, Mac, and mobile that takes elements from sandbox-building games and adds the fast-paced action of a third-person shooter. There are two modes to the game: a solo version called *Save the World* and the hugely popular multiplayer version called *Battle Royale*.

What is Fortnite: Battle Royale?

If your kids say they're playing *Fortnite*, they're probably talking about *Battle Royale*, the free-to-play multiplayer offshoot of *Fortnite*. In this version, up to 100 people participate in a match together. Players are dropped onto the game map and must compete to be the last one standing by killing every other player in the game. During the game, players collect weapons, build safe structures, and try to avoid the Storm that damages all players outside of a safe zone. Unlike the *Save the World* version, there aren't any zombies to kill, which makes it a less scary version to play. However, players can buy items to make themselves look like a zombie or another creepy character.

Is Fortnite appropriate for kids?

For some parents, the cartoonish, bloodless style of the action in *Fortnite* makes the violence less problematic than the aggressive gore in other popular shooter games. But the game's online chat feature -- especially in *Battle Royale* -- could **expose younger players to offensive language or mature content from random strangers**. Common Sense doesn't recommend games with open chat for kids under 13, but with the right controls and parental guidance, this can be a tween-friendly alternative to violent first-person shooters.

What age should kids be to play Fortnite?

Common Sense recommends *Fortnite* for teens 13 and up, primarily because of the open chat and action violence.

Can players chat with each other in *Fortnite: Battle Royale*?

There is live, unmoderated chat possible between users in the console and PC versions of *Fortnite: Battle Royale*. Both voice chat and on-screen text chat are options. This exposes players to random strangers and the likelihood of profanity. Chat is currently unavailable in the mobile version of the game.

We hope you have found this information useful and highly recommend you use the web site to make an informed decision and promote esafety at home.

<https://www.common sense media.org>

If you would like further support in implementing esafety at home you can find more information on our school website https://telfordinfant.eschools.co.uk/web/online_safety/313539

Alternatively please speak your child's class teacher or make an appointment to meet with myself as the school's ESafety Coordinator.

Kind regards



Louise Roberts
Deputy Headteacher and ESafety Coordinator



Race equality

