

# Berrycoombe School

Berrycoombe Vale

Bodmin

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**Head Teacher: Craig Robertson**



Dear Parent/Carer

We have been contacted by another school in Bodmin regarding five of their pupils being groomed via the game 'Fortnite'. This person has made contact with many children and has been grooming five children that the school know about. This issue was raised by a parent to their school and intervention has been put in place and the police notified and they are currently investigating these cases.

You may have seen news reports or heard concerns raised about the game 'Fortnite' especially regarding communication between players: a chat function allows players to talk to each other either over a headset and microphone, or using messaging. Children could use it to speak to strangers, or it could put them at risk of cyberbullying.

To play the game, the age recommendation is 12 and above due to 'mild violence', although you do not have to provide your age when creating an account, so younger children can still log on easily and we know that all ages do play this game. We just ask you to be fully aware of what games and other media your children are accessing and ensure you and your children are aware of exactly who they are communicating with and how to keep themselves safe online.

For more information on the game, use the below link for a parent's guide to Fortnite.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-fortnite-battle-royale>

This week Craig will be speaking in assembly to pupils about internet safety, and looking after themselves when online. Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will also be discussing this in class. We have added the videos that will be shared with pupils on to our school website and Facebook page so that you can watch these with your children at home.

Points to remember:

- Do not share your personal details with anyone- address, age, date of birth, telephone numbers, the school you attend.
- If you feel uncomfortable at any time about anything then speak to a trusted adult.
- Parents, consoles have simple procedure to report/block other users. PSN-PlayStation network and Xbox Live

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter or online safety then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Claire Johnson  
Parent Support Advisor

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