Fortnite: Chapter 2 has finally landed! With a whole host of new in-game features including a brand-new map,
more water-based activities, upgraded character skins and a more streamlined arsenal of weapons, this Fortnite
is promising to be the best yet. Almost all of the changes are cosmetic which means the concept of the game
remains the same, with players still aiming to be the last man standing. Players will no doubt find the game much
more enjoyable with so much more to explore. For parents and carers however, it pays to remain vigilant.

## BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar setup. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to
beat all the other players to be crowned victor at beat all the other players to be crowned victor at movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.

## SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to everybody and don't require additional money to play, though battle passes for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will typically allow a player to earn experience
faster and gain fun in-game items by faster and gain fun in-game items by
completing a host of daily challenges.

## IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is no
solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time piayed and a preoccupation with thoughts to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.

## CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account. Doing this removes the age-old boundary of not being able to play together because you don't have the same console and open up a whole new world of playing online with friends.

FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?
While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying) it does come with the caveat that spending
money on things like skins and emotes money on things like skins and emotes
in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called' V -Bucks' and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bu can be earned in-game with enough play time.

## IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as teen, as it contains cartoony violence and th weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit will want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.


## BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of y-Bucks which can be bought with real mon you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion would be capping the spending at around $£ 50$ this is the normal retail price of a game


## Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun

## GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good idea for friends playing together, to be grouped togethe The only real countermeasure to interacting with strangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic communications, which can be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who
you're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.

## CAN DEVELOP SOME

 IMPORTANT SKILLS It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, quick and complex problem solving and the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important other activities is of course important,there are benefits to screen time which
might not be immediately obvious.

