

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

15/09/2023



There's a really happy, positive buzz around school this September, with all our children really well settled in their new classes and enjoying their learning. Behaviour around school is excellent and it is wonderful to everyone welcome and support the many new pupils who have joined our school so far this year. We have many exciting trips, speakers and special events planned for the term which link to our curriculum and will enable our children know more, remember more and do more.

Our staff are working harder than ever to ensure all our children make excellent progress. You can help too and it's really easy...

1. Make sure your child is in school every day **on time**. We can administer prescribed medicine and pain killers (such as Calpol) to children with your consent so even if they have a cold or are a bit under the weather, send them in and we will call you if they become too unwell to be in school.
2. Read **WITH** your child every night – just 10/15 minutes will make a HUGE difference. Talk with your children about what they are reading and encourage them to read independently if they are able to. This is the **MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO** to support your child's future success; as children who read widely and often achieve better than those who don't.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Hodgkinson

## LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE: HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS WE HAVE LET OUR LIGHT SHINE THIS WEEK...



### Our Christian Value for this half term is:

#### *'Generosity'*

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

**Mother Teresa**

This week we pray for all those affected by the earthquake in Morocco and the floods in Libya.

#### **This week's big question is:**

How does being generous make you feel?



*Start and Finish Times*

School opens at 8:40am and all children should be in school by 8:45am. Gates are locked at 8:50am and anyone who arrives after this time will need to enter via the school office and be marked as late. At the end of the day, doors open at 3:10pm and all children should be collected by 3:15pm. Being just a few minutes late each day adds up to days of lost learning over a year - BE ON TIME!

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*Playtime Snacks*

We are a healthy school and constantly reinforce with our children that healthy eating and regular exercise lead to positive mental and physical health. Part of this is to educate our children to eat as healthily as possible, as this contributes to future success. The only snacks we allow at playtimes are toast or fruit, these can be brought in from home or toast can be purchased via ParentPay. Thank you for your support.

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*Nut Allergy*

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*Water Bottles*

Children are asked to bring a bottle to school filled with water which they can drink throughout the day. Drinking water throughout the day keeps children's brains hydrated and helps them to learn well. Only water is allowed in these bottles, as drinking juice throughout the day causes tooth decay. Children can drink juice with their dinner. If any children persist in bringing juice in their water bottles, parents will be contacted.

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**Staying Safe Online**

Our e safety message this week focuses on gaming, as it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most popular online activity for children in the UK. Recent data shows an overwhelming 89% of children aged 3-17 play video games. Of those, 22% speak to people through the game that they don't know. This can be very worrying for our parents and carers, so our guide this week, looks at hints and tips that can help with boundaries.

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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one or many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for parents.

# Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware of how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's leading trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need for time regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Remind them that some games (such as role-playing games) need time investments from the player, while others (online games) need time investments to be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could encourage your child to make breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't understand much about the value of digital items and subscriptions for digital items and subscriptions. Encourage your child to think twice before buying new items, or set rules for their spending, so you can ensure an agreed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. A boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

18  
RECOMMENDED

Children often ignore the age ratings on game boxes or download how they're rated. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even before it's a release date, then you're also likely to be a good role model for them. You could also talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by showing game boxes featuring while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle. For when friends visit, do they instantly drop to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time, being in mind. Though, it's not always easy to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they play, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding experience. Unfortunately, some games may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging your child to play more responsibly. Setting pools or tasks might be useful if they love Monopoly, choose something to build together, or try out some of the fun game modes. Use these time, which don't require high skills levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play, discuss what is (or isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions affect their real-life games can provoke anger, but often can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to make your child aware of games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is that players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide how to handle these deal with these online trolls. Talk about why it's important to set boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line into being upsetting or abusive.

## Meet Our Expert

Samuel Hoggins, a content specialist in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and much more. He has also written 10 books for children, covering games such as Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. He has been published by the BBC, PC Gamer, Games, Pocket Gamer and NCA. He has released more than 10 games and products over the past year.

Source: <https://pages.aboutjournalism.com>

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**Calling all Jigsaw enthusiasts**

St Elphin's, St Barnabas & Holy Trinity Churches  
invite you to join them at St Elphin's Church,  
Church Street, Warrington, WA1 2TL for a

# **Jigsaw Festival**

**22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Friday: 12.00 - 5.00pm**

**Sat: 10.00 - 4.00pm**

**Sunday: 1.00 - 5.00pm**

**Other Stalls include:**

Refreshments	Cake Stall
Chocolate Tombola	Jams Stall
Knitted goods	Candles
Stained Glass	Body Shop

**Admission £2.00 includes free raffle**  
(free re-admission with programme  
over the 3 days)

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## Stained Glass

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Dates for your Diary Autumn Half Term 1	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Y5 Swimming at Orford Jubilee Hub
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Y4 trip to Liverpool World Museum
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Y5 Swimming at Orford Jubilee Hub
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	9:10m Bible presentation for new Reception pupils in St Barnabas Church – parents/carers of reception pupils invited, followed by cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Research.
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Jigsaw Festival at St Elphin's Church – all families welcome
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	School Photos
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Y5 Swimming at Orford Jubilee Hub
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	9am Harvest Worship led by Y5 Parents of Y5 invited
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Y5 Swimming at Orford Jubilee Hub
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	9am Reading workshop for parents of reception and Y1 children
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu immunisations for reception to Y6 pupils (consent required from parents)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Y5 Swimming at Orford Jubilee Hub
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Book Fair
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October & Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evenings for all classes
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term

School Term Dates 2023 - 2024	
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	School opens
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School closes for Christmas break
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	School opens
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	School opens
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	School closes for Easter break
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	School opens
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday – school closed
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	School closes for half term
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	School opens
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for Summer break

