

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

26/05/2023



'Let your light shine'

Well, we've come to the end of yet another half term – this year really is flying by! I was reflecting on some of the events and achievements over the last few weeks and there really are too many to mention! Across the school, I am proud of our children's attainment and progress, and it is wonderful to hear our pupils talking confidently about their learning using subject specific vocabulary. Our year 2 and year 6 children have approached their SATs tests with perseverance and worked their socks off; and year 6 really stepped out of their comfort zone during their stay at Forest Camp. Many children have represented school in sporting events from rugby to tri-golf and most classes have been out on trips. One thing that always makes me exceptionally proud is whenever our children are on trips or at sporting events, their excellent behaviour, attitude and manners are always commented upon by the organisers. The next half term will be equally packed with exciting activities and I look forward to seeing the many ways our children will let their light shine.

Have a lovely half term everyone.
Miss Hodgkinson

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



Confirmation

We had a fabulous time at the confirmation service at St Andrew's Church on Sunday, where we met the Bishop of Liverpool. Congratulations to all the children who chose to be confirmed.

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Service'

This week we pray for those who have lost loved ones.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

This week's big question is:

Do some charities/causes deserve more help than others?



Staying Safe Online

This week's e safety guide focuses on the impact of influencers. Many people online, have the platform to use their voice and comment on anything from fashion and makeup to sport and fitness. Very often these people are not experts and are merely sharing an opinion. Our guide this week, gives tips and advice on how to navigate the world of influencers and how to distinguish genuine posts from that of biased ones.

Be on time!

Being on time to school every day is really important. Children who are late miss vital learning and are picking up bad habits that could affect their future employability. Being just a few minutes late each day builds up to large amounts of lost learning over a school year. If your child is late twice within a 2-week period, you will be contacted to discuss how we can support you to get to school on time.

Minutes late per day	Days of lost learning in a year
5 minutes	3 ½ days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	10 days

Please make sure your child is in school by 8:45am EVERY DAY ready to learn.

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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM**
A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising; this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.
- THE SOFT SELL**
Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.
- PRIVACY CONCERNS**
Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routines. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.
- UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM**
Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- KEEP TALKING**
Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.
- SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE**
Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.
- SET SOME BOUNDARIES**
Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). It's also important to regularly remind them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.
- PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY**
Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

Meet Our Expert
A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headteacher and DSL, Brandon O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experiences of children, staff and parents – and what strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a repository of risks.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Dates for your Diary

26.5.23	School closes for Whit Break
12.6.23	School opens
22.6.23	Y5 trip to Rock Oil
27.6.23	Y5 trip to Forest Camp Activity Centre
29.6.23	Y5 Discovery Day at St Gregory's High School
30.6.23	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
3.7.23 – 7.7.23	Health and Lifestyles Week
4.7.23	Sports Day
5 & 6.7.23	Y6 high school transition days
6.7.23	Y4 Music Festival at St Margaret's CE Primary School
10.7.23	Children's University Graduation Ceremony
11.7.23 & 12.7.23	Y5/6 Bikeability
13.7.23	Y6 Leavers' Party
14.7.23	Y4 trip to Jorvic Viking Centre, York
20.7.23	2:30pm Y4 Keyboard Concert
21.7.23	School closes for summer break

