

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

23/06/2023



'Let your light shine'

One thing that always impresses me about our children is that they are looking for ways to help others. Harley and Cameron in year 6 are really concerned about environmental issues, especially sea pollution and have been working hard to organise a fundraising event. Please read the message they have written for you.

*We will be holding a fundraiser on **Friday 7th July**. It will be to raise money to support charities that protect our oceans and help to remove litter and pollution from them. We are doing this to protect our seas. Friday 7th July will be a non-uniform day and we will also be selling ice lollies and ice pops. Please bring a donation to school.*

Harley and Cameron, year 6.

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:

'Wisdom'

This week we pray for those who lost their lives in the Atlantic Ocean this week.

"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."

Aristotle

This week's big question is:

Can we ever know everything?

Warrington Walking Day - Friday 30th June

Warrington Walking Day will be taking place on Friday 30th June 2023. It is a special parade of local schools and community groups; the parade starts at school and walks through town on a special route through the Golden Gates – it is a special event for the whole town with music and spectators - something that makes Warrington unique. This year we are taking part again and would love you to join us to celebrate this wonderful event which makes up part of Warrington's cultural heritage. Please see the letter sent out today for more information.



Staying Safe Online

Artificial Intelligence has been receiving lots of attention recently and our guide this week, looks at the AI platforms out there. These include Replika and Kuki and Snapchat has recently developed 'My AI.' As parents and carers, we need to be aware of the potential dangers that AI can bring with it and the guide explores some of the limitations and weak spots of this futuristic technology.

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.

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial Intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software (building on AI elements to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example)) or new forms of AI to become especially popular. One form of AI to become especially popular has been the AI friend or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If your child becomes dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues it recognises signs of distress in children or most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately, or misinterpreting what it's being told or responding insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuances. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is essential to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover what they're doing and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable, since you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment. Ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that chatbots are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child, in particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert
A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges to deliver and the subject, with a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security. He believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 21.08.2023

Dates for your diary

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 27.6.23 | Y5 trip to Forest Camp Activity Centre |
| 27.6.23 | 2pm Meeting for parents/carers of new reception children |
| 29.6.23 | Y5 Discovery Day at St Gregory's High School |
| 30.6.23 | Warrington Walking Day – school closed We are taking part in the parade and walking from school – everyone welcome to attend. |
| 3.7.23 – 7.7.23 | Health and Lifestyles Week |
| 4.7.23 | Sports Day – Reception – 9am-10am Years 1&2 - 10:30am – 11:30am Years 3&4 – 12:45pm-1:45pm Years 5&6 – 2:15pm – 3:15pm |
| 6.7.23 | Moving Up Day |
| 6.7.23 | Y6 high school transition days |
| 6.7.23 | 3:15 – 4:15 Reading Picnic – ALL FAMILIES INVITED |
| 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 |
| 19.7.23 | 2pm Year 6 Leavers' Service |
| 20.7.23 | 2:30pm Y4 Keyboard Concert |
| 21.7.23 | Summer Fun Day! School closes for summer break |





Sensational Summer Raffle



Draw Date: Wednesday 12th July 2023

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 st Prize | £100  Gift Vouchers |
| 2 nd Prize | Knowsley Safari Park – Family Ticket |
| 3 rd Prize | Gulliver’s World – 2 Tickets |
| 4 th Prize | Tower of Toys |
| 5 th Prize | The Jungle Soft Play Centre – 2 Tickets |
| 6 th Prize | Lego Ninjago Spinjitzu Master |
| 7 th Prize | Craft Kit Bundle |
| 8 th Prize | Book Bundle |
| 9 th Prize | Lavender Bath Set |
| 10 th Prize | Teddy and Cath Kidston Water Bottle |
| 11 th Prize | World Wildlife Fund Craft Sets |
| 12 th Prize | Children’s Bath-time Bundle |
| 13 th prize | Teddy Bear |
| 14 th Prize | Pot Pourri and Scented Diffuser |

**Tickets are just 25p each or £1 per book
On Sale Now!**



JUNIORS PROJECT NIGHT

New sessions starting Sunday 2nd July for
young people age 7-12 years

Sessions last between 1-2.5hrs depending on the activity

- Badminton *5pm
- Book Club *4pm
- Dance Squad *4pm
- DJ for beginners *4pm
- Hama Beads *5:30pm
- Learn a language - Mandarin Chinese *5:30pm
- Martial Arts *4pm, 5pm & 6pm
- Performing Arts- Summer Show *5pm
- Photography *4pm & 6pm
- Rock Climbing *4pm, 5pm & 6pm
- Roller Skating- bring your own skates or use ours! *7pm
- Science Fayre *4pm
- Sewing - Costumes for the summer show *4pm & 5pm

**Youth Zone Membership is required (one off £5 payment)
then 50p per session **

Book on the Warrington Youth Zone Website or at reception.
Limited Spaces available!

For further information email dawn.dean @wyz.org.uk

