

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

10/10/2023



*'Let your light shine'*

Our children have incredible leadership skills and are always keen to take on positions of responsibility. A very important role for some of our year 5 and 6 pupils is to become a mini police officer. Many children underwent a tough selection process, including being interviewed by a real police officer, then the children who were selected were invited to Warrington Police Station on Wednesday to take part in a special attestation ceremony, just as real police officers do.

Whenever we take our children out of school, I am always confident that they will be excellent ambassadors for our school. This was definitely true of our mini police officers when they visited the police station on Wednesday. During the visit they met some high-ranking police officers who were all impressed with our children's confidence, public speaking and ideas about how to work together to make Warrington a safer place. Yet another great example of our children 'letting their light shine.'

*Miss Hodgkinson*



HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS OUR AMAZING CHILDREN HAVE 'LET THEIR LIGHT SHINE' THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL...



## Our Christian Value for this half term is:

### *'Wisdom'*

"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."  
Proverbs 3:7

This week we remember and pray for all those who have served in the armed forces, past and present. We thank you for your courage and the sacrifices you have made for us to live in freedom.

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

How can I gain wisdom?



## Places in St Barnabas Nursery Available

We are now accepting applications for places in our nursery for January 2024.

Please ask the school office for an application form or to make an appointment to look around.

We can also assist with 2 year old funding applications.

If you think you may be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare please visit the Childcare Choices website:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/upcoming-changes-to-childcare-support/>



### Confirmation Classes

We will be running Confirmation Classes for children in year 5 and 6 after school every Tuesday from 3:15 until 4:15 starting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, in preparation for the Confirmation Service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January. A link to sign up will be sent out next week.

### Children in Need

We will be supporting Children in Need on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Children can come to school wearing something yellow or something spotty – or just non-uniform for a donation which can be bought to school (not via Parent Pay).

We will also be holding a cake sale, with cakes for sale from 20p to £1.



Happy Diwali to all our Hindu and Sikh friends and families.

“When the inner lamp burns, it illuminates the whole world.”

### Staying Safe Online

This week our e safety guide tells parents and carers everything they need to know about microtransactions. They can become very addictive and have been said by some to encourage gambling, especially when children are in games such as Fortnite and FIFA, whereby they are expected to pay for extra items to win. Our guide gives hints and tips on the risks and how to help our children.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as “MTX”) are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

#### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

#### PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

#### EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

### DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

### AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

### SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

### CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

### (GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

### STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

### WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech website The Register, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

## NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



St. Barnabas Church

# Christmas Fair



**In Church**  
**SATURDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 18th.**  
**Opening**  
**12-3pm**

Lots of stalls including– Tombola & Children's Tombola, Christmas & Gift Stall, Raffle, Cakes, Jams & Chutneys, Poke a Pot & Refreshments & of course Santa will be with us.



St Barnabas Primary School

## Christmas Raffle

12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Tickets 25p each or £1 per book

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Massive Toy Hamper

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Christmas Treat Hamper

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Harry Potter Bundle

Plus many more prizes...

**ON SALE NOW!**



Dates for your diary	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	School opens
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 trip to Liverpool World Museum
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	1:30 – 2:30pm Open afternoon for families looking for a reception place for September 2024
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	9 – 11am Open morning for families looking for a reception place for September 2024
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	12 – 3pm Christmas Fair at St Barnabas Church – everyone welcome
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Y2 Nativity
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	3:30pm Christingle Service in St Barnabas Church
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School closes for Christmas break at 1:30pm
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	School opens

School Term Dates 2023 - 2024	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School closes for Christmas break at 1:30pm
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

