

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

21/12/2023



'Let your light shine'



Christmas is almost here... 4 more sleeps!



I cannot believe we have reached the end of term! The Autumn term has whizzed by at St Barnabas; it doesn't seem like 5 minutes since the children were returning to school in September and now it's nearly Christmas! There have been so many wonderful achievements in our school, from our new reception class settling into school life and making fantastic progress, incredibly high standards of work produced by our children across the school, children taking on important leadership roles across school, supporting many charities and helping others within our local community and of course some fantastic singing and acting in our Christmas performances. Every child in our school has let their light shine this term and I couldn't be more proud of them. They are, of course, supported and encouraged by our incredible team of staff, who have also worked incredibly hard this term. We've had so much fun in school during December - enjoying the fantastic year 2 nativity, meeting Santa's reindeer, riding on donkeys, Christmas parties and Elf Day to name but a few. I would like to thank all our St Barnabas families for your support this year and for the lovely messages, cards and gifts sent to our staff team – you are very kind and they are very much appreciated.

I would like to wish all our fantastic St Barnabas families a **joyful Christmas and a peaceful new year.**
See you all in 2024!

Miss Hodgkinson

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Wisdom'

"For the Lord gives wisdom, from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Proverbs 2:6

This week we pray for all the children who are homeless this winter.

This week's big question:

Can you regret a wise decision?

Is your child due to start school in September 2024?

Please read the important information below.

First Admission to Primary School – Reception 2024

If your child was born between 01.09.19 – 31.08.2020 you need to apply for a primary school place for September 2024.

Apply online at www.warrington.gov.uk/schools-primary-admissions

If you need help with the application, our office team will be happy to help.

The deadline is 15.1.24

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/>

WE'VE HAD SO MUCH FUN THIS CHRISTMAS ...



Staying Safe Online

This week's guide centres around hints and tips to support parents in creating parental controls on new devices. We are entering the final few days before our children unwrap any new devices that may have been purchased for them and it is really helpful to know how to put protective measures in place. Our guide this week shepherds' families on setting up parental controls on Internet enabled devices.

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 nationalonlinecollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.



IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password is protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however; some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro, and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of Internet safety.

The National College

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Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy new year from everyone at St Barnabas.

School re-opens on Monday 8th January – we look forward to seeing you all then!