

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

28/01/2022



'Let your light shine'

Message from Miss Hodgkinson

Because of our Christian vision, we try our best to live out our Christian values in everything we do. This week has been wonderful to see our children stepping out of their comfort zone and having the courage to try lots of new clubs. Some children were really worried about trying things out like dance and drama which they have never done before, but they were fantastic, displayed courage and really enjoyed the new experiences.

Yesterday our children have been reflecting on the importance of love and peace in our world on Holocaust Remembrance Day, not only by decorating pebbles, but also by living these values out in the way they treat others.



Our mini police have been working hard to help everyone stay safe, by organising a bike-marking event and also presenting to the rest of the school during assembly about online safety. These are all great examples of how our children 'let their light shine' every day.



Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Hodgkinson

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality is vital for your child's future success. All our children have missed enough through the pandemic and now it's even more important than ever that all children attend school every day on time.

All children should be in school by **8:45am**.

Please remember:

90% in a test is good but 90% attendance in your child's life = 1 year missed at school!

10 minutes late every day = 33 hours lost learning each year

1 day absence every week = 2 months lost learning each year

Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to 3 full days of school lost

Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 full weeks of school lost

Arriving 30 minutes late every day adds up to 19 full days of school lost

If your child's attendance drops below 95% or your child is late 3 times during a 2-week period, you will be contacted by a member of our welfare team to support you in improving their attendance/punctuality.

Every minute counts towards your child's future success.

Sunday School

Sunday School takes place every Sunday
at St Barnabas Church
- all children over 4 years old are welcome.
Time: 10:30 - 11:15

Parents can stay for the session or drop children off.

Our Christian value for this half term is:

'Courage'

"Courage is not the absence of fear. It is acting in spite of it."

Mark Twain

This week we pray for: those who are homeless

This week's big question is:

Why do people do things that are dangerous?



Staying Safe Online

Youtube has become a hugely popular social media platform around the world. It's a superb place to learn new things, but can also present dangers if not monitored or used correctly. Our guide this week gives tips and reminders on how to use Youtube sensibly and what to be aware of that could be harmful.

Film Night

Our Reading Ambassadors are planning a film night on **Thursday 10th February**. All funds raised will go towards the cost of an award-winning author visiting our school in March. The film night will be open to all pupils from Reception to Year 6 and will run from 3.15 – 5pm in their own classrooms. The cost is £2.50 per child and this will include a snack and a drink. Payment should be made on ParentPay. Our Reading Ambassadors will be selecting age-appropriate films for classes to enjoy, which have been adapted from children's books.

Bike Marking Event – Tuesday 1st February

Has your child had a new bike for Christmas? Our mini police will be running a bike-marking event on Tuesday 1st February for Y5/6 pupils. Bike marking deters theft, as your bike will be less attractive as a theft target. It will also register your bike on a secure online database, which all UK Police Forces have access to, meaning that if your bike is ever stolen, and you are much more likely to get it back.

Children in **Y5/6** are invited to bring their bikes to school on **Tuesday 1st February** to make them more secure.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to log into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The 'penicillin salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or get rich quick schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Claire Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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Author visit

We are delighted to be inviting award-winning author **Ross Montgomery** to our school on Wednesday 9th March. He will spend the day sharing his love of books, delivering creative writing workshops and inspiring our children to become avid readers! Children in Reception, KS1 and KS2 will also have the opportunity to attend a book signing with Ross and take home a signed copy of one of his books! If you would like your child to take part in the book signing, please visit ParentPay to pre-order and purchase a book before Thursday 17th February.

Dates for your diary

Monday 7 th – Friday 11 th February	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 8 th February	Curious Critters visiting Nursery and Reception
Thursday 10 th February	Film Night
Friday 11 th February	Dress to Express (non-uniform Day)
Monday 14 th – Wednesday 16 th February	Parents' Evenings
Friday 18 th February	Children who are members of Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies can come to school in their uniform to celebrate Founders' Day
Friday 18 th February	School closes for half term

