

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

04/02/2022



'Let your light shine'

Message from Miss Hodgkinson

This week we have been able to relax some of our COVID safety measures due to infection rates dropping significantly. Our children were really excited to be able to mix more freely with other classes during breaks and lunchtimes. I have to say though, throughout the pandemic, our children have been absolutely brilliant at following new routines and sticking to new rules. They have been so sensible, resilient and positive throughout, always thinking about how to keep others safe – yet another example of our amazing pupils letting their light shine. We also welcomed one of our governors, Miss Courtney, into school for a tour with some of our pupils and she was impressed with the excellent attitudes, behaviour and also the confidence of our pupil tour guides. I've said this many times before but...our children really are impressive and not a day goes by without them doing something amazing that makes me proud!

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Hodgkinson



Our nursery have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year along with millions of people all over the world.

They have been learning that it is one of the biggest events of the year for many East and South East Asian people and it will be marked by communities all over the world. People eat lots of food, enjoy fireworks, wear special clothes and hang red lanterns to mark the occasion.



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 school 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'

"A person cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Andre Gide

Friday 4th February is World Cancer Day and this week we pray for: those who have cancer and are caring for loved ones with cancer

This week's big question is:

Can you be brave and scared at the same time?





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.



**THURSDAY 10TH
FEBRUARY
3.15 – 5PM**

£2.50



SNACK & DRINK PROVIDED

FILMS WILL BE SHOWN IN CLASSROOMS AND WILL BE AGE APPROPRIATE

Staying Safe Online

This week's e safety message centres around being respectful online. Due to our Christian Vision, our children are taught to be kind, compassionate and reflective. This week's guide looks at how parents and carers can support their children to be respectful and to report anything that they know is inappropriate.

10 Top Tips for Respect Online: A DIGITAL WORLD FOR EVERYONE

Even before lockdowns inflamed the situation, one in every five 10- to 15-year-olds was experiencing bullying online: abusive messages, having rumours spread about them or being excluded from group chats, for example. Through smartphones and tablets, we're used to being able to communicate from anywhere, at any time – but digital devices become commonplace so quickly that it caused a problem: as a society, we haven't properly adjusted to how different they've made life. Our tips can help you to build positive relationships online and avoid some of the potential issues.

- WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?**
Etiquette is a set of rules to help us interact with others: like a code of respect. People follow this code every day (mostly without even thinking about it) and it can help us decide how to act in certain situations. 'Netiquette' (etiquette on the net – we see what they did there!) is the same, except it's designed to help us interact with others online, which is sometimes a whole different ball game.
- SEE THE OTHER SIDE**
Usually when we're online, we can't see the other person's body language or tone of voice to give us clues about what we can say to them, or how to say it. Try to think what the situation might be like for them, how they're feeling and what we'd say the same thing if they were actually there with us.
- HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON**
Without a person physically there in front of us, it's easy to send something quickly – before we've really thought about whether it's helpful or not. Because we can do things quickly doesn't mean we should; it's better to pause for a second and think it through. Instead of simply reacting.
- MIND YOUR LANGUAGE**
People have invented loads of different ways to communicate online. Emojis, abbreviations like LOL, IRL and so on, some of these can be confusing to other people (such as using CAPS SO IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SHOUTING), so it's important to stay aware of the style of language you're using.
- BE SURE BEFORE YOU POST**
On social networks like Instagram or Facebook, posts are public. So if that's something negative about a person, it can feel hugely painful for them. If you've ever wanted to post something like that, ask yourself "do I really need to go public with this?"
- PROTECT YOURSELF**
Always think very carefully before sharing any personal information with someone else or in a group. Once something has been put online, the sender loses any control over where it goes and who might see it. You've got no uncertainty at all. It's a good idea to talk to a trusted adult about this first.
- KINDNESS IS CATCHING**
Negative communication can spread rapidly online, but so can being kind and helpful (this happened quite a lot during lockdowns). A friendly, positive message can make a big difference to someone as well as helping us feel good about ourselves – so share the love!
- WAITING CAN BE HARD**
When we've sent a message or posted for someone to respond can make us anxious. It could be helpful to think whether you really have to message or post right now – or if you could wait until a better time when it will cause you less anxiety.
- THE NET LOVES ATTENTION**
Most apps, games and sites use sophisticated technology that's designed to keep us coming back (or more). It's important to keep this in mind when you feel the need to reach for your phone, tablet or console – once we understand this fact, it becomes easier to control how we use our digital devices.
- REPLY WISELY**
Sometimes it's tempting to fire back an instant response to a post or message we don't like. How we respond is important, however – whether we reply privately to the person or on a platform where lots of people will see it, for example, makes a big difference to how whatever is receiving the message will deal with it.
- FORGIVE AND FORGET**
Even though we try to avoid them, mistakes can – and do – happen online. They can sometimes feel like a bigger deal than they actually are. It's important to remember that we're all only human, and sometimes we mess up. Learn to forgive others and – just as importantly – to forgive yourself.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Corale Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who through her research, specialises in promoting safe and robust online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the medium.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Friday 11th February 2022
Express yourself during
Children's Mental Health Week
by wearing your favourite colour
or a colour to express how you are feeling.

DRESS TO EXPRESS
THIS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

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
Friday 11 th February	"Dress to Express Day." Children can come to school wearing non-uniform
Thursday 10 th February	Film Night
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
Monday 28 th February	School opens