

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

29/04/2022



'Let your light shine'

This half term is proving to be our busiest one yet! Every night we have a range of clubs taking place, children are preparing to take part in sporting competitions and just this week there have been two trips! In between working their socks off, preparing for their SATs, Y6 managed to find some time to visit Liverpool Maritime Museum, to carry out some research for their Titanic Project and Y4 visited Quarry Bank Mill, where they carried out a fieldwork study to enhance their geographical knowledge of rivers and enable them to put some of the abstract concepts learned in class into context. I am bursting with pride - both classes were praised for their enthusiasm towards learning, their high levels of knowledge and understanding and use of technical vocabulary and exemplary behaviour. Letting their light shine as always!



Have a lovely bank holiday weekend everyone.

Miss Hodgkinson

Eid ul-Fitr Celebration

A really important part of our curriculum is learning about different world faiths, so that our children have a good understanding of different beliefs and practices, in order to promote tolerance and respect for all. Next week our children will have the opportunity to take part in an Eid Celebration in school. **Eid ul-Fitr** is a very important festival in the Islamic calendar and was started by the Prophet Muhammad himself. It is also known as 'The Feast of Breaking the Fast' and is celebrated by Muslims worldwide to mark the end of Ramadan. We will be having a fantastic afternoon of food, music, storytelling and children will have the opportunity to talk with members of our local Muslim community about Eid and how they celebrate with their families.

On **Friday 6th May**, children can come to school in their own clothes (party clothes if they wish) and bring a small donation. Giving to others (Zakat) is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and children will choose a local charity to give our donations to.



Our Christian value for this half term is:

'Service'

This week we pray for all who serve in the armed forces and are affected by war and conflict. We pray peace will return soon.

"I did not come to be served, but to serve."

Matthew 20.28

This week's big question is:
Who relies on me to act responsibly?

St Barnabas Church Spring Fair

A big thank you to everyone who came along to support the church Spring Fair. Nearly £600 was raised to support our church!



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING
Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat, allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it can amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT
It's important to remember that - while the content of the chat is private between those in the group - individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshots which have been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public and potentially going viral is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION
This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways - starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. The chat might not have access to an app which one child doesn't have or a child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images on an event that everyone else but them attended.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS
Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO
A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS
Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT
Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE
If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING
In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the impact of not including identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they would like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS
Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust - for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat - and especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS
Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction - especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and texting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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.

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.

Staying Safe Online

Our e safety message this week links closely to last week and looks at the use of group chats. They are one of the most popular ways that children engage with their peers online. When used correctly they can be a great resource for sharing interests and helping friends. As parents and carers we need to make sure they are not being used inappropriately to bully, exclude, or use to send inappropriate content. See this week's guide for tips.

Dates for your diary

Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Friday 6 th May	Eid Celebration in school
Monday 9 th – Thursday 12 th May	KS2 SATs Week
Monday 16 th May – Friday 20 th May	Christian Aid Week
Thursday 19 th May	St Barnabas CE Primary School 50 th Anniversary
Friday 27 th May	Whole school party to celebrate our 50 th anniversary and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Friday 27 th May	School Closes for the Whit break
Monday 13 th June	School opens
Monday 13 th June	Y5 trip to Warrington Museum for a Greek Day
Tuesday 14 th June	Y6 trip to Patterpool
Thursday 16 th June	Y6 Leavers' Service at Liverpool Cathedral
Friday 17 th June	Whole school trip to Chester Zoo (Reception to Year 6)
Friday 1 st July	Walking Day – school closed
Friday 22 nd July	School closes for Summer

