

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

20/05/2022



'Let your light shine'

Yesterday St Barnabas School celebrated the 50th anniversary of our school building. We marked the occasion with a beautiful service in our hall. We were joined by our governors and members of St Barnabas Church. Some former pupils and teachers shared their memories of our school and current pupils shared what they learned about school life when St Barnabas originally opened in 1889. We also sang a variety of old and new hymns and all our visitors were inspired by our children's wonderful singing. Our current pupils are the future and I know with such incredible young people, who impress me every day with their kindness, amazing work and ideas for helping others, the world will be in safe hands. Perhaps when our school celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2072, some of our current pupils could return to share their memories of school in 2022 and inspire new pupils with their achievements...



Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Hodgkinson

Party Time

On Friday 27th May, we will be holding a huge celebration party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and our 50th anniversary. Children can come to school dressed in red, white and blue and during the afternoon we will be having a party, with picnic food, games, music and a visit from the ice-cream van! All food is being provided by school; in addition, children will bring home some special commemorative gifts. We're so excited!



Our Christian value for this half term is:

'Service'

This week we pray to say thank you for our school.

Dear God,

Thank you for St Barnabas School,
Encouraging others is our golden rule,
For 50 years of wonderful times,
We will always let our light shine.

Amen

"Serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Joshua 22v5

This week's big question is:

"Do some charities deserve more help than others?"



Christian Aid Week

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow was the theme for Christian Aid Week 2022, children had the opportunity to take part in a class worship and find out more about the vital work the charity organises across the globe to support others in need.

The theme reminded pupils of the design of our school badge, the vision and values it demonstrates. We are all little acorns when we start St. Barnabas school, achieving incredible things as we grow and develop through the school on the way to becoming mighty oaks!

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

Staying Safe Online

This week's e safety message continues to be aimed at our younger children, particularly in Nursery. In the early years it is full of excitement and energy. Children very often begin to use devices at this age, as they make children feel happy and relaxed. It is really important that we set time limits for screen use, particularly for our younger children, so that they are more exposed to quality interactions with adults. These are most important for their development. The guide this week gives tips to parents and carers on how we can do this.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TODDLERS & SCREEN TIME

The toddler years are full of excitement, exploration and energy. It's a critical time in children's development, when brain connections are rapidly forming. Youngsters often begin to discover devices around this age, as they learn to communicate with friends, play games and watch videos (Ofcom recently found, for example, that one in five 3-4-year-olds in the UK uses social media). These activities can make a child happy and relaxed but have a damaging impact if overused. Setting screen time limits for toddlers can be a challenge, so we've pulled together some suggestions for making sure your little one is interacting with the online world in a safe, healthy way.

ONLINE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ✓ PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Children need to be shielded from content that's not age appropriate. You can do this by adjusting parental controls and safe search settings on the devices, apps and games they use.
- ✓ ONGOING SUPERVISION**
Try to stay engaged and present in what your child is doing digitally. Make time to talk about what they enjoy and how they can stay safe online.
- ✓ OFFERING HELP**
Teach your toddler to ask for help – and that they should always tell a trusted adult if they're unsure about anything to do with a device, or they see or hear something that makes them scared or upset.
- ✓ COMMUNICATION IS KEY**
Emphasise that your child should check with you before they do anything online for the first time – such as watching a new show, playing a new game or exploring a new app.
- ✓ FACE TO FACE IS ACE**
Support toddlers' development of language and other skills by prioritising games, or apps that encourage face-to-face interaction – like learning to read or count with an adult.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- MODEL IT**
Your toddler is watching and learning from you wherever you pick up your phone. Even babies are aware of screens and the attention their parents give to them. By showing you know when to put your phone down and focus on something else, you're modelling an important behaviour for them.
- CONTROL IT**
Use tech to control tech. Most devices and individual apps have settings that allow you to restrict screen time. Decide on the right length of time and use the settings or a timer to block access. This is especially useful for very young children, who simply see it as the device 'turning off'.
- ANNOUNCE IT**
When a toddler's screen shuts off suddenly, it can lead to frustration and tears. Let your little one mentally prepare for the end of screen time by announcing they have five minutes left, two minutes left and so on. You could also set an egg-timer, alarm or buzzer to go off just before time's up.
- DELAY IT**
Try to avoid letting children start their day with screen time. Once they're online, it can be hard to get them back offline – and can set a negative tone for the rest of the day. Routine and structure are important for toddlers, so encourage them to enjoy some other activities before the screens go on.
- TRADE IT**
You could try offering rewards and alternatives in exchange for screen time – for example, having a device on one day to get a playdate with a friend at the weekend, or skipping screen time one evening in return for a trip to the ice cream parlour tomorrow.
- EARN IT**
Screen time can definitely be used as a reward. You could opt for the device 'no screen time' until you've listed up your toy or you could get creative and award screen time in relation to successful tasks: eating all of their vegetables earns 10 minutes on their device, for example.
- REMOVE IT**
Keep family mealtimes, social gatherings, children's bedrooms and other important occasions and places screen free. Remember to turn off TVs that you can't switch off, because even background noise can distract from your spending quality face-to-face time with your young ones.
- SWAP IT**
Put together a bag of things that your children love playing with – and get them to help choose what goes in there (items like stickers, pens, small toys, Lego or teddy bears are ideal). Then encourage them to pick something to play with from the 'special bag of fun' instead of staring at a screen.



We are holding our second virtual book fair next week with www.booksforbugs.co.uk, where parents can buy books for their children, at fantastic prices! There are 1000's of books at only £2.50 including many top titles from baby books through to teen books. All orders placed during our book fair will be delivered to school for free (please type in the school address in the delivery address section) and also school will be able to earn a free book for every five books purchased by parents/carers. Please place your order between Monday 16th May and Sunday 22nd May (or you'll be charged for delivery).



Dates for your diary

Monday 16th May – Friday 20th May	Christian Aid Week
Monday 16th May – Friday 20th May	Virtual Book Fair
Thursday 26th May	Visit to Waterstones for Golden ticket winners
Friday 27th May	Whole school party to celebrate our 50 th anniversary and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Friday 27th May	School Closes for the Whit break
Monday 13th June	School opens
Monday 13th June	Y5 trip to Warrington Museum for a Greek Day
Tuesday 14th June	Y6 trip to Pettypool
Thursday 16th June	Y6 Leavers' Service at Liverpool Cathedral
Friday 17th June	Whole school trip to Chester Zoo (Reception to Year 6)
Tuesday 28th June	New starters meeting
Thursday 30th June 6 – 8pm	Open evening to celebrate St Barnabas School's 50 th anniversary
Friday 1st July	Walking Day – school closed
Monday 4th July	5:30pm Children's University Ceremony at St Elphin's Church
Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th July	Y6 transition to high school days for all high schools
Tuesday 12th July	Sports Day
Thursday 14th July	Y6 Leavers' party
Tuesday 19th July	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 20th July	Y6 Leavers' Service
Friday 22nd July	Summer Inflatable Fun Day!
Friday 22nd July	School closes for Summer

