

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

20/01/2023



'Let your light shine'

We are an 'Excellent' school

I hope you have managed to read the letter I sent earlier this week containing the results of our recent SIAMS inspection. We achieved the **highest grade possible – Excellent in all areas** – a brilliant achievement for our school and one that is not achieved by many schools nationally. The report commented on our wonderful ethos, outstanding pastoral care, creative and innovative ways we support our community, commitment to excellence, outstanding behaviour and extremely high standards of work of our pupils to name but a few. Please take a moment to read the report – it is an incredible achievement for everyone in our school community and couldn't have been achieved without our amazing children, dedicated staff team and highly supportive parents. A true indication of how by working together, everyone can 'let their light shine.' We have now been asked to 'let our light shine' outside our school and help and support others. This week we have already welcomed children and staff from other schools across Warrington in to our class based worship sessions, in order for them to learn from our excellent practice.

Team St Barnabas is truly amazing – I couldn't be more proud of everyone.

Letting our Light Shine

Because of our Christian vision, we try our best to live out our Christian values in everything we do. Here are some examples of our children 'letting their light shine' in school this week.



Y6 have been using their knowledge of geographical skills to work out distance on a map.

Bike marking task completed before school... mini police supporting our local community



Year 3 have really enjoyed learning about programming, using Scratch in their computing lessons.



Year 4 were enjoying performing their partner balances in Real Gym today. Such incredible core strength!



Staying Safe Online

Our e-safety message this week focuses on social media platforms, particularly Twitter. It is widely used across the world for people to share opinions about various issues and trends. Since Elon Musk acquired Twitter, there have been several major developments and this week's guide gives tips on potential risks such as trolls, bullying, fixation on view count and interaction with strangers.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TWITTER

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages (tweets) of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs. Children limited by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are used to bookmark.

Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing), or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

13+ AGE RESTRICTION

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS
Tweets are public by default, meaning that they can be seen and interact with easily, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may interact with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT
Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature - telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other people's responses can cause young people to experience feelings of jealousy and low self-esteem. Fixating on an obsession with increasing their followers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING
The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction: to disrupt conversations to spark an argument, or to harass the recipient. Trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of children. A targeted child might be someone to whom a friend's partner has behaved badly on Twitter, or if they see it happening.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION
Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner - usually a celebrity or a major organisation - had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter blue tick. This means that anyone with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES
In late 2022, Twitter stated that their policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of offensive content, instead of speech, but 'freedom of speech'. No policies have been updated, but research suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage more harmful content where some toxic content remains online.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS
The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognizable icons, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning; an industry analyst's search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with trending hashtags, as people know that their tweets will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE
To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared, you can always make their account private. This means that only people you approve of can see their tweets. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING
It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for emojis and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE
When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or harmful behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these tweets as possible and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoclock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS
Previously, only users could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts - either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). These options have given users entire control, providing them with more control from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING
It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed a 'pause' feature which gives anyone who is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language three minutes to pause and consider their behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE
If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from appearing on your child's timeline (without warning) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW
As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the blue tick system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger. Encourage how long they've been communicating for, remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Buchanan is a child abuse specialist, education DfES researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and other safety policies in schools. She has also worked with the Home Office government comparing them with user-led safety initiatives of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/new-features-including-users-hackles-homesteaders | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-blue-update | <https://techcrunch.com/2022/01/28/twitter-3-9-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation/> | <https://techcrunch.com/2022/01/28/twitter-3-9-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation/>

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Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III - Extra Bank Holiday

The Government has announced a one-off bank holiday on Monday 8th May to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. School will be closed on this day.

Happy Chinese New Year

A very happy lunar new year to our friends and families. Wishing you great happiness and prosperity.



Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Thankfulness'

"When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree."

Vietnamese Proverb

This week we pray to give thanks for our food and pray for all the children in the world who do not have enough eat each day.

This week's big question is:

What opportunities do I have that I am thankful for?

Dates for your Diary

24.1.23	Reception and Year 6 class photos
26.1.23	Year 3 Winter Warmer trip day 1
27.1.23	Year Winter Warmer trip day 2
27.1.23	Holocaust Memorial Day
30.1.23 – 3.2.23	National Story Telling Week (activities taking place for EYFS children)
Monday 30 th January	2 – 3pm Nursery parents invited into school
Thursday 2 nd February	2 – 3pm Nursery and reception parents invited into school (more information to be sent out via Class Dojo)
1.2.23	Teacher Strike – see separate letter for class closures
6.2.23 – 10.2.23	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
6.2.23 – 10.2.23	Schools' Football Week
7.2.23	KS2 first aid sessions
13.2.23	Parents' Evening
15.2.23	Parents' Evening
17.2.23	School closes for half term



DO YOU WANT TO PLAY RUGBY?

WARRINGTON WOLVES GIRLS ARE RECRUITING



We are recruiting players for the following girl's team
Under 11s - age 10 / 11 (Year 5 & 6)
Under 13s - age 12 / 13 (Year 7 & 8)
Under 14s - age 14 (Year 9)
Under 16s - age 15 / 16 (Year 10 & 11)
Open Age 17+

**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
STAY FIT - MAKE NEW FRIENDS - HAVE FUN**

PLEASE EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION
WARRINGTONGIRLSRL@GMAIL.COM

WARRINGTON GIRLS RUGBY TRAINING



WE ARE HOSTING OPEN SESSIONS ALL THROUGH JANUARY SO COME AND SEE WHAT WE ARE ABOUT!

COME AND JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR TRAINING SESSIONS AT VICTORIA PARK, WARRINGTON

FRIDAYS
U11 & U13'S - 6-7PM
U14 AND OPEN AGE - 7-8PM

MONDAYS
U16'S - 8-9PM

Get in touch with us: warringtongirlsrl@gmail.com



G.I.R.L SESSIONS

PADGATE CAMPUS, WA2 0DB, SUNDAYS 10 - 11 AM

