

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter



03/03/2023

*'Let your light shine'*

We have had an excellent first week back at school after half term, culminating with a fantastic World Book Day. Children and staff had fun performing a 'reading rap' with MC Grammar, toasting marshmallows round a campfire, cosy reading sessions and lots of fun activities to promote a love of reading. On Tuesday next week we are extremely lucky to welcome one of my favourite children's authors, Tom Palmer, to our school. All KS2 classes will take part in writing workshops during the day and he will be staying behind after school for a book signing and parents are welcome to come and meet Tom in the hall after school, where refreshments will also be served...I will definitely be getting my favourite novels signed!

Have a lovely weekend everyone.  
Miss Hodgkinson



## *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.



In English this week, EYFS have been trying to find the missing troll. The troll left his bag in the classroom, which gave clues as to where he could be. The children have written lists and created traps to capture the troll.



Year 4 enjoyed practising their newly learned methods for multiplication, in a team game.



### Confirmation Classes

We will be running Confirmation Lessons for children in Years 5 and 6 on Tuesdays after school from February 28<sup>th</sup> until April 4<sup>th</sup>, for children who wish to take the next step in their faith journey and be confirmed in a special confirmation service on 21<sup>st</sup> May. Classes are also open to any family members who also wish to be confirmed. Letters will be sent out next week.

### School Uniform

Black school shoes should be worn with school uniform and trainers should only be worn on PE days. Thank you.

### Staying Safe Online

As part of our Online Platforms Category, our guide this week informs parents and carers about NGL (Not Gonna Lie). This is a messaging service that runs alongside Instagram and Twitter. It encourages anonymous posting, which can have potential dangers. The guide gives advice on oversharing, cyber-bullying and potential costly subscriptions.

### Our Christian Value for this half term is:

*'Humility'*

This week our thoughts and prayers are with those who are suffering with cancer. We wish you a speedy recovery.

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

Ephesians 4:2

This week's big question is:

What does being humble mean?

### Tom Palmer Visit - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

We are pleased to be welcoming children's author Tom Palmer to our school. He will be meeting KS2 children and running workshops throughout the day. Children and their families are encouraged to come and meet Tom at 3 – 3:30pm in the hall for a photo and a book signing. Free refreshments will be available. You can pre-pay for a book on ParentPay and select the book of your choice on the day or bring your own if you already have one.



**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about NGL**

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

NGL (which stands for 'Not Gonna Lie') is an app through which users share a link to their Instagram story or Twitter account, inviting their followers to give anonymous feedback. The app includes some prewritten questions (such as 'If you could change anything about me, what would it be?'), plus the option to ask followers to simply send me anonymous messages. All replies go into the user's NGL inbox, with the sender remaining anonymous – although subscribers to the app can receive hints about who each message was from.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**ANONYMITY AND OVERSHARING**  
Anonymous messaging gives rise to the 'online disinhibition effect', which causes users to feel detached from their words and actions in the digital world. This can make young people in particular (as they tend to act more impulsively online), far more likely to disclose personal information on the internet, as well as making ill-advised confessions or revealing their fears and insecurities.

**PROTECTION FOR BULLIES**  
Having their identity hidden makes bullies feel safe from repercussions, so anonymous chat sites are a major avenue for cyberbullying. NGL claims to use AI to filter out insulting terms, but our research found a number of such phrases (starting with 'odor and ugly', and becoming progressively more offensive) to 'dummy' accounts. All of these chat messages were delivered to the recipient's inbox.

**COSTLY SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
NGL offers a subscription service – for a weekly fee – users can unlock hints about who's been messaging them, including the sender's approximate location and which device they used. Young people will naturally be extremely curious about who sent which message (especially if they have a lot of Instagram or Twitter followers) and may be unable to resist spending money to find out.

**INFLATED ENGAGEMENT**  
In June 2022, NGL had to revise its terms of service: informing users if a message was sent by the app's developers as opposed to genuine followers. It emerged that, previously, NGL's bot had attempted to boost engagement with the app (as well as enticing users to pay for subscriptions) by sending fake anonymous messages from bots. This update was rolled out very quietly by the team.

**QUESTIONABLE SUPPORT**  
NGL does have a 'report this message' button for users to flag upsetting content. After sending a message, however, an automated reply arrives stating – 'But, it's anonymous and we have no way of knowing the identity of the user and would not be able to find out, even if we tried.' This did not fill our expert with confidence that the app can address bad behaviour adequately.

**ACCIDENTALLY GOING VIRAL**  
The messages on NGL itself are anonymous, but users can share these messages via their Instagram story or Twitter feed – enabling all their followers (or anyone, if their accounts are set to public) to see them. If a young person has disclosed something embarrassing or identifiable on NGL, without realising this information has the potential to be re-shared very quickly to a far wider audience.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**DEALING WITH NEGATIVITY**  
Blocking another user on NGL will prevent them sending anonymous messages to your child in the short term – although a determined abuser could get around that obstacle simply by setting up a new Instagram account. If your child continually receives negative messages that upset them, it might be worth encouraging them to consider whether they really need to use the app at all.

**EXPLAIN ANONYMOUS APPS**  
We understand that a conversation with your child about the risks of anonymous messaging may seem difficult to initiate (especially if you aren't that comfortable with using social media yourself). It is vital, however, that young people understand that, for some people, having their identity obscured online can make them feel more powerful and less accountable for their actions.

**BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES**  
To avoid your child running up an eye-watering bill through an NGL subscription (or indeed any kind of costly in-app purchases), go into the settings on whatever device they use to go online and either disable the ability to make purchases or protect that function with a password, if those options aren't available. It's prudent to ensure there aren't any payment methods linked to their account.

**THINK BEFORE SENDING**  
Regardless of whether a messaging app is anonymous or not, it's a good idea to regularly talk to your child about how it's wise to think through what they're sharing before they post it. Emphasise that nothing is truly private once it's online. If the post is something your child might hesitate to say to someone face-to-face, then it's probably not the sort of thing they should be writing online either.

Meet Our Expert  
Dr Claire Suberland 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 concerning internet use and wellbeing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://ngl.k12.wa.us/n-gl>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.03.2023

### Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III – Extra Bank Holiday

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

### Water Bottles

Only water should be brought to school in children's water bottles. This is by far the healthiest drink for healthy teeth and best for keeping young brains hydrated for brilliant learning.

Exciting news! Warrington Museum are running some excellent FREE workshops. Please see the posters attached to the newsletter. These activities can earn credits for Children's University. If you already have a passport, then just take it along to the sessions, or you can get one from our school office for £2. See more details about Children's University on our website:

<https://www.stbarnabaceprimary.co.uk/page/childrens-university/119655>





# Crafternoon

Every Saturday 1:00pm-3:00pm  
(last entry 2:45pm)

4th March - Unicorn and Dragon Masks

11th March - Ramadan Lanterns

18th March - Daffodil Craft

25th March - Patchwork Houses



# Summer Holiday Crafts

Wednesday and Friday  
10:00am - 3:00pm (last entry 2:45pm)

Wednesday 3rd August - Lolly Stick Aeroplanes

Friday 5th August - Magic Wands

Wednesday 10th August - Beady Jellyfish

Friday 12th August - Roman Helmets

Wednesday 17th August - Spiral Galaxies

Friday 19th August - Dinosaur Masks

Wednesday 24th August - Jester Hats

Friday 26th August - Lolly Stick Superheroes

Wednesday 31st August - Handprint Peacocks

Friday 2nd September - Scarecrows



## Dates for your Diary

7.3.23	KS2 author visit – Tom Palmer
15.3.23	Y4 trip to Quarry Bank Mill
17.3.23	Red Nose Day
3.4.23	3:15 Starbooks Reading Café – all families welcome
9.4.23	Easter Service at St Barnabas Church
6.4.23	School closes for Easter break
11.4.23 – 14.4.23	Easter Holiday Club
17.4.23	School opens for Summer Term
1.5.23	Bank holiday – school closed
5.5.23	Coronation Celebration in school
8.5.23	Extra bank holiday for the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III – school closed
9.5.23 – 12.5.23	KS2 SATs Week
15.5.23 – 19.5.23	Christian Aid Week
15.5.23 – 17.5.23	Y6 Residential to Forest Camp Activity Centre
26.5.23	School closes for Whit Break
12.6.23	School opens
30.6.23	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
3.7.23 – 7.7.23	Health and Lifestyles Week
4.7.23	Sports Day
5 & 6.7.23	Y6 high school transition days
21.7.23	School closes for summer break

