

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

06/04/2023



'Let your light shine'

I cannot believe we have reached the end of another term, though I must say everyone in school – children and staff – have worked so hard they are all ready for a break! Our children have demonstrated what confident performers they are this term, with excellent poetry recitals in school, readings in church and year 5 were exceptional in the PAN performance at the Parr Hall. Many of our children have also represented the school in sporting competitions including rugby, gymnastics and football, competing against many other schools and demonstrating not only excellent sporting ability, with many wins, but great encouragement of others. Well done St Barnabas superstars! I hope you all have a blessed Easter and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on 17th April.

Happy Easter everyone!
Miss Hodgkinson

LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE: HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS WE HAVE LET OUR LIGHT SHINE THIS WEEK...



Our two-year olds, have practised putting on shoes and hoods up ready for outdoor play, they worked hard on our low-level trim trail and had great fun making hand paint puppets and exploring the soapy suds.



Year 5 became food engineers, creating wonderful soup, after learning about different vegetables in different climates. They worked hard on their preparing, slicing, cutting and peeling techniques.



Year 4 became textile engineers, in Design Technology, learning all about different fabrics, to make a 'William Morris' inspired wall hanging. The children showed incredible skill and perseverance when printing and sewing!

We've really enjoyed our pop-up prayer space and flowering the cross, as part of our activities for Holy Week. They are such a wonderful opportunity for reflection.



Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Humility'

"Humility is the solid foundation of all virtues."
Confucius

This week's big question is: Humility, be like bamboo, the higher you grow, the deeper you bow.

Explain.

**Spring Fair at St Barnabas Church
on Saturday 22nd April
12-3pm**

**Stalls include Tombola, Cakes and Pies, Gifts and Crafts,
Books and Jigsaws, Bric-a-brac and Poke a Pot.
Why not call in and have a cake and a hot drink.
Everyone welcome.**

Staying Safe Online

As part of our Online Platform category, this week's e safety message is all about Echo Chambers. This is a platform where one perspective can be repeated over and over and never challenged. This guide explain how it works, how it can be harmful to impressionable young people and what as parents and carers we can do to help.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ECHO CHAMBERS

Digital echo chambers have become increasingly prevalent over the last half decade. Formed by a combination of social media algorithms designed to promote engagement and the basic human urge to be correct, these online environments reinforce the opinions that people already have – such as particular political ideologies – in a perpetual loop. The danger is that exposure to this constant bias can gradually nudge users towards more extreme views. That's certainly a potential hazard for young people, who tend to be more impressionable and easily influenced by things they see and read online – especially if it reflects a view they already agree with.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- EXTREME IDEOLOGIES**
Echo chambers can offer routes to harmful extreme worldviews. A typically teenage distrust of authority, for example, could spiral into a full-blown belief in conspiracy theories – sometimes rooted in ideas which are antisemitic, racist or misogynistic. For impressionable individuals who may be feeling disillusioned with chambers can often function as a gateway to radicalisation.
- NO CRITICAL THINKING**
While critical thinking skills are sometimes taught in schools, they are often taught in a specific, rote manner. This means that many young people are not equipped to critically evaluate information – for example, about online news sites which promote the Internet – places young people are often finding false narratives, which are sometimes deliberately designed to mislead them and influence their thinking.
- A VALUES VACUUM**
If schools struggle to deliver on a clear ethos, founded in British values as outlined in the national curriculum, it leaves a space within which other ideologies have potential to flourish. Teaching about British values in more siloed experiences, such as PSHE lessons, doesn't always effectively convey the key national, tolerance, democratic values, individual liberty and the rule of law.
- UNDETECTABLE INDOCTRINATION**
Many people enter online echo chambers every day without realising. It's easy to simply scroll through content in front of us as we keep scrolling, unaware that their daily online activities – consuming information without considering its intention and fact – are being biased in favour of one side or the other can accelerate a young person's journey towards more extreme ideologies.
- LACK OF BALANCE**
It's challenging to reflect on your own beliefs and opinions, and question whether you might not have been misled. Most of us naturally lean towards one side or the other, which reinforces and underlines what we're already inclined to believe. The long-term consequence of this is a narrow-mindedness and, potentially, intolerance of a more diverse set of perspectives.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- TALK ABOUT CHALLENGES**
It could be helpful to explain to your child that in general, people tend to find evidence to support their existing beliefs and prefer to ignore anything which contradicts those beliefs. This doesn't mean it's OK if someone opposing their beliefs is wrong, but it is important to be fair and to challenge their views as purely that – a challenge to their opinion, not of them as a person.
- DEBATE CAN BE GREAT**
Encourage any interest your child shows in debating – whether on TV, at school, or in clubs or groups. Debate requires people to assess the merits of an opposing argument as they counter it. Putting themselves in the shoes of someone who has a different point of view is a useful way for children to approach new ideas that may contradict what they previously believed.
- DISCUSS 'UNHEALTHY FEEDS'**
Help your child understand how online algorithms shape what they see online. Encourage them to ask themselves to assess the reliability of the information they see. Encourage them to check the source of the information and to talk to someone they trust about the information they see. Encourage them to check the source of the information and to talk to someone they trust about the information they see.
- THE VALUE OF VALUES**
It can be hugely beneficial if your child recognises the importance of a core set of principles, such as the British values. By regularly tying their online experiences back to those essential ideas of democracy, tolerance and kindness towards others, understanding the rule of law and protecting individual liberties, you'll be helping them grow into a more resilient and robust future citizen.
- VARY THEIR DIGITAL DIET**
Sitting down to read online news stories with your child is an excellent way to demonstrate to them why it's important not to always get their information from just one place. Comparing how the same story is reported across popular mainstream publications – and talking about the political biases each may have – will highlight the importance of regularly checking a wide range of online sources.

Meet Our Expert
A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headteacher and the author of a range of educational resources, he shares his insights into the modern digital systems and the impact of social media on children's lives. He is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences and has written a number of books on the subject.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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After Easter, our Mini Police and Science Ambassadors will be running an anti-idling campaign to reduce pollution in the local area...

Switch off when you pick up and drop off



When you pick up or drop off children at our school, sitting with your engine running causes serious air pollution.

It's a massive health hazard, and your children are more vulnerable than adults because they are still developing.

Switch off your engine!

Did you know:

- Idling is a major source of air pollution around our school
- For every minute a car idles enough harmful exhaust fumes to fill 150 balloons is sent into the air we breathe
- Idling uses up to a litre of fuel every half hour. Switch off and save money

Make a big difference It's really easy

Poor air affects everyone but especially children. Poor air quality can seriously aggravate conditions like asthma.

But the good news is that you can do something about it. Walking, cycling or scooting to school even once a week will make a big difference.

If you must drive, why not park away from the school then walk in? Remember that leaving your engine running while stationary is illegal.

If you are dropping off near school please do so responsibly. The parking restrictions are there to help the children get to school safely and please respect our neighbours by parking considerately.

Decorated Egg Competition

Well done to everyone who entered our annual egg decorating competition. All the entries were of a higher standard than ever and it was tough judging just one winner from each class. Here's a selection of some of our children's eggcellent creations...





Well done to our March reading superstars, who enjoyed their trip to [@Waterstones](#)

It is great to see the variety of books they chose.

Easter Holiday Camp 2023

The Easter Holiday Camp is open to all children from Reception to Year 6 and will take place 10am to 2pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday 11th April
- Wednesday 12th April
- Thursday 13th April
- Friday 14th April

The club is free to all children eligible for income based free school meals or pupil premium (not the universal free meals) – please speak to the school office if you are unsure.

All other children can book places for £6 per day. This price includes all snacks, drinks and lunch. Fees can be paid in cash or by bank transfer to Warrington Youth Zone.

Children will take part in lots of fun activities including forest schools, team building, treasure hunts, den building, arts & crafts and baking. There is even a circus skills workshop and show booked for this holiday!

Please follow the link on Class Dojo which was posted earlier this week to complete the form and book your place. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Dates for your Diary

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
2.5.23 – 26.5.23	KS1 SATS testing period
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

