

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

12/05/2023



*'Let your light shine'*

This week I am bursting with pride for our year 6 class, who have taken their SATs tests. Despite having several years of disruption due to the pandemic, our year 6 class have made exceptional progress. Every one of our pupils showed resilience and determination throughout the tests (which were exceptionally challenging this year!) and put in 100% effort – I could not have asked for more. Year 6 most definitely 'let their light shine' this week. Well done super sixes!

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Hodgkinson

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



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

*'Service'*

This week we pray for those who are currently or have been in hospital. We pray you recover soon.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

This week's big question is:

Should giving to charity be compulsory?

**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. If your child is late twice within a 2 week period, you will be contacted to discuss how we can support you to get to school on time.

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

As part of our Online Platform category, we look at an app called Telegram. It is used worldwide and has become a popular alternative to WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger. Our guide this week, gives tips on the potential dangers such as a lack of age verification, inappropriate content and cyber-bullying.

## Water Bottles

Children are asked to bring a bottle to school filled with water which they can drink throughout the day. Drinking water throughout the day keeps children's brains hydrated and helps them to learn well. Only water is allowed in these bottles, as drinking juice throughout the day causes tooth decay. Children can drink juice with their dinner. If any children persist in bringing juice in their water bottles, parents will be contacted.

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

Telegram isn't new, but it's grown significantly in popularity over recent years, thanks to its secure nature and speedier performance than many of its competitors – including WhatsApp. While Telegram is an excellent app in terms of actual performance, like any messaging platform it brings its own challenges for parents when it comes to feeling confident about children being able to handle their own messaging conversations and contact with the outside world in general. Here's everything that trusted adults need to know about using Telegram safely.

**AGE RESTRICTION 17+**

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**LACK OF AGE RESTRICTION**  
Telegram has a 16+ age restriction on using the service, while someone is required to be over 17 to actually download the app. Once that's accomplished, however, there's no need to provide further identification. That means there's no guarantee that under 17s aren't using the app – and no way to confidently verify that any others are actually who they say they are.

**POSSIBLE CYBERBULLYING**  
If your child uses Telegram, they could well be in a group with friends and peers on the app. These groups are managed by admins who can remove the option to post replies – possibly leading to instances of cyberbullying in which the victim has no ability to respond. Messages can be removed from groups at any time, which potentially opens up images and text being seen by people they weren't intended for.

**UNMODERATED CONTENT**  
Because Telegram relies on users' self-moderation, it can occasionally become a haven for inappropriate content. In the past, the circulation of this material has led to its temporary removal from the App Store. In fairness, the same can be said of several messaging platforms, but Telegram's features (Secret Chats, for instance) certainly present more issues than the likes of WhatsApp.

**PREMIUM COSTS**  
Telegram is free to use, but it also offers a premium membership (£4.99 per month or £35.99 a year) which increases download speeds, adds translation features, and increases channel and account limits. If your child has access to your Apple or Google Play credits, they may be able to sign up for the premium package without your knowledge.

**UNAUTHORISED ACCESS**  
One of Telegram's major selling points is that it's accessible across multiple platforms. Once the app's been downloaded, users can log in from a phone, tablet or computer. This multi-device availability means increased opportunities for someone else to gain unauthorised access (if your child leaves a computer or tablet at school logged into their Telegram account, for instance).

**SECRET CHATS**  
Telegram offers a feature called Secret Chats, which allows for messages which self-delete after a specified period of time. There are instances where this can be useful (journalists often use Telegram to protect their sources, for example), but for young people it can make it extremely difficult to prove that someone has been abusive or inappropriate towards them on the app.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**PRIVACY CONTROLS**  
If your child wants to use Telegram, we'd strongly suggest using the app's built-in privacy settings to restrict who can see their posts, photos, and their phone number. This can be set to 'everybody', 'my contacts' or 'nobody'. We'd recommend either the second or third option, depending on how locked down you want the platform to be.

**DISCUSS SECURITY**  
It's important that your child understands the merits of strong passwords and logging out of devices when they're finished – and the benefits of protecting their personal data in general. This could range from relaxed chats and simple tips like "don't send your bank details" to how to set up passcodes for Telegram so your child's chats stay secure when they step away from their screen.

**REPORT UNSAFE CONTENT**  
If your child receives private messages which include content that could be considered illegal, unsafe or upsetting, they can of course block the account responsible within the app itself. Be aware, however, that Telegram won't necessarily take any further action unless this offensive content involved a user-created channel, bot or sticker.

**USE THE BLOCK FUNCTION**  
Users can block spam, abusive, or impostor accounts within the app. Blocking stops that account from messaging your child, or viewing their profile and activity. If the user in question is one of your child's peers or friendship circle, it may be worth bringing it to the attention of their school. Also bear in mind that your child can also voluntarily leave a Telegram group at any point if they wish.

**PROTECT PAYMENT METHODS**  
Apple and Google's storefronts offer family sharing options, but it's also worth double-checking your settings to ensure that a password or two-factor authentication option is set up to prevent any unexpected purchases. If your child does pay for a premium Telegram subscription without your consent, Apple and Google have been known to issue refunds in some cases.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Lloyd Downes is a former IT teacher and sports site blogger and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing regularly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iGaming and TechRadar.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.telegram.org/> | <https://www.engadget.com/telegram-explained-2022-10333628.html>

@nationalonlinesafety | /NationalOnlineSafety | @nationalonlinesafety | @national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.03.2023

## Dates for your Diary

2.5.23 – 26.5.23	KS1 SATS testing period
15.5.23 – 19.5.23	Christian Aid Week
15.5.23 – 17.5.23	Y6 Residential to Forest Camp Activity Centre
18.5.23	Y3 trip to Warrington Museum
18.5.23	Road Safety Team working with Year 6
21.5.23	4pm Confirmation Service at St Andrew's Church
22.5.23	2-3pm Stay and Play Sessions for parents of reception children
22.5.23	2-3pm Stay and Play Sessions for parents of nursery children (start of week)
23.5.23	Tri-golf Competition Y3 - 6
25.5.23	2-3pm Stay and Play Sessions for parents of nursery children (end of week)
26.5.23	School closes for Whit Break
12.6.23	School opens
22.6.23	Y5 trip to Rock Oil
27.6.23	Y5 trip to Forest Camp Activity Centre
29.6.23	Y5 Discovery Day at St Gregory's High School
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
6.7.23	Y4 Music Festival at St Margaret's CE Primary School
10.7.23	Children's University Graduation Ceremony
11.7.23 & 12.7.23	Y5/6 Bikeability
13.7.23	Y6 Leavers' Party
14.7.23	Y4 trip to Jorvic Viking Centre, York
21.7.23	School closes for summer break

