

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

26/01/2024



'Let your light shine'

Our pupil leadership teams are incredibly proactive and always looking for ways to help others. Since the break in last week our Mini Police have been thinking of ways to protect both school and personal property so they are going to be running a bike marking session on Friday 2nd February from 8:30am with Cheshire Police. Bike marking registers your bike on a national police database marks your bike with a security marking kit and adds a warning label. Bike marking reduces the likelihood of theft by up to 83%. If you or child has a bike that hasn't been marked, yet, bring it along to the session on Friday. Yet another great example of our pupil leaders letting their light shine and helping others.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Miss Hodgkinson

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS OUR AMAZING CHILDREN HAVE **'LET THEIR LIGHT SHINE'** THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL...



Places in St Barnabas Nursery Available

We are now accepting applications for places in our nursery for January 2024.

Please ask the school office for an application form or to make an appointment to look around.

We can also assist with 2 year old funding applications.

If you think you may be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare please visit the Childcare Choices website:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/upcoming-changes-to-childcare-support/>

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Compassion'

"No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted."
Aesop

This week we pray for all those who are homeless during this cold weather.

This week's big question is:
Can kindness change the world?



Healthy Packed Lunches

If you do opt to send your child to school with a packed lunch, we do encourage to make healthy choices when preparing this:
A healthy packed lunch should consist of:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Unrefined starchy food - for example multigrain bread, pasta or rice
- Sources of protein - meat, fish, eggs, beans etc.
- Milk or other dairy foods - i.e. cheese
- A small amount of fat, sugar and salt
- Water, milk or juice

Please be aware that we are a nut free school. We have children at school who have very severe nut allergies and would require medical assistance if they came into contact with nuts. Therefore, please ensure that your child's packed lunch does not contain any nuts and check ingredients if you are not sure.

Staying Safe Online

In today's digital world, we are getting more and more new technologies that our children are exposed to. One such technology is that of AI (Artificial Intelligence). Many apps that children may engage with, such as Snapchat, has an AI function, using chatbots. As children experiment with these new-found technologies, our guide this week gives parents some useful tips in how to help children navigate such technologies.

Parent Coffee Morning

Our next parent coffee morning is being held on Friday 2nd February at 8:45. Why not come along for a brew and a chat? Next week we will be doing some crafting activities and Catherine from the Warrington Children's Mental Health Support Team will also be coming along.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



JUNIORS PROJECT NIGHT

Do you want to start 2024 trying something new?

Project Zone's next 6-week block starts

Sunday 7th January for young people age 7-12 years

Sessions are held between 4-8pm and each session lasts between 1-2.5hrs depending on the activity

- Badminton *6pm
- Baking *4pm *6pm
- Basketball *4pm
- Book club *4pm
- Boxing *5pm *6pm
- Chill & chat *5pm
- Dance Squad *4pm
- Feel Good Arts & crafts *5pm
- Learn the Guitar *4pm
- Messy Art *6pm
- Morris dancing *5pm
- Performing Arts *5pm
- Podcast *5pm
- Pokémon arts & crafts *4pm

**Youth Zone Membership is required (one off £5 payment) then 50p per session **

Book on the Warrington Youth Zone Website or at reception. Limited Spaces available!

For further information email dawn.dean@wyz.org.uk

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example) or a form of AI to become especially popular has been the AI friend or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this virtual friend functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that AI chatbots could be exposed to offensive language or sexually explicit content, or even befriend their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT
An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. Young people become dependent on companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY
Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, or most likely miss it. It might be unable to respond appropriately. AI chatbots aren't always being told or replying insensitively to a young person's distress, which may be more likely to impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS
AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been advised. AI-powered chatbots will have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuances. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may mean a child's development of their own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS
Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuances. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may mean a child's development of their own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS
Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is necessary to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour. But many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS
If your child is already expressing an interest in AI, it's a good idea to have a conversation to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT
If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and quality control items that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE
Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they must use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as still getting personal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL
As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls on the device being used or within the software itself to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for young children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS
It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and most importantly tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert
A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of Cyber Security at the NSIC, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, Henderson is committed to becoming more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonline_safety | NationalOnlineSafety | @nationalonline_safety | @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: 21.08.2023

Are your children registered with a dentist?
These dentists are still accepting new patients:

- Museum Street Dental Practice

WA1 1JA
01925 630221

Accepting children aged 17 and under

- Latchford Dental Practice

WA14 1JJ
01925 655037

Accepting children aged 17 and under



Dates for your Diary

28.1.24	4pm	Confirmation Service for Y5 & 6 pupils at St Andrew's, Orford.
29.1.24		B Tales Noah's Ark Workshop for Reception children
30.1.24	2 – 3pm	Stay and Play - Nursery (start of the week) and Reception
31.1.24		Curious Critters session for Nursery and Reception children
1.2.24	2 – 3pm	Stay and Play Nursery (end of the week)
2.2.24	8:45am	Parent Coffee Morning – EVERYBODY WELCOME
2.2.24		Cyberwise sessions for all KS2 classes
5.2.24 – 9.2.24		Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
5.2.24		Parents' Evening and Starbooks Reading Cafe
6.2.24		Safer Internet Day
7.2.24		Parents' Evening and Starbooks Reading Cafe
9.2.24		School closes for half term
19.2.24		School opens

Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
SPRING	Monday 8 th January to Friday 9 th February	Monday 12 th February to Friday 16 th February inclusive	Monday 19 th February to Thursday 28 th March
Easter Holiday Friday 29 th March to Friday 5 th April 2024 inclusive			
Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
SUMMER	Monday 8 th April to Friday 24 th May	Monday 27 th May to Friday 7 th June inclusive	Monday 10 th June to Friday 19 th July
Closure Days			
BANK HOLIDAY Monday 6 th May 2024			
WARRINGTON WALKING DAY Friday 28 th June 2024			

