

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

09/02/2024



*'Let your light shine'*

I cannot believe we are already at the end of the half term; it really has flown by as we have been so busy in school. This year we are focussing on improving standards in writing across the school. Writing is a really difficult skill, as there are so many different aspects to think about including text structure, sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation. This term we are focussing on accuracy, especially remembering to use capital letters, the correct punctuation and then proof read for mistakes. I am so proud of how hard our children have worked to improve these skills and really risen to the challenge. We have also welcomed a lot of visitors into our school this half term and every one of them have commented on the standards of behaviour and enthusiasm for learning demonstrated by all our children. Everyone has let their light shine and deserve a good rest next week!

Have a lovely half term everyone – I look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

*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'*

**"Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."**

Colossians 3 v 12

**This week's prayer:** We pray for all who are suffering with poor mental health.

**This week's big question is:**

*Is someone born with a caring personality or is it learned?*



Our parents have been letting their light shine too...look at these beautiful crafts made by our lovely mums and dads in last week's coffee morning. If you are interested in coming along for a cuppa and a chat, the next **coffee morning** will be on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 8:45am** in the hall. EVERYONE is welcome and if you have any great ideas for activities or speakers, please have a chat with Miss Hodgkinson or Mrs Fisher on the gate.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalonline.org](http://nationalonline.org) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omigle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

**RESTRICTION 17+**  
Although it is not an age restriction, users must be 17 or older to use the app.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports at the time continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material), and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app - including those aged under 16.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

**IN-APP SPENDING**  
While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option) rather than the app's characteristic style of random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

**INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY**  
According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (copy photos, text messages, screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users - and all of this information is shared with third parties.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

**DISCUSS THE DANGERS**  
Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers, that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name), and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

**RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING**  
If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

**REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
Monkey states in its safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is self-governed. It is also expected to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji on the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

**SPOT THE SIGNS**  
If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey - or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content - it's important to watch for indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Claire Hollands is a specialist safety researcher, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and other safety policies in schools. She has written numerous expert articles and provided support for the Australian government regarding internet user and online behaviour of young people in the UK, UAE and Australia.

The National College | 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: 07.02.2024

**Staying Safe Online**

Our e safety guide this week is centred around a new platform called Monkey. This platform facilitates 15 second video conversations that have been randomly matched by the platform. Our guide gives hints and tips on the dangers that can be faced by our younger audience.

**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.

**Children's Mental Health Week 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February**

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and the aim is to equip and empower and give a voice to EVERY child and young person across the UK. We have a continual focus on good physical and mental health in school and offer lots of activities to promote positive mental health and growth mindset in all children, in addition to offering bespoke support for children who require it. If you are worried about your child's mental health, speak with Mrs Fisher, Miss Hodgkinson or your child's class teacher. This week's newsletter has some top tips for children and families to encourage well-being.

**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**  
WA4 1JJ  
01925 655037  
Accepting children aged 17 and under

Dates for your Diary	
9.2.24	School closes for half term
19.2.24	School opens
19.2.24	Y6 trip to Warrington Museum
23.2.24	Y3/4 Warrington Wolves Rugby Session
28.2.24	Reception trip to Warrington Museum
28.2.24	'Would you risk it?' Year 6 PSHE session on peer pressure
29.2.24	Year 5 Fire Safety Session with Cheshire Fire Service
1.3.24	8:45 Parent Coffee Morning – everyone welcome
1.3.24	Y3/4 Warrington Wolves Rugby Session
7.3.24	World Book Day
8.3.24	Y3/4 Warrington Wolves Rugby Session
11.3.24 – 15.3.24	British Science Week
13.3.24	Y4 trip to Quarry Bank Mill
15.3.24	Comic Relief
15.3.24	Y3/4 Warrington Wolves Rugby Session
20.3.24	Choir performing at the Parr Hall
22.3.24	Y3/4 Warrington Wolves Rugby Session
25.3.24	Easter Performance for Nursery and Reception
26.3.24	Flowering of the Cross at St Barnabas Church
27.3.24	Easter Service in St Barnabas Church
27.3.24	B Tales Easter Performance Y1 – Y6
28.3.24	School closes for Easter break
8.4.24	School opens for Summer Term

### Term Dates for the Academic Year 202

Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
SPRING	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February inclusive	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February to Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March

Easter Holiday Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024 inclusive

Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
SUMMER	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June inclusive	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Closure Days</b>	BANK HOLIDAY Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024		
	WARRINGTON WALKING DAY Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024		

