



## St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



### News in school 10.11.23

Good afternoon,

This week, our children and staff have been shining their light through the development of our new initiatives, dedicating time to parents evening, supporting our school through running a book fair, representing the school in sporting fixtures and living out our core values every day. Thank you to all our children and staff for the hard work, determination and kindness that you show every day to make our school the best it can be.

#### **Book Fair**

Thank you to everyone who visited our book fair and to Mrs S for running it. We raised £271 and this will be spent on books for our vending machine and library.

#### **Pre-school**

Our pre-school has been accepted, and the specification has gone out to tender. We are keeping everything crossed that an excellent Early Years provider comes forward. I will keep you up to date with progress over the following weeks.

#### **Dog Fouling**

We have been contacted by a member of the public regarding dog fouling outside the school gates. We are in contact with the dog warden, have had new signs put up and the area will now be monitored. If you spot anyone not clearing up after their dog, please pop in and speak to us.

#### **Hair accessories**

Just a gentle reminder that hair accessories must be navy or green please. Fashion headbands, ears or multicoloured accessories are not school uniform and will be confiscated if worn in school.

#### **Panto – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

If you haven't done so already, please complete the parent consent form, via ParentMail, by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November as we need to place an order for ice creams. If we receive your order after this date, we can not guarantee that your child will receive an ice cream.

#### **LIVES**

Please click on this link to see a very short (1 min) YouTube video about the Restart a Heart Campaign being run by LIVES. [LIVES Restart A Heart - YouTube](#)

### **National Child Measurement Programme**

Parents of Reception and Year 6 children will have received an email, via ParentMail, regarding the Heights and Weights check that will take place in January 2024.

### **Apple & Palm Christmas Performance**

A letter has been sent to parents in Apple and Palm class with details of costumes for the Christmas Performance. Details regarding tickets has been sent home. The performances will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm.

### **PTFA Non-Uniform Day**

The PTFA are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December in exchange for donations for the Christmas Fayre that is being held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm.

### **After School Clubs**

Please be aware that Netball club will not take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### **Family Collective Worship**

Please be aware that Family Collective Worship will not take place Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Take care  
Miss Ingle

## **School worship**

Gracious God, from love we are made and to love we shall return. May our love for one another kindle flames of joy and hope. May the light and warmth of your grace inspire us to follow the Way of Jesus Christ, and serve you in your Kingdom, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **Bible verse of the week**

**1 Peter 4:8**

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

## **Attendance winner of the week**

Palm and Willow Classes are the attendance winners of the week and will share Gerald!

## **Dates for Your Diary**

Date	Time	Event
15 <sup>th</sup> November		Reception 2024 Application Process opens
17 <sup>th</sup> November		Children in Need Day
20 <sup>th</sup> November		Willow Class trip to Christmas Unwrapped
29 <sup>th</sup> November		Apple Class trip to Tallington Farm
1 <sup>st</sup> December		PTFA Non-Uniform Day (donations for Christmas Fayre)
5 <sup>th</sup> December		Oak Class Trip to Rockingham Castle 'A Victorian Christmas'
6 <sup>th</sup> December	6-7.30pm	Ask Dan Anything – Online Safety Q&A
11 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm	Apple & Palm Class Christmas Performance
12 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30pm	Apple & Palm Class Christmas Performance
13 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Jumper Day
13 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Lunch (order via Willoughby Foods website)
13 <sup>th</sup> December	3.15 - 4.30pm	PTFA Christmas Disco
14 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30-5pm	PTFA Christmas Fayre

15 <sup>th</sup> December		Whole school trip to Panto (South Holland Centre)
19 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm	Christingle & Carols by Candlelight at the Church

All calendar dates/events can be found on our school website by clicking on the 'calendar' tab. If you wish to add an event to your calendar, you can do so by clicking on the link and pressing the 'add to calendar' button.

## Any Other Information

### PE/Swimming Timetable Term 2:

	Outdoor PE	Indoor PE
Apple	Monday	Wednesday
Palm	Tuesday	Thursday
Oak	Thursday	Monday
Willow	Friday	Tuesday

### Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

If anyone would like to donate any Christmas jumpers that their children have grown out of, we would be happy to receive them in school.

### School Mobile Phone

We now have a school mobile for afterschool care. The number is: 07396725986 It will be turned off during the school day. It will only be available for parents who have children attending afterschool care during afterschool care hours. **PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE FIRST IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

### After School Kids Club

Please be aware that if parents/carers/guardians are more than 10 minutes late collecting from after school clubs at 4pm there will be a charge of a full hour, per child, childcare cost.

### Pencil Cases

Please remember to ask your child regularly if they require anything replenishing.

### School Opening

Our school office is open from 8.30am to 3.15pm, Monday to Friday. If you wish to contact the school out of these hours, please call 01775 640357 and leave a message on our answerphone or alternatively email [enquiries@stbartholomews.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@stbartholomews.lincs.sch.uk).



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

### PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

### DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many apps and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

### AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

### SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

### CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

### (GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

### STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

### WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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