



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



News in school 3.11.23

Good afternoon,

November is a noisy month in the northern hemisphere. Most nights you can hear the sounds and sometimes see the sparkle of bonfire parties being held nearby – or these may be linked to the festival of Diwali which is also celebrated at this time. Seeing the night sky lit up by splashes of colour from an exploding rocket is always exciting and a big draw for adults and children alike.

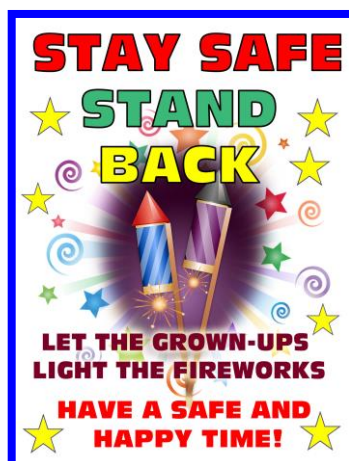
If you've ever watched fireworks, then you know how mesmerising the view can be. Each tiny light makes its way into the darkness, and two perfectly timed fuses within a shell perform their duty to create an illuminous masterpiece. If the shell sits in a covered box, protected from anything that might ignite it, then the beauty it contains is never seen. The incredible vision of light it provides is, sadly, never displayed.

Matthew 5:14-16 CSB reminds us:

“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

While it's tempting to keep our “shells in the box” and avoid revealing our light, at St Bartholomew's, we encourage all of our community to shine their light for the good of others. This term in particular, we will be shining our light of LOVE as it is our core value focus for the term.

If you are taking part in anything firework related this weekend, we hope that you have a wonderful time and stay safe.



Parents Evening – Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th November

An email has been sent to all parents, via ParentMail, informing them of the day and time of their appointment. Your child's books will be available to view in the school hall before your appointment. Mrs Davison will have a SEND table open on Tuesday if you have any quick questions or queries for her.

Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 13th 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.

KS2 SATs Week

Please be aware that Year 6 children will be sitting their KS2 SATs tests w/c 13th May 2024.

KS1 SATs

This year, the KS1 SATs stopped being compulsory. We have decided to no longer do SATs with our year 2 children. Instead, we will do our NFER (National Foundation for Education Research) assessments, like we do with years 1-5. Therefore, your child will still be assessed three times a year and the progress will continue to be tracked and monitored. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Houses

Firstly, our colour teams are now being revamped to Houses. They have a Staff Head of House as well as the House Captain (was Team Captain). They are now:

Red – Harriers – Miss Cannon
Green - Hawks – Miss Swain
Yellow – Eagles – Miss Cox
Blue – Falcons – Mrs Davison

House captains will be setting a calendar of House competitions that run across the curriculum. All entries earn one House point. Winning entries earn 20, 2nd place 15 and 3rd place 10.

We hope that this will give more responsibility to our captains and bring further opportunities to get involved in the wider life of the school for all our children.

The winning House for the year will win a full activity day with Elite Sport which will be held at the end of the summer term.

Behaviour for Learning

We are looking closely at behaviour for learning in our classrooms.

“Behaviour for learning is a learning concept that aims to establish positive relationships between self, others, and the curriculum. When these three elements are promoted and nurtured in unison in a classroom, a culture of positive learning behaviour is embraced.”

If our behaviour for learning is as good as it can be, then we should see even greater progress and attainment whilst nurturing confident and independent learners.

Therefore, we are opening “Bartholomew’s Bank”. Each child will have their own bank book and will be able to collect “Shines” for positive learning behaviours, independence, effort, and achievement within lessons. Each Wednesday our school bank will open, and the children will be able to take their bank books and deposit their shines into their own bank account.

We will also be opening a West pinchbeck Store which will be stocked with goodies such as bouncy balls, water bottles, toys, stationery, puzzles etc that the children can buy using their shines.

We hope to teach life skills of banking, saving, and spending through this initiative too.

Classroom Ambassadors

We will be appointing two classroom ambassadors who will greet visitors in their classroom by standing up, shaking their hands, welcoming them into the class and explaining what learning is taking place.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Take care
Miss Ingle

School worship

God, Our Father, loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support. Instil in each member the spirit of understanding and affection for each other. Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them, and for their occasional failures instil forgiveness and peace.

Amen

Bible verse of the week

1 Chronicles 16:34

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Celebrated this week in Collective Worship

w/e 3.11.2023	Fantastic award	Excellence award
Apple Class	Joseph	Flo
Palm Class	Harry J	Xander
Oak Class	Harry C	Ella-Rose
Willow Class	Charlie-Mai	Molly C

Attendance winner of the week

Palm Class are the attendance winners of the week!

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event
29 th November		Apple Class trip to Tallington Farm
5 th December		Oak Class Trip – A Victorian Christmas, Rockingham Castle
6 th December	6-7.30pm	Ask Dan Anything – Online Safety Q&A
13 th December		Christmas Jumper Day
13 th December		Christmas Lunch (order via Willoughby Foods website)
13 th December	3.15 - 4.30pm	PTFA Christmas Disco
14 th December	2.30-5pm	PTFA Christmas Fayre
15 th December		Whole school trip to Panto (South Holland Centre)
19 th December	6pm	Christingle & Carols by Candlelight at the Church

Any Other Information

PE/Swimming Timetable Term 2:

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

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

Thank you very much to everyone who has supported us by providing their children with stationery for their pencil cases, however a large number of children do not have glue sticks. Glue sticks are a staple part of school life and are used up very quickly. 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 email enquiries@stbartholomews.lincs.sch.uk or call 01775 640357 and leave a message on our answerphone.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

X

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

BLUE TICK SALE

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow; this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Uloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Five Nights at Freddy's is a series of indie point-and-click horror games whose word-of-mouth success and widespread spin-off content on YouTube have helped each of the nine instalments so far to sell almost five million copies on Steam (the PC gaming platform) alone. Set in various deserted locations at night, with creepy animatronic characters suddenly coming to life, the games are rated PEGI 12 for disturbing/violent content, mild profanity and horror themes.

FRIGHTENING THEMES

Five Nights at Freddy's (FNaF for short) doesn't feature bloodshed like many horror games – but it does build tension and use jump scares, which may be too intense for young players. The sinister animatronic characters and the sensation of being trapped and defenceless could be particularly unsettling, as could the inclusion of disturbing elements such as murder or possession by evil spirits.

STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

Due to FNaF's suspenseful atmosphere, it can be extremely stressful for players. Constantly checking that one's surroundings are safe is a crucial part of the gameplay and could create residual stress or even obsessive-compulsive behaviours. Several media reports have suggested that some younger children have experienced severe nightmares or sleep anxiety after playing games from the series.

IN-GAME SPENDING

FNaF doesn't foreground in-game purchasing as strongly as many other well-known games, but some titles in the series do offer additional content that promises to enhance the experience. Five Nights at Freddy's: Help Wanted, for instance, is complemented by a Halloween-themed expansion pack called 'Curse of Breddbear' (costing £8.99), which unlocks new levels and mini-games.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18

As a result of FNaF's popularity, a sizeable YouTube community based on fan-made content has developed around the game. While the majority of this material is still child friendly, there are a number of channels which are geared more towards mature audiences: they contain adult and disturbing themes, for example, and (in some cases) age-inappropriate language.

PLAYING IN ISOLATION

Many parents will be relieved to learn that Five Nights at Freddy's is a single-player game which doesn't include any online chat functionality. Conversely, however, this could also make playing FNaF quite an isolating experience – especially if your child is spending a lot of time investigating the game's spooky, shadowy environments alone in their room, for example.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't have conventional parental controls. However, if you're concerned about the potential impacts of the game's themes and content, you can simply choose not to let your child play it. If they use an Android or iOS device for gaming, you can adjust Apple and Google's built-in parental controls to restrict your child's access to certain content.

TRY IT YOURSELF

Every child is different, of course, so it could be worth playing Five Nights at Freddy's yourself for a while to gauge how your young gamer might cope with the series' more frightening and disturbing aspects. If they're old enough, you could spend some time playing it together – after all, it usually only takes between two and ten minutes to complete a level.

LIMIT SPENDING

Unlike many popular titles, Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't bombard players with tempting in-game purchase offers. It's worth noting, however, that some instalments in the series do provide the option for players to spend real-world money. With that in mind, it's important to either keep a close eye on your child's expenditure or limit their access to digital payment options.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on Five Nights at Freddy's, or you're worried that the game's scary themes are taking a toll, watch out for warning signs. Young people may start to prioritise gaming over everyday essentials like schoolwork or sleep; irritability or a lack of concentration could also indicate that their gaming sessions are going on too long.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

Before you allow your child to play Five Nights at Freddy's, it's wise to have a conversation about the game so that they're aware of the potential risks. Ensure that your child understands that the series is purposely designed to be tense and unsettling, and that they should stop or take a break if the intensity of the gameplay is making them feel uncomfortable or putting them on edge.

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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