



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



"Let your light shine"

News in school

2.5.25

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

Thomas's Corner

At the last FunRun, the Halmer Harrier's donated £500 to the school to open a reading corner in memory of Thomas. Rosie opened it for us this week. It is a snuggly and cosy area where children can enjoy and share their love of reading. The shed is open every break and lunchtime and our librarians are doing a super job of keeping it stocked and tidy.



Month of the Military Child (April)

Today we held a **Non-Uniform Day** to support 'Purple Up Day'. The children and staff were invited to wear purple to celebrate children from Armed Forces families. Purple has been chosen as it combines the various colours associated with different branches of the military.



Zero Tolerance

I am sorry to say that we have recently had a number of face to face and telephone incidents where parents have been verbally aggressive. The majority of these incidents have been directed at our office staff. The ladies in the office are told information on a need to know basis as some information is confidential. When calling the office, please ask to speak to or arrange a meeting with the member of staff that you need to speak to. We have now put the following posters up in our entrance as a reminder. The phone will be put down and the hatch will be closed should any further incidents occur.



Free Online Safety Q&A events for Parents

The Stay Safe Partnership deliver Online Safety workshops in Primary schools across Lincolnshire everyday. In the below events you will be given the most up to date information and tools around what your children are experiencing online, so you can feel confident in keeping them safe from online harm whilst still allowing them to explore the online world. Whether you want to know more around age appropriate apps, online trends, parental controls, social media or any other burning questions this is the event for you! Sign up is required.

Stay Safe Partnerships Online Safety Q+A for Parents of **Primary Aged Children 14th May 2024 6-7:30pm**

FREE TEAMS event sign up required: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/1651088>

Stay Safe Partnerships Online Safety Q+A for Parents of **Secondary Aged Children 7th May 2024 6-7:30 pm**

FREE TEAMS event sign up required: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/staysafepartnership/1651098>

Bible verse of the week

Galatians 6:9

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up”

School worship

Dear God, please help me
today. Give me strength when
I am weak, lend me a shoulder
when I need to cry, and help me
up when I fall. Amen.

HearHefHquoth.blogspot.com

Church News

Thirsty on a Thursday: The Church is open every Thursday between 9.30—11am for you to drop in any time for tea/coffee and a chat.

Flower Festival: St Bartholomew's Church will be open on Wednesday 30th until Monday 5th May from 10am – 4.30pm to view the lovely flower displays.

Attendance winner of the week

Dahl are the attendance winners for w/c 21.4.25 and have won a trip to the park with Gerald during playtime one day next week (w/c 5.5.25).

Celebrated this week in Collective Worship

W/E 2.5.25	Fantastic Award	Excellence Award
Dahl	Nivi	Rupert
Nightingale	Dillan W	Mila-Rose
Darwin	Thomas St	Dakota
Franklin	Arlya	Charlie

Any Other Information/Reminders

Swimming – Term 5

Please be aware that all children will be swimming this term in one of their class PE lessons. The children require a swimming costume (tight fitting trunks or over the knee shorts for boys/one piece costume for girls), a towel and a swimming hat. Swimming hats can be purchased for £1.75 via ParentMail, payments, shop.

PE Timetable for Term 5 2024-25:

Dahl (Year R): Wednesday
Darwin (Years 3 & 4): Wednesday

Nightingale (Years 1 & 2): Monday
Franklin (Years 5 & 6): Friday

Swimming Timetable for Term 5:

Dahl (Year R): Monday
Darwin (Years 3 & 4): Thursday

Nightingale (Years 1 & 2): Tuesday
Franklin (Years 5 & 6): Wednesday

Severe Weather/Snow Closure

In the event of severe weather, we will always strive to ensure that the school remains open, but in the event that extreme weather conditions necessitate the closure of the school we will advise you of this in a number of ways. We will notify parents via email via ParentMail, update the school website and advise Lincs FM and BBC Lincolnshire radio stations so listen out to their broadcasts or log onto their websites. We will also post a message on the school's Facebook page.

Book Wish List

We are constantly trying to update our school Library so the child have the opportunity to read new and exciting books. With this in mind, Mrs Szydłowski has sourced a 'Book Wish List'. It has been created by our local book shop 'Bookmark' in Spalding. They have been extremely kind and made an area on their website where you can click on a book and purchase it online and have also offered us a discount. We felt it was not only important to purchase new books for our children but also support a local small business. When a few books have been purchased they will then contact Mrs Szydłowski to go and collect them. If you feel you would like to purchase a book for our Library, or know someone that would like to, then please follow this link:

<https://uk.bookshop.org/lists/st-bartholomew-s-ce-primary-school-wishlist?>



Bookmark have informed us that if you select a book from our list on their website and buy via the website then a delivery cost will be added. If you see a book you would like to purchase please email them directly or call the shop. They will then have the books delivered to the shop for free and it will be collected from them.

Health Care Plans

In order that we can provide the necessary care required to those children who have on-going health care needs, we require parents to complete a 'Health Care Plan' form via ParentMail. This document is used to detail the on-going health issues and, if applicable, the medication that each child requires. If you haven't done so already and your child has health care needs, please complete the form via ParentMail. Thank you to those parents who have already completed their child's Health Care Plan.

Attendance

All schools are expected to keep their attendance over 96%, and our Year to Date attendance sits at 95.97%. If you need any help with attendance, please come and speak to us as we will help in any way that we can. Dr Chris Whitty released this statement via the DfE: *"It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above."*



"From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.
#AttendanceCounts"

Attendance

Supporting you to understand the new rules



A National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absences, including unauthorised leave of absences in Term Time, is being introduced following changes to the law. These new government regulations will come into effect from 19th August 2024.

What are these changes?

If a pupil has **10 unauthorised sessions**, which is equal to **5 school days**, within a **10 week period**, a penalty notice may be issued.

This will come under 3 categories: First, Second, and Third offence.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within **28 days**, reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within **21 days**.

Second Offence

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within **28 days**. No reduced rate will be offered.

Third offence and any further offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

For any further inquiries about school attendance please visit:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance

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COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

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.

Pencil Cases

Please remember to ask your child regularly if they require anything replenishing, especially glue sticks, which are frequently used items.

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.

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.

Elite Sports Academy's Thursday Evening Match Nights in Pinchbeck

We are looking forward to returning to our Weekly Thursday Football Match Night's in Pinchbeck this Thursday 24th April 2025 at Pinchbeck East Primary School (enter via Knight Street) from 5.15-6.15pm.

Every Thursday evening during term time
EYFS – Year 6 and all abilities welcome
Arrive and Play - £5 made payable on arrival

All abilities are welcome, whether you are new to football or just looking for extra practice
To book a space, simply email Info@elitesportsacademy.co.uk.

PTFA Easy Fundraising is a great source of funds for the school which could raise £££s for the PTFA. A range of retailers, holiday companies, Ebay, Tesco and many more donate a percentage of money spent when parents / carers / guardians spend money. It costs the consumer absolutely nothing at all. Parents/carers/guardians need to click on the easy fundraising link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/>

- Register an email and password
- Nominate your cause
- Download a reminder tool to browser so when purchases are made through a partner a reminder is sent.

Make the purchase and a percentage goes to St Barts!



YOUR SCHOOL'S PTFA NEEDS YOU!

WHY JOIN ST BART'S PTFA?

- **Make a Difference:** Your efforts can help improve the school environment and resources.
- **Meet New People:** It's a great way to meet other parents and build lasting friendships.
- **Stay Informed:** You'll be in the loop about what's happening at the school and have a say in important decisions.
- **Stronger Community Ties:** Social events and activities help build a supportive and engaged school community. You will have the opportunity to connect with other parents and teachers to make a positive impact on our school.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT @PTFA - ST BART'S, WEST PINCHBECK

YOUR SUPPORT CAN BE ANYTHING, DEPENDING ON YOUR COMMITMENTS

CONTACT US BY EMAILING THE SCHOOL OFFICE:

 enquiries@stbartholomews.lincs.sch.uk



Dates for Your Diary

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

[Events from May 12 – July 21 – St Bartholomew's](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Making 'practice' journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others; remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.

2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.

3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practise double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.

4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.

5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.

6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.

7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view. Instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.

8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.

9 REVERSING VEHICLES

Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?

10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.

Meet Our Expert

THINK! is a year-round national campaign that aims to encourage safe road behaviours – whether we're driving, cycling, horse riding or walking – with the aim of reducing the number of people killed and injured on the UK's roads each year. Find out more at: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ZEPETO

AGE RESTRICTION
14+

FOR SALE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

Although ZEPETO is intended for users aged 14 and up, it lacks built-in parental controls or age verification, instead relying on safety features on the device it's played on. This lack of a parental controls feature raises concerns about whom children may be interacting with on the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As a mix between a virtual world and a social media platform, ZEPETO features a wide range of user-generated content. Some areas may reference mature themes, such as TV series aimed at adults, or include inappropriate material created by other users – all of which children may stumble across without warning.

STRANGER DANGER

By default, users can message and interact with anyone else. This open communication creates an environment where predatory individuals can pose as peers to gain trust, potentially leading to grooming, scams, and exploitation, such as blackmail.

Hi there...

CYBERBULLYING RISKS

As with many social platforms, children can be targeted for bullying, harassment or exclusion by both strangers and their peers. Unfiltered chat and avatar-based interaction can allow bullying and other forms of harassment to continue, impacting children's wellbeing and mental health.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY

Daily log-in rewards, such as coins, and in-game incentives can encourage compulsive behaviour, with some users feeling pressure to check in constantly to avoid missing out. This can lead to excessive screen time and conflict with schoolwork or offline hobbies or commitments.

SPENDING REAL MONEY

While the game is free to play, ZEPETO includes a store offering virtual clothing and accessories for avatars. These items are bought with 'ZEMs' – a paid currency – and the appeal of exclusive items or branded collaborations can make it easy for children to overspend.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Visit the child's profile settings to restrict who can send messages – options include Everyone, Followers Only, or No-one. Encourage children to avoid sharing any personal information on their profile, as this is visible even on private accounts.

LIMIT IN-APP TIME

Use parental controls on Android (Google Family Link) or iOS (Screen Time) to restrict app usage by setting hours or daily limits. Encouraging breaks can help children develop healthier habits and reduce app dependency.

CONTROL SPENDING

To prevent accidental purchases, set up purchase approval systems such as Apple's Ask to Buy or Google's Purchase Approvals. Alternatively, consider removing payment methods or using pre-paid cards with set budgets.

HAVE REGULAR CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about whom they interact with online and the kinds of things they see or experience. Encourage them to speak up if someone makes them uncomfortable or if they come across inappropriate content. Teach them how to recognise red-flag behaviours such as asking for secrets, giving gifts, or requesting personal information.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

FUNNY JOKES

ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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