



Christmas Trip to Lille

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Catholic Life & Mission at the Heart of The Barlow



As another busy and successful term comes to a close, I look back on all our school community has achieved with a great deal of pride.

Our half-termly newsletter, once again, gives you a flavour of life at The Barlow. Our pupils are our greatest asset. They continue to work hard and achieve well. This half-term they have been presented with a wealth of opportunities to widen their horizons; with visits to the Lille Christmas markets, the University of Manchester for the Royal Society of Chemistry Flash-Bang Christmas Lecture, and Manchester's Royal Exchange for a performance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

In November, our Diwali celebrations were a wonderful way to recognise the diversity of our school and brought a real sense of joy amongst our community. It was lovely to see pupils and staff share their experiences of this festival and to reflect upon the commonality of this Hindu celebration with our Catholic faith.

Our Catholic Life and Mission continues to run through the heart of The Barlow. As we move through the season of Advent, we have taken the opportunity to show kindness and compassion to those who are vulnerable.

Pupils, staff and parents/carers have worked together to prepare huge numbers of food hampers for families that need support.

We have also taken time out of our busy lives for prayer and reflection, with our beautiful Carol Concert. The theme this year of 'Peace on Earth' is so poignant as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

My thanks to pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors for your ongoing support of our school. I wish you all a restful holiday and hope that you find peace and joy in your lives this Christmas. I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 8th January, ready for the spring term.

*Pupils return to school on Monday 8th
January 2024, 8.30am*

PEACE ON EARTH

Christmas Carol Concert 2023



As always, the pinnacle of the Season of Advent at The Barlow is our Christmas Carol Concert. This year, with the current international climate in mind, the theme chosen was 'Peace on Earth'. Led by our dedicated Chaplaincy Team, and in particular our Collective Worship Leaders, we reflected upon the different conflicts around the world, and prayed that the celebration of the birth of Jesus might bring peace into our troubled world.

The poignant drama was based on the story of the Christmas Truce, during World War One, and this was led by our Year 10 GCSE drama group, who created the trenches and 'No Man's Land' using staging and imagery.

The Gospel Choir, the Irish Band and talented soloists, Daisy and Isla, provided uplifting and reflective music, with pieces such as Zombie, The Pipes of Peace and Born on Christmas Day. Readers took us on a powerful journey of conflict through the years, to finding peace in Jesus.

The celebration was enhanced by the amazing Destiny Choir, who are part of Kampala Children's Centre: a group of twelve houses that provide a home, education and music for children. The orphans of the Ugandan conflict have found healing in music and in Jesus, and it was an honour and pleasure to share our special evening with them; our thanks to them for the impact they have had on us this Christmas.

On the evening, our community was filled with the Christmas spirit, as we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies and held a raffle to raise money for those in need this Christmas. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in such a beautiful occasion.



ADVENT CHRISTMAS MISSION

#OperationBrosie

As part of our Catholic Mission during the Season of Advent, and as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we have spent time thinking of those who are less fortunate and are in need of our support at this time of year.

As families navigate the current cost of living crisis, we recognise that there are more families in need within our own community than ever before. Statistics show that 302,158 children in the Diocese of Salford are living in poverty in 2023; this has grown from 228,855 last year, a frightening upturn of 24%. This is a crisis to which we needed to respond, as part of our mission to treat one another as we would like to be treated ourselves: No-one should have to face poverty, and certainly, no-one should have to face poverty alone.

Our Chaplaincy Team and Senior Prefects have led a campaign collecting food items to donate to hampers to be shared in our local community: More than 50 for our local parishes and 125 for our own families who are struggling this Christmas. Our Pupil Leaders asked for support, with each year group having a focus of tins, cereals, biscuits, cakes, drinks or dried goods. We were concerned that with the huge growth in need this year that pupils' efforts wouldn't be enough! We therefore created our Just Giving Page and asked, via The Barlow social media accounts, that this link was shared with family and friends, encouraging them to make a donation if they were able to. This page has made £610: Testament to the amazingly kind and generous community we have.

A massive thank-you to all pupils, parents, staff and governors for your support.



A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our Just Giving page we exceeded our target!

BRIDGING GENERATIONS

A Moment of Joy for the Community

In a heart-warming display of intergenerational connection, the Chaplaincy Team paid a visit to Didsbury Good Neighbours Centre to spend quality time with their elderly service users. The bustling halls of the facility were filled with laughter, stories, and an undeniable sense of joy as the younger generation interacted with and brought smiles to the faces of their elder counterparts.

Pupils eagerly participated in activities designed to foster interaction and understanding between the two generations. From Christmas Bingo, to storytelling circles, the pupils and seniors bonded over shared experiences and exchanged tales that spanned decades. *"The energy and enthusiasm the children brought today were infectious,"* remarked one of the volunteers at the centre. *"It's incredible to see these young minds so eager to learn from us and share their own stories. It's like a breath of fresh air."* For many of the children, this visit was an eye-opening experience, offering them a chance to understand and appreciate the wisdom and life experiences of the elderly. *"I learned so much from talking to them,"* said Niamh, Year 9, beaming with excitement. *"They've lived through so many things, and it's amazing to hear about it first-hand. I feel like I've made new friends today!"*

The visit wasn't just about sharing stories; it also included Christmas Carolling performances, where some of the seniors showcased their musical talents, while the children clapped and sang along. These moments of shared joy bridged the generational gap, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and understanding. *"We believe in the power of such interactions,"* expressed one of the organisers. *"It's essential for the pupils to learn empathy, respect, and the value of connecting with people of all ages. These experiences stay with them and shape their understanding of the world."* This intergenerational exchange not only brought smiles to the faces of the elderly but also left a lasting impact on the pupils; reminding them of the importance of compassion and the treasure trove of knowledge and wisdom that resides in the hearts of the older generation.

As the visit concluded, hugs were shared, promises of return were made, and the echoes of laughter lingered in the air, leaving behind memories that will be cherished by both the children and the elderly for a long time to come.

The event exemplified the beauty of bridging generations, providing that regardless of age, a genuine connection and shared moments can bring immense happiness and enrich the lives of everyone involved.



VISIT TO THE ROYAL EXCHANGE

"For never was a story of more woe than this of Juliet and her Romeo."

At the beginning of November, forty Year 9 pupils experienced a fantastic day courtesy of the Manchester Royal Exchange theatre, as we ventured into the city centre to see their reimaginging of Romeo and Juliet.

Pupils, many of whom were witnessing this incredible theatre for the first time, were greeted with a workshop from the director and several of the leading cast, who spoke with passion about their interpretation of the text and demonstrated their rehearsal process for the many schools that were in attendance. After, followed a fascinating talk from the sound designer as he displayed his ingenuity and skill at creating mood and atmosphere through music.

The highlight of the morning session, however, was without doubt the half an hour we were addressed by the costume department. After initially speaking to pupils about their process and how they began working in the theatre, the team wheeled out a clothes rail filled with costumes and invited pupils to volunteer. Our very own Khalid put himself forward, and the crowd were given a choice: Contemporary clothes for The Barlow Romeo? Or a fabulous period piece, coupled with pantaloons, ruff, and the fanciest hat this side of the Pennines?

The choice was no choice in truth, and minutes later Khalid appeared to cheers and applause dressed head to toe in 17th century garb.

After an exhilarating morning, pupils had a brief pause for lunch and a wander around the space, before returning to their seats for the main event. Some pupils had low expectations of the performance heading into the day, some had never set foot in a theatre before. All were

blown away by the quality of the performance. This was, for the vast majority, the first professional production they had seen, and the excitement, the blood, the language were brought to life for the two hours' traffic of their stage. The pupils with patient ears attended, and were exemplary as audience members (even if the frequent kissing had a few squirming in their seats).

It was wonderful to hear pupils discussing the play on the coach journey home (the fake blood was particularly commented upon, as were the violent deaths) and all went home all the richer for having seen a classic of English literature. It is seeing Shakespeare live, and done well, that you realise why these plays have endured. Hopefully this trip has captured the imagination of our pupils; it certainly was fun!



Passion and Pride

Congratulations to Edward who has recently been selected for the Sale Sharks Developing Player Programme.

Unfortunately, Edward missed the first session due to a broken wrist, however, he was able to join up with the programme in mid-December.



The feedback is that Edward held his own, among some very talented players. It is great to see him wearing The Barlow rugby kit at the session.

Our thanks to Mr Greenlees and the PE Team for their support of Edward. We look forward to hearing about his progress in the new year.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL 2023

A Comedy of Errors

On Wednesday 22nd November, an extremely talented group of Year 8 and 10 pupils entertained family and friends with the Shakespearian Comedy, A Comedy of Errors, at Loreto Sixth Form.

The Shakespeare Festival provides pupils with the challenge of understanding and performing a 30-minute version of some of Shakespeare's classic texts.

Our pupils and staff worked tirelessly to produce an original and entertaining version of the Shakespeare classic. Their dedication is admirable and their enthusiasm and talent commendable. Their exceptional efforts reaped the rewards as they received a standing ovation from the 200+ crowd gathered in the theatre.

The commitment of our pupils to prepare in both curriculum time and co-curricular clubs is to be celebrated. The Barlow strikes again with an incredible bunch of young actors and an amazing performance!



Parent Voice

Recently, we conducted a Parent/Carer Voice Survey and were delighted with the number of responses we received. Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to respond.

We believe that it is vital to gather the views of one of the most important parts of our Barlow Family: our parents and carers. You are the experts of your own children. By seeking your voice and working together, we can learn from you to ensure the best support for your child. Strong relationships between school and home can also positively impact and shape your child's view of school, and of the importance and value of education. We believe that by working together, we can further embed

a supportive and enriching environment for our children.

Over thirteen key areas, 80+% of the responses, were very positive and we are delighted to learn that you feel that we are getting the educational experience for your children right. However, we are not complacent; we never 'sit on our laurels' and are always looking to improve. Your viewpoints matter to us and we will be sharing the actions we have taken in response to your suggestions for improvement in a separate communication.

Please keep an eye on your emails for further details.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Giving Pupils a Voice to 'Care For Our Common Home'

The selection process for the prestigious role of School Council Representative began early in the academic year, when Family Tutors discussed with pupils the opportunity of being elected. Following this, pupils democratically voted to select two members to represent them in the Year Group School Council Sub Committees.

In November, Heads of Year met with their Year Group Councils to discuss an environmental project and how representatives can get the message across to pupils in their year group about the importance of 'caring for our common home'.

Year 7 have decided to run a recycling project and will launch this in January through assemblies, social media and the newsletter. Following a meeting with Ms Wallace, they intend to collect data to analyse the impact of their project. We are excited to see what these young leaders deliver.

Year 8 are going to encourage pupils to reduce their use of travelling by car; we are introducing a step challenge within the year group! They plan to introduce the 10k step challenge in assembly and this will mean a competition between Family Groups. Each pupil will track how many steps they have done during the week, and the person with the most steps will win an early lunch pass for both themselves and their Family Group Council Rep. A

great way to save the environment and get fit in the new year.

Year 9 have researched and discovered a project called 'Recycle 4 School'. This project involves staff and pupils bringing coats and other clothing which can then be distributed to people across the world who need them. This will provide clothing to those who need it, particularly in the colder months. The clothes will be collected and weighed and then the school will receive a sum of money which can be used to support the ongoing improvement projects in place.

Year 10 plan to collect old school bags and coats for pupils to use in school and to support the local community, including Primary Schools. Their initiative will be called 'Recycling Old Bags and Coats' and this will give pupils who do not have a bag or suitable coat an opportunity to get one of these essential items.

Year 11 Reps met with Ms Wallace to see if we could have more water stations to encourage pupils to use a reusable water bottle to reduce plastic pollution. They have named their project 'Give a hoot, don't pollute'. They are going to select 'stewards' who will carry out litter picks during lunchtime, on a rota, for the half term. The rubbish will be analysed; the number of plastic bottles recorded as well as bags of rubbish counted and recorded. This will then be repeated to see if we can see a reduction in the amount of litter dropped in school.



LEARN WITH THE LORDS

British Values

On Friday 24th November, Year 9 pupils were very privileged to have an audience with a member from the House of Lords. This rare opportunity provided pupils with a chance to ask 'Big Questions' to an active member of the House of Lords, Baroness Barker.

Pupils spent time preparing for this live session within their PSHCE lesson. They explored the role of the House of Lords and how they work alongside the House of Commons to create laws in the UK. Pupils looked at the roles and interests of Baroness Barker so they could create the perfect questions to pose to her.

Our session began with Baroness Barker explaining her role and how she came to have a seat in the House of Lords. Baroness Barker, or Liz Barker, was made a Life Peer in 1999 because of her commitment and devotion to the charity sector. She spoke passionately about her role and ensured the pupils felt comfortable having discussions with her.

This allowed pupils the freedom to ask The Baroness any questions. These questions ranged from how to get young people interested in politics, to what she thought about politicians being able to enter reality TV. One pupil even asked her what her favourite computer game was – which focused her on her social time!

Pupils had an amazing opportunity to discuss current political matters with somebody who is at the heart of passing legislation in the UK. Baroness Barker praised the pupils for being incredibly articulate and passionate about politics and our changing society. She gave pupils wonderful advice and encouraged them to always use their voice for reasons they are passionate about. She reminded all pupils that politics is for everyone and that they have the capacity to be our future change makers!

Both Baroness Barker and our pupils had an incredibly fruitful and purposeful time together – so much so, that they ran out of time, much to their dismay!

Question Time...



MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE

Maths Without Limits

The mathematics department were delighted to invite eight outstanding female mathematicians to take part in a day full of mathematical challenge for our high prior attaining girls at Xaverian College earlier in the term.

The girls spoke to high flying females who have successful STEM careers in the engineering and pharmaceutical industry. Mrs Johnson, who accompanied the group, fed back that The Barlow 'led the way' and the girls ensured that our competitive element shone through! Well-done and congratulations to all the girls that attended: Raheeg, Sania, Iklas, Agustina, Ailish, Menara, Isabel and Kirstyn.



Chemistry at Christmas

Forty Year 10 pupils were invited to attend the Royal Society of Chemistry Flash-Bang Christmas Lecture at The University of Manchester, who very generously funded the transport to the event.

They watched exciting demonstrations covering numerous topics, including reversible reactions, changes of state, combustion and respiration. Pupils were truly enthralled and inspired, with glowing feedback from pupils:

'It was an hour of pure, explosive fun!' Liam.

'It was really informative and exciting. It helped me have an insight into what studying Chemistry at University will be like' Isobel.



HEART HOSPITAL

Your Health is your Wealth

Ten Year 10 pupils recently had the opportunity to attend 'Your Heart Hospital' based at Wythenshawe Hospital.

Pupils learned about the causes, prevention and treatment of heart disease as well as what happens in a modern heart hospital. They took part in hands on life saving skills and were lucky enough to spend time learning CPR. Additionally, they learned about a number of health care careers including nurses, radiographers, physiologists and physiotherapists.

Mikel explained, 'They showed me life-saving skills and we had lectures on how the heart works. I now have a better understanding of how and when we need to use CPR. It really deepened my



understanding of how the internal body works and how to react in emergency situations'.

It was great for pupils to see how science applies in everyday life and encouraged them to consider healthcare careers in the future.



Trip to Waterworld

Earlier this week, the Physical Education Department headed to Waterworld, in Stoke. A fantastic setting, it boasts an array of waterslides, flumes and a wave machine. The trip was a reward for all pupils who accumulated 'Sports Credits' by regularly attending co-curricular sports clubs, and by representing The Barlow in sports teams. 49 pupils of varying age groups had the near run of the facility as, fortuitously, The Barlow was the only school in there.

Pupils had no waiting time for slides and rides, and thoroughly enjoyed their swim time in the complex. The most pleasing aspect of the trip was the pupils' behaviour towards one another, and the respectful way they interacted with members of the public, as well as, of course, the sheer delight they demonstrated on each of the flumes.

Mr Greenlees fed back that pupils were a credit to themselves and the school. Lunch was another highlight: a trip to McDonalds. Pupils certainly worked up an appetite because at one point Mr Greenlees was concerned that the restaurant was going to run out of food! Joking apart, pupils were a pleasure to take and our thanks go to Mr Greenlees for organising the trip and Mrs Bowyer, Mr McGonigle and Mr Wallace for their support in accompanying pupils.



LILLE CHRISTMAS MARKET

#Magique

Over the weekend of the 1st December, 47 pupils in Year 11 and Year 9 were accompanied by five staff on a whistle stop tour of Lille, in Northern France, and Ypres in Belgium.

The blurry eyed staff and pupils left Didsbury at 5am and headed down to Dover. Travellers boarded the ferry at 2pm and witnessed some of the most beautiful winter sunsets imaginable. Pupils and staff were in awe and exclaimed it was one of the most amazing things they had ever seen. Upon arrival in France, pupils were treated to a traditional French meal at a local restaurant. The football fans amongst them were given a surprise treat, when they realised the hotel was right next to The Decathlon Arena – Stade Pierre-Mauroy, where the local football team play. After a full sixteen hours of travelling, the party headed to bed to get some well-deserved sleep.

The next day, the group ventured to Centre Commercial Les Tanneurs, to practise their French and flex their debit cards. Pupils enjoyed speaking to the locals but were a little perturbed and surprised when the French wanted to practise their English on them too! Next, the party experienced a real cultural treat when they went to a waffle making factory. Here, they watched the French chef make the batter, cook the waffles and slice them in half – with a huge and dangerous looking knife – before filling them with lovely treats. They learnt that as Lille is so close to the Belgium border, it is Flemish waffles that are the most popular – Gaufres la flamande – and it was these that were enjoyed in the factory. They were delicious, especially straight off the iron!

Next stop, the world-famous Lille Christmas Markets! What a sensational array of wonder. Handmade gifts, chocolate stores, food, winter warming drinks and much more were on offer and The Barlow pupils embraced it all. The experience was filled with a fabulous combination of smells, sights and sounds that allowed all to experience French culture fully. The paths of Lille really were pathed in gold.

In the town's market square, Grand'Place, many of our pupils braved the 50-metre-high Ferris Wheel and saw breath-taking views of beautiful Lille. Not an activity for the faint hearted.

Those that couldn't quite face the dizzy heights, sang Christmas carols around the 18-metre-high Christmas tree. The crisp, fresh and freezing weather only added to the atmosphere in the historical square, surrounded by the stunning Flemish inspired French architecture.

The final day led the group back to Calais, but not before jumping over the border to visit the second country of the weekend. The weather was truly wintry, with snow falling thick and fast as the coach pulled in to the Common Wealth Cemetery of Passchendaele. The Barlow party were in quiet reflection as they walked around the resting place of over one hundred men and boys who lost their lives at the battle at Passchendaele. Year 11 were reminded of the poem "Exposure" that they are studying for their GCSE English where Wilfred Owen tells of the sombre reality of the war and the harsh conditions the elements brought. Their understanding of the line the "...iced east winds that knife us..." was brought starkly to life.

Before leaving Passchendaele, Mr Power led the group in prayer and reflection to remember the lives that were lost. From here we made one more stop at Tyne Cot, the largest war cemetery anywhere in the world. Almost 12,000 individuals lie at rest here and 35,000, who have no known grave, are commemorated. The huge site was incredibly quiet and the party slowly walked around taking in the atmosphere. Pupils and staff were awestruck by the expansive memorial wall that was littered with the names of lost soldiers who died in the 3rd battle of Ypres but have never been found. It was a deeply moving experience.

After the cemeteries, the long journey home began. All were humbled by the final experience in Belgium. A wonderful time was had. The Barlow send a huge thank you to Miss Ruane for planning and executing this marvellous experience. Memories were made and will be forever cherished.





DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Shining a light on Diwali

In November, we provided our pupils with opportunities to learn about the Hindu Festival of Lights: Diwali.

In Family Time, all pupils had the opportunity to think about the links between the Catholic faith and Diwali. They learned about the importance of inter-religious dialogue in our world and how, if all religions work together, we may be able to bring about peace in our time. All Family Groups lit Diwali candles and said a Diwali prayer, which focused on the triumph of light over darkness – a theme evident both in Diwali and the Catholic faith. Some of our pupils who celebrate Diwali were able to share with us a sample of their traditions for the great festival. Priyansh in Year 9, shared with pupils how he had spent Diwali, saying: "At Diwali, my family focused on doing something for ourselves and something for the gods. We honoured the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi and hoped that, through the lights we left out, she would find her way into our homes. We also celebrated the victory of Rama, who defeated evil king, Ravana. We met with about 12 other families to celebrate one of the special days. We ate together and dance performances took place as part of the celebration. Every family had to bring a dish of food for us to share. We played board games and enjoyed spending time together. The following day, we cleaned our house, put out our Diyas (Diwali lights), put Rangoli patterns on our doorstep and then ate special food together, including lots of desserts! We had some fireworks in the garden too as part of our celebration."



Our Hindu pupils loved sharing their Diwali traditions and our other pupils loved learning about the lives and beliefs of their school mates. All pupils at Key Stage 3 took part in exciting Diwali-based lessons in RE and in Art. This included: making Diwali lanterns, creating Rangoli patterns, designing henna tattoos and learning more about Hinduism and the traditions of the religion. Pupils produced some amazing work and thoroughly enjoyed the events. In the Hive, Ms Ali, a member of staff, who celebrates Diwali, brought lots of Diwali treats and food for pupils to try and see what they thought – the samosas were an absolute hit! Mrs Seddon, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion said: "At The Barlow, we strongly believe in ensuring that our pupils have a real sense of belonging – we want all of our pupils, whatever their religious or cultural heritage, to have the opportunity to share important aspects of their lives and for us to learn about each other, so that we can celebrate diversity and appreciate the wonderful mix of people we have in our school. The Barlow is an inclusive school and we are proud of each and every member of our community."

Moving forward, pupils will have the opportunity to learn about other religious and cultural events that are important to members of our school community, including: Chinese New Year, Eid and our inaugural Barlow World Cultures Day, so keep your eyes peeled for more updates to come!



The Festival of Light



#ONLINESAFETY

The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!

1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).

2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.

3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.

4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Makes sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

5. HAVE THE MONEY CONVERSATION

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.

6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.

7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home Wi-Fi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.

8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.

9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.

10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting a user.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Sending Christmas Wishes to our Community



Well done to Esme (Year 7) who is this year's winner of the Christmas Card Competition.



A huge congratulations to all our pupils who took part in our competition, especially to the pupils who featured in this year's Christmas Card

Have a Blessed and Holy Christmas



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