



# Newsletter

No. 6. 1st April 2022

Website: [www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk](http://www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk)

Twitter: @OurLadys\_School

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In Our Lady's Catholic Primary School we learn about God and try to follow his footsteps by showing care and respect for one another.

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well and you enjoyed the sunshine last week - long may it continue!

I would like to say a massive thank you for the support and generosity shown for our CAFOD cake sale last week. We raised over £620 which is the most we have ever raised for such an event. This will make such a difference to families in Ukraine. I would like to extend a thank you to our Pupil Chaplains, who helped run the event. - an excellent example of service!

It is with great sadness that I share the news that Mrs Chavasse will be leaving the school at the end of this academic year. Mrs Chavasse has been a wonderful servant of the school and I am sure you will join me when the time comes in saying a huge thank you for her dedication and commitment to our school.

Ms Massey will not be returning to work following her maternity leave. We wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her hard work over the past two years.

For the Summer Term, Mrs Tucker will return to her usual working pattern of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the Owl class, with Mrs Hynes teaching on Thursdays and Fridays. I would like to express my thanks to Mrs Tucker for stepping in to cover Ms Massey's maternity leave.

The school will now start a recruitment process to secure new teachers for September and we will share with you an update in due course.

There is a school mass in church on Wednesday 6th April. All members of the school community are welcome to join us. It starts at 10am.

Thank you to those who joined us for parent meetings this week - I hope you found them useful. If you haven't managed to meet with your child's class teacher yet then please make an appointment.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Meech  
Executive Headteacher

As a school we have signed up to access the National on-line Safety software.



They provide regular updates and access to short videos that will help you stay informed on the latest online safety news, quickly gain practical tips and advice, and access free online resources. Please can you register via the link below to allow you to start accessing these useful and important resources:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/our-lady-s-school>

**Reminder that the last day of term for both Our Lady's and Barn A Bs Pre-School is Friday 8th April 2022. School re-opens to pupils for the Summer Term on Monday 25th April 2022.**



Barnstaple Library are delighted to be exhibiting items of royal memorabilia on loan from North Devon collector Sarah Grant.

A curated collection of over 200 items will be displayed on the top floor of Barnstaple library at selected times from 24th May - 6th June.

The exhibition will be complimented by displays from our Local Studies Centre which includes the North Devon Athenaeum and the North Devon Records Office.

An original oil painting of the Queen by local artist Sarah Flannery will also be exhibited with prints available to purchase.

Tickets for entry to the exhibition are £6 per person and can be purchased at the library or from Eventbrite (booking fee applies for Eventbrite bookings).



**TRY TENNIS INVITATION!**



**FOLLOWING OUR YEAR 4 TENNIS FESTIVAL - WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL CHILDREN AGED 8 & 9 TO COME AND TRY TENNIS FOR FREE IN ONE OF OUR FUN COACHED LESSONS!**

**WHEN?**

**4 Options - Choose either:**

- **MONDAYS - 4pm or 5pm**
- **SATURDAYS - 11am or 12noon**

**HOW DO WE SIGN UP?**

**Email: [tarkatennis@gmail.com](mailto:tarkatennis@gmail.com) NOW for your child's FREE taster tennis lesson! Don't miss out!**

## **JUNIOR GOLF TASTER DAY AT ILFRACOMBE GOLF CLUB!!**

**TUESDAY 12TH APRIL, 10.00am - 2.00pm**

**COME ALONG TO THIS **FREE** EVENT AND TRY:**

- **Hitting balls on our driving range**
- **Play some short holes on our junior practice area**
- **Have a look at our full 18-hole golf course**
- **Sign up for lessons in the future if you enjoy yourself!**

**If you are interested, please contact the Club to book your place!**

Hele Bay  
Ilfracombe  
North Devon  
EX34 9RT  
Telephone: 01271 862176





## **Welcomes Parents & Carers of Children and Adults with Additional Needs.**

Come and join our friendly informal support group for an opportunity to connect with other parent carers

We meet monthly for a coffee and a chat offering advice, sign posting, friendship and peer support

### **Barnstaple**

We meet on the 2nd Friday of every month from 11am at:

**St Johns Garden Centre Café  
St Johns Lane  
Barnstaple  
EX32 9DD**

### **Bideford**

We meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month from 10:30am at:

**Morrisons Superstore Café  
Kingsley Road  
Bideford  
EX39 2LG**

If you are interested in attending or would like further information  
**Please contact: Tracey**

**Tel: 07921220840**

**Email: [sidebysidebarnstaple@outlook.com](mailto:sidebysidebarnstaple@outlook.com)**





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

AGE RATING  
**13+**

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive. It encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

### CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12–15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or harassed (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

### FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12–15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

### OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

### VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

### ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

### SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's 'Audience Selector' gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

### RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

## Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



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National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



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