SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

We are proud to have a strong and dedicated safeguarding team. If you ever have a concern about a child's safety or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of us:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mr Daniel Webster
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs): Mrs Cook, Mr Balch, Miss Hannahbuss

We're here to support children and families. You can speak to us in person, call the school office, or email the school if you'd prefer a private conversation.

PARENT AND CARER INFORMATION

How we keep children safe online in school

At Barrs Court, we take online safety very seriously and have robust systems in place to protect children when they are using technology in school.

🔒 **Filtering and Monitoring**

All internet access in school is protected by industry-standard filters that block inappropriate websites and content.

If a child attempts to search for something unsuitable, an alert is automatically sent to the Headteacher and the Safeguarding Team, so that we can respond quickly and appropriately.

📱 **Mobile Phones**

Primary-aged pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones during the school day.

Any child who brings a phone (e.g. for walking home) must hand it in at the start of the day, where it is safely locked away and returned at home time.

📚 **Taught from a Young Age**

Online safety is taught through our computing and PSHE curriculum, starting in the Early Years. Children learn how to:

- Use the internet safely and respectfully
- Protect personal information
- Recognise risks and how to report concerns
- Be kind and responsible digital citizens

We also hold special Safer Internet Days and provide regular assemblies and lessons on online behaviour, gaming, group chats and cyberbullying — all tailored to be age-appropriate.

Road safety

With darker mornings and afternoons now upon us, road safety is more important than ever:

- Please do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school — they are there to keep children visible and safe.

- Hold your child's hand near busy roads and encourage them to stop, look and listen before crossing.

- Use pedestrian crossings wherever possible, even if it takes a little longer.

- If your child cycles or scoots to school, please ensure they wear a helmet and understand how to ride safely.

We also ask parents to be mindful of speed and visibility around school entrances — especially during drop-off and pick-up.

Online support for parents and carers

Technology is a big part of children's lives, but it brings risks as well as benefits. Please help us keep children safe online by:

- Checking age ratings on games and apps — many popular apps like TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram have a minimum age of 13.

- Setting parental controls on devices and broadband to restrict inappropriate content.

- Talking regularly with your child about what they're doing online — open conversations help build trust and awareness.

- Encouraging children to speak up if they see something that upsets or worries them online.

- Making sure phones are used responsibly and respectfully — especially in group chats.

Useful websites:
www.nspcc.org.uk
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

🤖 AI Chatbots – What Parents Need to Know

You may have seen AI chatbots and virtual companions featured in the news recently. These apps are becoming a common part of children's digital lives, offering interactive conversations, learning tools, and entertainment.

While many children enjoy using these platforms, it's important for parents and carers to be aware of the potential risks, which include:

- Sharing personal or private information
- Exposure to misinformation
- Developing an unhealthy emotional attachment to virtual friends

To help you navigate this topic, Internet Matters has published a helpful guide explaining the most popular AI chatbot apps, the risks involved, and how to support children in using them safely and responsibly. Click here.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility