

'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

School Lane, Bunbury, CW6 9NR
01829 260524 or 261332

RCSAT Executive Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Badger

Principal: Mrs Nicola Badger

Deputy Principal: Miss Charlotte Hickson

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1st July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Bunbury CE Primary School, we are committed to creating a focused and nurturing learning environment for all our students. As part of our efforts to enhance the educational experience, we have strict guidelines in place for pupils regarding the use of mobile phones.

As a school, we have taken a number of proactive measures to ensure that we educate the children as well as introduce procedures such as a mobile phone agreement for any pupils who may be bringing these items to school. The agreement is only open to pupils in Year 5 and 6.

As a school, we take internet safety extremely seriously and want to support and help educate parents and pupils in such a fast-moving industry. At Bunbury School, pupil mobile phones **MUST** be handed in to the class teacher on arrival at school to be stored securely and an agreement signed by both parent and pupil. Under no circumstances should these devices be taken out and used on our school site or when **entering/leaving the school site. This includes the school playground, school drive and for those children travelling on the school bus the journey to and from school.**

Should a child lose or damage their device, whilst we are sympathetic, we are not liable for any loss or expense to replace or repair this.

We know that mobile phones can be a valuable and important resource for our children; we frequently discuss safe use of these devices, both in general and as part of our online safety lessons. However, we want the children to develop sensible habits surrounding their usage and to be aware that there are times where using a device is not appropriate, particularly when unsupervised or around younger pupils. As a school, though, we can only do so much to promote the reduced use and over reliance on mobile phones with our young people. Whilst I cannot dictate at what age children receive such pieces of technology, I would like to politely ask that you think carefully about whether a mobile device is necessary for your child before purchasing.

It is always much appreciated when parents and carers support us with such important messages as this and recently I have been contacted by a growing number of parents who wish to take a stand on the use and ownership of mobile phones at a young age.

We are parents with children at Bunbury school and we have joined the Smartphone Free Childhood movement.

<http://www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>



This movement aims to encourage parents to talk about smartphones, social media and their impact on our children's lives. And to empower us to change the norm, so that parents don't feel like they need to provide their children with smartphones, just because everyone else does.

If this is of interest, we would love to hear from you - please get in touch - sfcbunbury@gmail.com.



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From September 2024

Moving forward and to support us with mobile phone usage, we kindly request your cooperation regarding mobile phone use when entering the school grounds from September 2024. We do appreciate lives are busy and that there are always emergencies but we as the role models to our children can all work together on this matter.

Polite Request to Parents:

To maintain a respectful and distraction-free environment, we ask that from September 2024 parents and guardians refrain from using mobile phones while on school premises. This includes during drop-off, pick-up, and any visits to the school. Mobile phones are still permitted to be used to take photos during key school moments.

By minimizing mobile phone use, we can:

1. **Ensure Safety:** Being fully present helps to ensure the safety of all children during busy times like drop-off and pick-up.
2. **Foster a Positive Atmosphere:** Engaging with staff and other parents without the distraction of mobile phones promotes a friendly and community-oriented environment.
3. **Set a Good Example:** Demonstrating responsible mobile phone use sets a positive example for our children, reinforcing the importance of being present and engaged.

Guidelines:

- **Drop-off and Pick-up:** Please complete any mobile phone calls or messages before arriving at the school.
- **Visits to the School:** If you need to take or make an urgent call, please do so outside the school grounds.
- **Emergencies:** If you must use your mobile phone for an emergency, we understand and simply ask that you step aside to a less congested area.

We greatly appreciate your support in adhering to this request. Your cooperation helps us maintain a safe, respectful, and focused environment for everyone.

We believe that this will contribute to a more productive and positive school environment. By reducing distractions, we can promote and foster interactions with peers, parents and staff which are crucial for development of social skills.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing this and encourage you to discuss the importance of minimizing mobile phone use with your child. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school office.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding and assistance in making Bunbury Primary School a better place for our children to learn and grow.

Kind regards

Nic Badger

Principal of Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

EHT for Rural Church Schools Academy Trust

