Reading Guardians One of the loveliest and most crucial traditions at William Barnes Primary School, is the appointment of Reading Guardians. These are always Year 6 children, and as a team, they support the development of the very crucial regular reading with key children throughout the school. All Year 6s know the importance of regular reading and very many are keen to offer their skills to support reading development, so it is always a difficult choice. Every Friday, they collect their 'client' from their respective class and bring them to the Year 6 classroom for a reading session. Guardians are taught how to support the fluency of reading and how to ask questions and engage in 'book language'. Well done - 'The Guardians of Reading.' (RF)





Ambassadors for Sport! Following a competitive application process and some tough decisions, four William Barnes Sports Ambassadors were selected during the Autumn term.

These dedicated children generously give up much of their playtime to promote and support sports across the school. Their responsibilities include organizing resources for playtime and sporting events, assisting younger children during playtimes, and helping on sports day. Their contributions make them an invaluable part of the William Barnes Leadership Team.

After attending a day of training alongside other Sports Ambassadors from the area, they proudly received their much-anticipated T-shirts. (RF)

Life Education for Year 6 Never too old, Year 6

were delighted to reconnect with Harold the Giraffe when the Life Education tent (used to be van) visited. They learned about making the right choices independent in their time and also about legal and illegal and prescripand nontion prescription drugs. (RF)



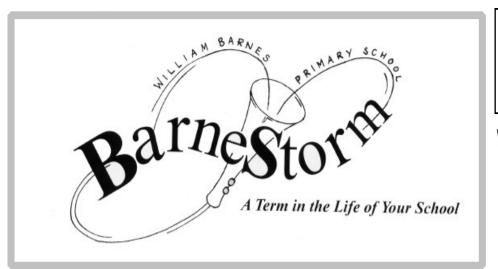
Forest School to Return in New Year Great news for all the children who enjoy learning in the outdoors - a new tutor has been found for the Forest School and it will be up and running next term. Although we have lost a term of sessions this Autumn, it is planned to distribute the remaining afternoons fairly amongst the classes so all the children get the chance to enjoy using our outdoor learning in the Spring and Summer. (RF)

Choir Kicking Off Christmas! Christmas is a very busy time of year for the choir with lots of events in the diary for us to share all the music we have been practicing.

Firstly, the choir were invited to sing at, the light switch on in Sturminster Newton. They gathered guite a crowd and did a fantastic job singing despite the cold weather! The choir then went to Nazareth lodge to sing for the residents, we sang a mixture of classic carols and some more modern Christmas tunes. They made a good impression, and it was clear everyone had a brilliant time singing along to the more traditional carols! As a new experience this year, we were also asked to sing at a local Café for some of their more elderly customers. It went down an absolute treat and we were made to feel very welcome! Finally, the choir kicked



off the Christmas Market with a few Christmas songs to lift people's spirits; I think all the bystanders will agree that they sounded spectacular! (RG)



"A good school with outstanding pupil behaviour"- "Most groups of children make outstanding progress" OFSTED July 2013 "A good school" - OFSTED March 2017 and 2023



The newspaper of William Barnes Primary School has been written by the staff and pupils to celebrate the school's successes. If you have any ideas or comments concerning the newspaper, please speak to Ms Locke or Mr Hull. Issue 58 Christmas 24

New Era Begins At William Barnes This Autumn term the school has began a new phase in its history with the arrival of new head teacher Ms Locke. As only the third person to be head of the school in the last twenty years, she is following in illustrious footsteps.

Read on to find out how Ms Locke is already making positive additions to how the school operates on a day to day basis, and how the children think and learn in their classrooms. As you read, you will be reassured that although change is afoot, this is not change for changes sake and many of the traditions and strategies that have made William Barnes such a good school for over two decades continue to be part of your child's experience each and every day. (RH)

Ms Locke Brings a Wealth of Teaching Expertise In order to be a successful headteacher a person must have mastered a wide portfolio of different and disparate skills. They must be able to manage a budget, be an expert on safeguarding, have an in depth knowledge of special educational needs, be able to connect with a whole range of different stakeholders including parents, governors, teachers and children, be able to keep abreast of latest developments in educational research and prepare the school for its next inspection.

In addition, a headteacher has to be an expert on health and safety, fire regulations and financial planning. Sometimes, with all of these attributes required to do the job, headteachers can neglect the most important skill of all - the ability to be an outstanding teacher who understands what contributes towards great teaching. However, this is clearly not the case with Ms Locke, whose knowledge, curiosity and fascination with the process of teaching and her considerable classroom experience make her an expert on teaching and learning.

Already the children are benefitting from the advice she shares with the staff, that are enabling them to further raise the quality of teaching at William Barnes to even higher levels. (RH)

Whole School Read to Start the Day Since the arrival of the our headteacher, Ms. Locke her genuine appreciation of children's literature has become increasingly evident to both staff and children. Anyone having the chance to chat with her about reading, quickly discovers her passion for children's authors and her encyclopaedic knowledge of various children's authors and their works.

Among the many changes she has introduced to the school's daily routine, perhaps the most popular—both with children and teachers—is the opportunity for each class to begin the day by reading a shared class book. Previously, the day started with a quick register followed by a hurried dash to the hall for Wake and Shake. While this was great for children's fitness, it often made the start of the day feel disjointed, leaving little time for the children to settle in.

In contrast, school days now begin more gently, with children sitting together as a class and enjoying a whole-class story. This new routine allows children to develop their reading and listening skills while providing a calm and focused start to the day before lessons begin at 9 a.m. Visitors walking through the school between 8:45 and 9 a.m. would be amazed at the level of engagement and interest displayed by the children and the calm, tranquil atmosphere that pervades the school during this time.



Staff have also noticed another positive outcome of this change: a reduction in the number of children arriving late for the start of the school day. It seems the captivating stories being shared in each class have motivated children to arrive on time, eager not to miss the next enthralling chapter. (RH)

Sharper Focus On Reflective Teaching One quality that all successful schools share is that their teaching staff never rest on their laurels and remain open to new ideas. At William Barnes, this mindset has been especially evident, with the school achieving five consecutive good inspections since 2005, thanks in part to the consistently high standard of teaching.

Under Ms. Locke's leadership, this reflective approach - where staff regularly review their lessons to identify areas for improvement - continues to thrive and flourish. Teachers are currently exploring innovative questioning techniques to ensure every child is fully engaged and learning during lessons. Additionally, all classrooms have been equipped with *visualisers*, enabling teachers to project images, such as examples of children's work, onto their screens, helping the children learn from their peers.

Looking ahead, there are plans for collaboration with other schools, where teachers will visit William Barnes and vice versa. This exchange of best practices aims to help good teachers become even better, further enhancing the quality of education provided. (RH)

Shared Areas Get Tidy Treatment During the Autumn term, the staff have undertaken a significant clear-out to free up space and improve storage across the school. Led



by Mrs. Dyke, all staff members have been involved in the decision-making process about what to keep and what to recycle. The staffroom has been a particular focus; its once-cluttered shelves have now been cleared of unused and unwanted books and resources, some of which were over 25 years old.

Mrs. Dyke also managed to acquire a donated table where teachers can sit and eat during their lunchtime. As a result, the room is now far more functional and pleasant to use than it was before the decluttering began. Additionally, a recent collection by an IT recycling company removed various unwanted items, including VDUs, tablets, mice, keyboards, power packs and broken laptops. This effort has extended the refreshed and organized feel to the library and the main corridor.

The final frontier is the large attic space above the PE cupboard, where a variety of strange and long-unused items have been lurking for longer than anyone can remember. Hopefully, not long into the New Year, this large space will be fully

cleared and ready to organize useful items such as the Christmas post box, scenery and props for school productions and out-of-season PE equipment. (RH)

Social Media Revival at William Barnes Although the school has dabbled with using Instagram in the past, this term new head teacher Ms Locke has paved the way for regular posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Using the tag #WBProud, posts celebrate all the successes of our pupils both in and out of school.

Having also updated the style and organisation of the school's regular newsletter, the school's open door policy, as well as class e-mail accounts, Ms Locke is continuing to make communication with parents a major focus for the staff as the school moves forward under her leadership. (RH)

Local Company Provides Superfast Broadband for the New Year Wessex Internet have installed a fibre optic cable link to the school office allowing the school's internet download speeds to increase by over 300%. Working with our current provider Research Machines, Wessex's fibre optic cable actually runs under the River Stour and then beneath the recreation ground before entering the school grounds by Mr Field's room. It is hoped that this extra speed will ensure that any whole class IT teaching that involves the internet will no longer be affected by glitches when all the school's devices are attempting to access the web simultaneously. (RH)

New Beginnings and Opportunities from Reception to Year 6 As Ms Locke has begun her time at William Barnes and is taking the opportunity to make a difference to the lives of all the children in the school, the children are also being given new opportunities to flourish and grow both emotionally and academically.

In particular, Reception class have made a fantastic start enjoying the small class size and the care and guidance of the reception team led by Mrs Lewis and Mrs Dyke. In year 1, Mr Newman's class have made a great start particularly in developing their mathematical fluency and reading skills. In Year 2, Miss Gale's class have enjoyed their learning all about Australia, whilst in year 3 the children have relished studying the geography of the UK. In Year 4 with Miss Gilbert, the Romans have been a major focus, whilst in Year 5 Mr Hull's class have enjoyed their Ancient Greek topic and learning to code with Crumble computers. Year 6, in their final year at the school, are jumping at all the opportunities coming their way, including the residential at Osmington Bay, cycling proficiency tests and the chance to take responsibility for the day to day running of the school as sports ambassadors, playtime buddies, reading quardians and school counsellors. (RH)

Life Education Visitor in Reception! In reception, we were really excited to have the local charity 'Life Education Wessex' visit us. They helped us learn about healthy choices while sitting in a tent. It's so important that children learn to make healthy lifestyle choices to ensure they make the right decisions to be physically and emotionally healthy children and young adults.



During the session, the children learnt about being physically active and we had the opportunity to all take part in a lively dance. They learn't about the importance making sleep. healthy food choices, drinking water, what we can do when we feel sad and how to deal with negative emotions. All this knowledge supports our children in being physically and emo-

our children in being physically and emotionally well. The activities were interactive, fun and interesting for the children. We met 'Harold' the giraffe who helped us with our learning. Thank you, Harold! (NL)



Reception Develop Love of Reading In reception, we have been enjoying sharing and developing a love for books! We visited the library and enjoyed stories read by the librarians and learnt how we use the library safely and properly. The children issued their own book to take back to school by using the electronic system with the librarians.





Reading sparks the imagination and encourages communication for children. They develop their use of vocabulary and concentration through listening to,

joining in storytelling and acting out stories. We pair up with a partner to read together, independently and as a group. Our Floppy phonics sessions are interactive and fun, developing phonics knowledge to support our reading skills. Reading is a really good way to reduce stress and relax which supports our children in being ready for learning at school. In reception, we promote reading throughout the day and the children are now developing their own independent reading skills. Well done, Reception! (HD)

Congratulations to All Reception Children! Three months ago Reception children first stepped through William Barnes' doors to embark on their school journey. The children have achieved so much in this time; from learning class rules and routines, all of Stage 1+ Floppy Phonics Sounds and applying this knowledge in their reading and writing.

Before the weather turned very wet - many of the outside learning areas have been especially popular, including the bikes, the sand shed, giant construction (Polydron) and the climbing frame. Areas found inside, such as the Role play corner (which has so far this term have included a domestic kitchen, a post office and currently a Christmas scene), the writing table, construction area and playdough table have all been well used by the children this term. Mrs Lewis and Mrs Dyke would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all the children in Reception, their parents, carers and families for helping to make this transition so effortless. We are thoroughly looking forward to the Spring Term. (HD)

Helping Children Take a Break from the Storm This term, we have been embedding Stormbreak into our school's daily routine across all classrooms. Stormbreak is a registered charity that collaborates with trusted adults in education, health, and social care to support the mental health and emotional well-being of primary-aged children through movement. The charity has developed a highly effective, whole-school approach to mental health education, now adopted by thousands of primary schools nationwide.

The name Stormbreak reflects the idea that when we feel troubled or upset, our minds can become "stormy." A Stormbreak activity—which often includes quiet reflection, mindfulness, breath-work, and movement—helps both children and adults take a break from the storm, returning to the present feeling refreshed and ready to learn.

Throughout the autumn term, children have been engaging daily with all five of Stormbreak's key mental



positive mental health. (NL and RH)

daily with all five of Stormbreak's key mental health concepts: Relationships, Self-Care, Hope and Optimism, Self-Worth, and Resilience. These 5-15-minute movement-based activities provide a platform for meaningful conversations and discussions about mental health.

We've noticed a positive shift in the language used around school, as well as an increase in resilience and interpersonal skills. Children are developing strategies for coping, such as seeking support, talking things through, and practicing relaxation techniques.

Most importantly, Stormbreaks are fun! Many children thoroughly enjoy these moments to connect with friends, find peace, and move their bodies as part of their daily routine, and teachers have noticed lots of smiles and laughter during their year group's Stormbreaks. Through these activities, they're also learning how to create the conditions necessary for

Amazing Aboriginal Artwork Year 2 have been getting creative this term. The children looked at a range of Aboriginal art work, the use of colour and the printing techniques. They then created their own press print based on an Australian animal and then printed dots in the earth colours to surround their animal. (RG)



Lights, Camel, Action A huge congratulations should be given to Year 1 and 2 for their Christmas Show. They performed amazingly in Lights, Camel, Action. The show was smoothly run by the hosts and the voiceover and the floor manager got the audience to cheer and jeer in the right places.

A range of different dances were learnt by the children., from a ballet by the angels to the tango by the Innkeepers.

The children did a fantastic job of learning their lines and singing all the songs. Well done! (RG)

Year 2 Habitats In Science The children have been learning about different habitats. They linked this learning with their Design and Technology to make a habitat. The children used digital media to create a background and then used tabs to position the plants and animals. (RG)



Autumn Term Ends with a Christmas Crescendo At William Barnes, the end of the autumn term is always an exciting and magical time for both children and adults. As December begins, classrooms are transformed with festive decorations, twinkling lights, and even the occasional Christmas tree. Harts of Sturminster generously provides the school with a tree, which takes pride of place in the hall, and the Christmas post box is dusted off and set up, ready for the children to have their Christmas cards delivered daily to their classrooms.







Miss Gilbert becomes particularly busy as the school choir embarks on their Christmas tour. This year, the choir earned rave reviews for their performances at the Christmas lights switch-on in the marketplace, at Nazareth Lodge care home and at the opening of the PTFA Christmas market.



Meanwhile, children across the school, along with staff, work tirelessly to create Christmas crafts for the market. Reception and Year 6 focus their efforts on the nativity performance, which is the centrepiece of the school's visit to St. Mary's Church during the final week of term. Years 1 and 2 concentrate on learning songs, stage positions, and lines for their Christmas production.

One of the most eagerly anticipated events is the whole-



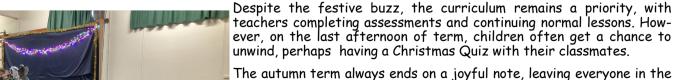


dren to experience live theatre. A cherished tradition at William Barnes, the visit is made even more special with ice creams for the children, kindly supplied by the PTFA.

In the final week of term, Christmas dinner makes an appearance as staff join the children for a festive lunch in the school hall. In earlier years, this lunch was held in the old town hall next to the

the old town hall library, and later in the main hall of the Exchange.





The autumn term always ends on a joyful note, leaving everyone in the school community ready to embrace the holiday season. (RH)



Generous Donation Finances Panto' Coach Travel All the teachers and children would like to say thankyou to Mr and Mrs Bealing for their help in paying for the coaches for the pantomime this year. (RH)

William Barnes Blessed by Brief BSO Bonanza During the penultimate week of term, the children at William Barnes were treated to a remarkable experience: a performance by four virtuoso musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) in the school hall. The musicians not only performed but also answered questions and demonstrated the specialized skills required to play their instruments.

In this interactive performance, the children were encouraged to learn the words and actions to a song inspired by four classical music pieces. Each musician showcased their instrument in turn: the clarinet, the flute, the French horn, and finally, the euphonium.

The program began with "The Elephant" from The Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saëns, followed by Rimsky-Korsakov's thrilling "Flight of the Bumblebee". The lightning-fast finger movements in the latter left many children amazed. Next came a beautifully arranged version of Vaughan Williams' serene "The Lark Ascending", which featured quiet, delicate passages that captivated the audience. The performance concluded with an excerpt from Haydn's "The Bear" Symphony, a lively and rustic piece that brought smiles all around.

As the performance drew to a close, the conductor asked the children who might be interested in learning to play an instrument. Almost every hand

shot up, a testament to the concert's success in inspiring young minds. The musicians from the BSO left knowing their visit had made a lasting impact. (RH)



Reception Children Excited by New Resources The past few weeks there has been a little more excitement than usual in the Reception Classroom (not linked to Christmas!). We have purchased some exciting and interesting resources and the children (and adults!) have been busy trying

them out!



New arrivals have included: Magnetic Cubes, Magnetic Tiles, Pipe Building Tubs and 3D Geometric Building Blocks. This resources support fine motor development and problem solving. (HD)



Year Three Focus on Famous Landmarks In October, Year 3 worked hard to create a variety of UK



landmarks. In D&T, we talked about strengthening techniques and practiced these in a variety of ways including using marshmallows and spaghetti. The children then designed and created their structures in groups, they all worked successfully to create amazing landmarks and showed excellent team working and problem solving skills when completing their designs. (LB)





Children In Need Mrs Blackburn would like to say A big thank you for all your contributions for Children in Need as we raised a total of £187.50. The School Council decided on this year's theme of wearing PJs and they created their very own football challenge activi-



ty. A big well done to all the school council members and all of the Year 6 children who volunteered their time to be our goalkeepers! Well done all. (LB)

Christmas Tree Competition at St Mary's Church

Our Christmas tree celebrates our love of learning and was designed by the student council. Each class contributed something special to reflect their unique place in the school community:

- Reception: The youngest learners created the shining star at the top of the tree, symbolizing the beginning of their educational journey.
- Year 1 and Year 2: Using their fine motor skills, they drew fantastic Christmas artwork to decorate colourful paper chains.
- Year 3 and Year 4: Each student designed their own ornament, show-casing how every learner is unique.
- Year 5: On the paper chains, students wrote about something they have learned during their time at William Barnes.
- Year 6: Reflecting on our core learning values—Be Respectful, Be Tolerant, Be Engaged, Be Democratic—they wrote examples of how these values are demonstrated in our school.

The tree beautifully represents the creativity, individuality, and shared values of our school community. (LB)



Year 3 and Year 4 Times Table Rock Star Day! Years 3 and 4 teamed up to-



gether to celebrate learning their times tables. All the children made a fantastic effort to dress up and joined in with all the times tables based games that we held in the hall. Year 3 used their Times Tables Rock Star (TTRS) accounts to take part in a class battle and the top three most value added players on each team got to take home a certificate. It is important for all children to become fluent in their times tables. In Year 4, all children will have their Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in the summer term, testing their knowledge up to 12x12. Please continue to use TTRS at home to support your child's learning! (LB)

Attendance Remains Steady For Autumn Term Despite their being a variety of unpleasant colds and viruses in the community this Winter, attendance has remained fairly steady at 94.6%. However, looking back to 2018, prior to the pandemic, average attendance was 97% at this point in the year, 3% higher. (RH)

Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
95.2%	95.6%	95.4%	93.6%	95.4%	95.3%	91.4%

Bringing History to life. Year 4 were excited to have a visit from an archaeologist who specialises in Roman history. He brought in some fantastic artefacts for the children to touch and he showed the children all the equipment that a Roman soldier would need; bringing in Roman armour and weapon replicas. The children enjoyed experiencing the history first hand and Mr Smith said he was very impressed with how much the children knew about the Romans! (RG)





Fun-Filled Roman Day Year 4 had their annual Roman Day to celebrate their Autumn term history The children all looked topic. fantastic in their Roman attire! All the children made their own clay broaches. Roman coins and Roman Shields- which we tested out practicing our Roman battle formations! We even had a magnificent Roman feast with olives, sundried tomatoes and bread with honey. This was a great day to celebrate all that we have learnt and draw our topic to a close. (RG)





Year 6 Expand Their Comfort Zones @ PGL! Early in the Autumn Term, Year 6 travelled to PGL in Weymouth for the final part of their William Barnes Outdoor Education Programme. They were very lucky to have very good weather again and the children were commended on their general behaviour and in particular, their willingness to overcome fears and 'have a go'. Mr Field, Mrs Chant and Mrs Toone accompanied and they were, of course, joined by all the professional PGL tutors on the activities. Over the three days, Year 6 enjoyed Raft Building at The Olympic Sailing Centre on Portland, abseiling, the giant swing, problem solving and archery as well fun activities in the evening. They also enjoyed a short time on the beach at Osmington Bay, just below the centre. Well done Year 6! (RF)





CHILD-LOVING TRIP-PLANNER SCOOTER-TRIER HUG-GIVER DOG-LOVER BREAKFAST-MAKER INJURY-HEALER

BY GEORGE

KIND-MAKER



Kennings for Poetry Week! Another successful poetry week was enjoyed by all just before half-term. This year, the whole school

Shivley Hughes DOGGER

A collective poem with ideas taken from individual poems.

Dave

Dog - Washer Ice-cream - Licker series of two-word Whisper - Speaker Lost - Looker Upset - Sleeper Not a - Racer Sister - Hugger Toy - Finder

spent time studying, creating and editing Kenning Poems. Kennings are short poems, where the chosen subject is described in a lines. Some classes wrote a collaborative poem and some wrote individual ones and the whole school joined together in a celebration assembly to hear examples from each year group. (RF)

Autumn term sports round-up After achieving the School Games Gold Mark once again last academic year, children at William Barnes relish the opportunity for intra and interhouse competition. The sporting calendar in-house and with other schools is packed with competitions from football to orienteering, swimming to quidditch, so there truly is something for everyone.

Quidditch - In early September, a handful of children from years 5 and 6 had the chance to learn and play quidditch. Shillingstone Primary School joined us for the occasion allowing the children to not only experience a new game but meet new friends too. The children engaged with this new sport extremely well, listening to Nico Stone, North Dorset's SGO, and applying themselves well. An envious Mr Newman looked upon small-sided games which were full of pace, teamwork, tactics and a lot of smiles.

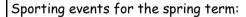
Football - William Barnes have once again entered the prestigious Davison Cup and were fortunate in securing a bye in the first round. We all look forward to the draw and discovering who William Barnes will face in the second round for both the mixed and girls competition.

Having a highly-enthusiastic group of year 5 and 6s, a friendly football match was organised against Shillingstone Primary School during early October. The team played exceptionally well and finished with a whopping 9-0 win. May our effort and co-operation continue during the spring term.

Orienteering - The ever-popular orienteering events hosted by Wimborne Orienteers ran throughout the autumn 2 term and 8 children represented William

Barnes. The children were coached in the art of orienteering during the first session and then raced in pairs against other schools in some demanding courses. The final event, hosted by Durweston Primary School was the final opportunity for the children to show off what they had learnt and did so expertly despite the dark and cold night! Well done for all involved and a huge thank you to Di and John from Wimborne

Orienteers. (JN)



Year 3/4 dodgeball @ Sturminster Newton leisure centre - Wednesday 29th January

Year 5/6 netball @ Stalbridge - Tuesday 4th February

Year 5/6 football @ Child Okeford - Monday 10th March

Year 3/4 football @ Child Okeford - Monday 17th March



Physical Computing all the Rage in Year 5 and Year 6 At William Barnes, the children are lucky to have the benefit of weekly scheduled

children are lucky to have the benefit of weekly scheduled Computing lessons, something that does not always happen in all primary schools. This is possible because of the foresight of the governing body, who have ensured that over the years the school's equipment has been kept up to date and been replaced at suitable intervals.



As a result, children across the school get the opportunity to learn to code using Beebots in KS1 and Scratch across KS2, before at the end of KS2 the children explore controlling external mini computers such as Crumbles



and Microbits. Thanks to governor Gilford Sweetenham's early order last year, the school has two sets of the BBC microbits and these have proven to be very popular with year 6. As the school does not have their own set of Crumbles, we borrow them each year from the South West Computing Hub in Exeter. (RH)

An inspirational, stimulating well resourced environment. preParing all A high quality children for life stagg team Asage and Secure School at the heart inauiry, of the community. independence and en thusias m for learning taking Pride ac hievements High Standards of behaviour From all William Barnes Primary School

Where every child counts

Online Safety

Follow the SMART rules to help stay safe online.



S

Stay safe online by not sharing your personal information.



Meet



Do not meet anyone who you have only become friends with online.



Accept



Do not accept messages and friend requests from people you do not know.



Reliable



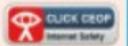
Not everything online is reliable. People online are strangers and you can't always trust everything they say.



Tol



Tell an adult you trust if anything happens online that you do not like.



Be careful what you share online!

Stop and think before you share information online. Don't say or do anything that you wouldn't do in the real world!

