

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

22/03/2024



'Let your light shine'

Our amazing children!

On Wednesday, our year 5 pupils and school choir took part in a joint concert with other Warrington schools at the Parr Hall - their singing and drumming was sensational – we definitely have some future stars in our midst. As you are aware, we have also had an Ofsted inspection in school this week. The inspector was incredibly impressed with our children, using words to describe them such as 'well mannered, respectful and thoughtful.' She also described their behaviour as 'exemplary.' Our amazing children always 'let their light shine.'

Have a lovely weekend everyone,
Miss Hodgkinson

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS OUR AMAZING CHILDREN HAVE 'LET THEIR LIGHT SHINE' THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL...



Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Forgiveness'

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

Mahatma Gandhi

This week's prayer: We pray for all those who have lost loved ones.

This week's big question is: Do you think it is possible to always forgive someone?

Places in St Barnabas Nursery Available

We are now accepting applications for places in our nursery for April 2024.

Please ask the school office for an application form or to make an appointment to look around.

We can also assist with 2 year old funding applications.

If you think you may be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare please visit the Childcare Choices website:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/upcoming-changes-to-childcare-support/>



Staying Safe Online

Our e safety guide this week focuses on encouraging open and honest conversations, particularly about sensitive topics. Our guide this week suggests lots of helpful tips on how to engage our children in conversations about their daily lives, so we can offer an empathetic ear when needed.

At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](#) guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and digital literacy. It is freely delivered by National Online Safety. These guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, click on the topic, please visit [nationalonline.org.uk](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpick even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

- 1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE**
Children often feel nervous about talking to parents or carers. Showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a supportive environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.
- 2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS**
Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, making an app. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together provides you with the opportunity to chat and share things over the shoulder. A child may feel less pressure that they will be more inclined to open up on their own accord.
- 3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS**
Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your year?", "If you could start today again, what would you do?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"
- 4 LISTEN ACTIVELY**
When children express themselves, make it clear that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and nod to show you're listening. When they're trying to solve the problem, it's not helpful to dismiss their issues or children's feelings. Try to understand that they're simply "telling" rather than "asking" for help. Their resilience is strengthened as they learn to push through difficulties and handle setbacks.
- 5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS**
Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. "How do you feel about that?" "What was your favourite part of the day?" "What was the most interesting thing you did today?" "What did you spend time with at school?" or "What did you do with your homework?"
- 6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES**
If a child isn't ready to talk about something yet, respect their boundaries. The reactions that their feelings are important and worthy of discussion. Usually, you'll want to let them know you care without overwhelming them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Details, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.
- 7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself. Because children have a natural tendency to be fearful, critical or judgemental, or see their feelings as a sign of weakness, it's important to make them more likely to admit and report this behaviour themselves as they grow.
- 8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS**
Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has the opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here; you could consider regular time to sit on a sofa, or just a weekly walk.
- 9 PROVIDE RESOURCES**
It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you occasionally. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, visited adults or external therapists, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around seeking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Youth or YoungMinds.
- 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION**
It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. "This can be a really difficult thing to do, but you're doing it. I'm really proud of you for talking about your feelings." "It's so good to hear from you about how you're feeling." "I'm so proud of you for talking about your feelings." "It's so good to hear from you about how you're feeling." "I'm so proud of you for talking about your feelings."

Meet Our Expert
With 35 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and primary executive board member, Anne Blaxland has 18 years' experience of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

Made with this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.03.2024

Childcare Choices

Working parents of 2-year-old children are now able to apply for 15 hours of free childcare.

Am I eligible?

You, and any partner, must each expect to earn (on average) at least £167 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage).

When can my child start?

Your child can start in their childcare place the term after they are eligible and have received a valid eligibility code, whichever is later. Term start dates are 1st September, 1st January and 1st April.

To keep your 15 hours childcare place, you need to check your details are up to date every 3 months.

To apply for a code please visit

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Healthy Packed Lunches

If you do opt to send your child to school with a packed lunch, we do encourage to make healthy choices when preparing this:

A healthy packed lunch should consist of:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Unrefined starchy food - for example multigrain bread, pasta or rice
- Sources of protein - meat, fish, eggs, beans etc.
- Milk or other dairy foods - i.e. cheese
- A small amount of fat, sugar and salt
- Water, milk or juice

Please be aware that we are a nut free school. We have children at school who have very severe nut allergies and would require medical assistance if they came into contact with nuts. Therefore, please ensure that your child's packed lunch does not contain any nuts and check ingredients if you are not sure.

Easter Holiday Activity Club (April 2024)

The Easter Holiday Club is open to all children from Reception to Year 6 and will take place 10am to 2pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 2nd April
Wednesday 3rd April
Thursday 4th April
Friday 5th April

The club is free to all children eligible for income based free school meals or pupil premium (not the universal free meals) – please speak to the school office if you are unsure.

All other children can book places for £6 per day. This price includes all snacks, drinks and lunch. Fees can be paid in cash or by bank transfer to Warrington Youth Zone.

Children will take part in lots of fun activities including forest schools, team building, treasure hunts, den building, arts & crafts and baking.

Please complete the form below to indicate which sessions you wish to book for your child. You will need to complete a separate form for each child.

<https://forms.office.com/e/F4Z1us6yNb>

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Easter Eggstravaganza!

Our annual decorated egg competition- is taking place soon. There will be a winner from each class and all entries will receive a chocolate prize. Competition entries should be brought into school on **Monday 25th March or Tuesday 26th March**. Winners will be announced on **Wednesday 27th March**.



Starbucks Easter Reading Café

Back due to popular demand, our Starbucks Reading Café is returning on Monday 25th March from 3:15 – 4:30pm. Come along and spend time in our 'eggcellent' Easter café which is packed full of tasty Easter treats and activities. If your child attends an after-school club, come along when you pick them up at 4:15pm.

Meet and Greet

Don't forget, if you have any issues in the morning or at the end of the day, a member of staff will be outside for you! We have staff available every morning at each entrance gate – we can help you with any issues you may have, no matter how small. Please come for a chat if you need to.



Dates for your Diary	
25.3.24	B-Tails Easter Performance for Nursery and Reception
25.3.24	Easter Starbooks Café after school – all families welcome 3.10-4:30pm
25.3.24 & 26.3.24	Decorated eggs for Easter competition to be brought into school
26.3.24	Flowering of the Cross at St Barnabas Church
26.3.24	EYFS Easter Stay and Play sessions - Nursery (start of the week) and Reception (2pm-3pm)
27.3.24	EYFS Easter Stay and Play sessions – Nursery (end of the week) (2pm-3pm)
27.3.24	Easter Service in St Barnabas Church, all families welcome - 10am
27.3.24	Decorated egg competition winners announced
27.3.24	B-Tales Easter Performance Y1 – Y6
28.3.24	School closes for Easter break
2.4.24 – 5.2.24	Easter holiday club at school -10am – 2pm
8.4.24	School opens for Summer Term

Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
SPRING	Monday 8 th January to Friday 9 th February	Monday 12 th February to Friday 16 th February inclusive	Monday 19 th February to Thursday 28 th March

Easter Holiday Friday 29th March to Friday 5th April 2024 inclusive

Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
SUMMER	Monday 8 th April to Friday 24 th May	Monday 27 th May to Friday 7 th June inclusive	Monday 10 th June to Friday 19 th July
Closure Days	BANK HOLIDAY Monday 6 th May 2024		
	WARRINGTON WALKING DAY Friday 28 th June 2024		

Are your children registered with a dentist?
These dentists are still accepting new patients:

- Museum Street Dental Practice**
 WA1 1JA
 01925 630221
 Accepting children aged 17 and under
- Latchford Dental Practice**
 WA4 1JJ
 01925 655037
 Accepting children aged 17 and under



St Barnabas CE Primary School
Easter 'Egg-stravaganza'
Raffle

Monday 25th March 2024

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|------------------------|---|
| 1 st Prize | Easter Chocolate Treats Hamper |
| 2 nd Prize | Arts and Crafts Hamper |
| 3 rd Prize | Gorgeous Homeware Bundle |
| 4 th Prize | 1 adult & 1 child season ticket for Warrington Wolves |
| 5 th Prize | Cuddly Sheepdog Puppy and Accessories |
| 6 th Prize | Monster Snap Morph Robot and Track Toy |
| 7 th Prize | Blue Power Ranger Figure |
| 8 th Prize | Children's Backpack, Lunch Box & Water Bottle |
| 9 th Prize | Champneys Mini Toiletries Set |
| 10 th Prize | Ladies and Gents Toiletry Bags with Toiletries |
| 11 th Prize | 3 Tickets for the Jungle Play Centre |
| 12 th Prize | Mini Chocolate Bundle |
| 13 th Prize | £10 Bubbles Play Centre Voucher |

Tickets on Sale Now! Only 25p each or £1 per book



KIDS FOR A QUID!

WARRINGTON WOLVES v STAPLETON

SATURDAY 30 MARCH | 15:00

WARRINGTONWOLVES.COM/TICKETS | VISIT THE OFFICIAL CLUB STORE | CALL 01925 248 888

*with a paying adult at £5 maximum 2x £1 tickets per adult. West stand only

The Bread and Butter Thing



The Bread and Butter Thing help people on low incomes to eat more healthily. They have mobile food clubs that provide nutritious meals to help people feed their families for free. They have a location – in partnership with WA5 Good Neighbours, at Sankey Bridges Community Centre.
 Open: 1:30 – 2pm on Tuesdays
 Tel: 07860 063304 <https://breadandbutterthing.org>

