

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

12/04/2024



'Let your light shine'

It's been lovely to have the children back at school for the start of the summer term; as always they have made an excellent start and I have already been extremely impressed with their determination and extremely high standards of work produced across a range of subjects. No matter what the weather is like, the summer term is going to be packed with challenging learning and full of exciting trips and events.

On Monday, I awarded our outstanding attendance achievers with their bronze, silver and 100% awards for the Autumn. I am very pleased that I had to give out a huge number of badges, awarding 95 children with their bronze award (96% or above for the Spring term) 69 children with their silver award (96% or above for the Autumn and Spring terms) and an incredible 47 children with their 100% attendance awards.

Most of our children have excellent attendance and punctuality, so this term we will be introducing our brand new punctuality award – every child who is on time every day from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May will have their name entered in a prize draw. A £25 Just Eat voucher will go to the family of the winning pupil, so that the whole family can enjoy a takeaway treat as a reward.

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...



### 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/>

### Our Christian Value for this half term is:

*'Courage'*

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

John 1 vs 9

**This week's prayer:** *We pray for a peaceful future for our world.*

**This week's big question is:**

*What is courage? What does courage look like?*



## Staying Safe Online

Our guide this week looks to the popular app Township. There are lots of hints and tips that support parents in neutralising any potential safeguarding hazards, so that children can enjoy the app and have fun, building new towns, without the worry of data, money or mental wellbeing.

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 climate change. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOWNSHIP

Despite launching in 2011, Township remains popular with children and adults alike. A city-building game with farming elements, it tasks players with developing their settlement and unlocking new features along the way. Aimed at the more casual gamer, it's mostly child friendly – but there are still some related risks to be mindful of.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- MISLEADING PUBLICITY**  
Township's developers have previously faced criticism for advertising the game on social media by using clips of gameplay which can't actually be found in the final product. This may lead to a child or young person downloading the game with severely misinformed expectations of what they'll be playing.
- IN-GAME ADVERTS**  
While it's common for mobile games to feature in-game advertisements for other products and services, Township employs a particularly aggressive strategy seen in several similar products. It offers users an in-game currency in exchange for watching such adverts, which can obstruct gameplay, leaving players to willingly expose themselves to marketing material.
- IN-GAME PURCHASES**  
The game's core concept of building up a settlement means that players can earn in-game income to feed their pocket first – and players are incentivised to spend real-world money to reap things along more quickly. That can mean handing over anything from £3.99 to £19.99 for these in-game boosts, amounts that can rapidly add up to a considerable sum if left unchecked.
- TIME-CONSUMING GAMEPLAY**  
Township's gameplay loop of acquiring resources and reinvesting them into your little community is a fun one – but this rewarding sense of making progress can lead to players spending far more hours staring at the screen than they realise. There are also special in-game events which run for a limited time, designed to entice players into even longer gaming sessions.
- ONLINE MULTIPLAYER MODE**  
After reaching level 18, players in Township can form a 'co-op' and unlock the option to exchange goods with up to 10 other users. Online multiplayer modes are nothing new, of course – but neither are the potential risks they pose to children and young people. Chances are, youngsters will be interacting with complete (and possibly much older) strangers within the game environment.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- DISCUSS THE GAME IN ADVANCE**  
While older children may notice and understand that Township might be marketed in a potentially misleading way, it could be worth explaining to prospective younger players how and why the game differs from what's been advertised. This will help them to manage their expectations and avoid any possible disappointment if they do decide to download and play it.
- MONITOR SPENDING AND SCREEN TIME**  
More modestly priced in-app bundles can be a welcome treat for a child wanting to speed up their progress in Township, but it's wise not to leave a linked payment method active in case a youngster gets carried away. Likewise, to prevent Township from causing an increase in screen time, parental controls can most devices allow limits to be placed on how long a game can be played each day.
- BE WARY OF EXTERNAL SITES**  
Township's makers state that all in-game ads are age-appropriate; children won't be shown adverts recommending more violent titles, for instance. Seen in, clicking on these adverts can take players out of the game and onto external sites that have nothing to do with Township or its developers. This raises the risk of children encountering inappropriate content or being tempted by online purchases.
- TALK ABOUT ONLINE STRANGERS**  
Township's online multiplayer mode (as with any game which includes that functionality), is an avenue through which a child could be contacted by people who they don't actually know. It's worth reminding young Township fans, therefore, not to give out any personal information to strangers online – whether that's within the game itself or in the social networks associated with it.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new games and tools, he's also a parent who prioritises online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iG and TechRadar.

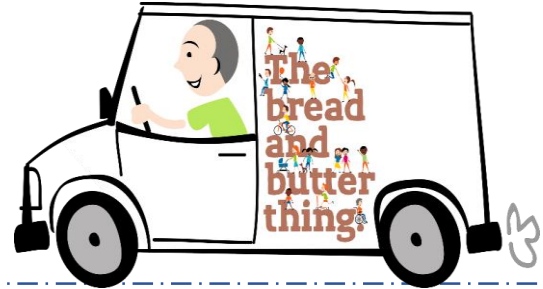
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## Eid al-Fitr

Wishing a blessed Eid al-Fitr filled with love, peace and happiness to all our friends and families celebrating here and around the world.



The Bread and Butter Thing helps 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

## PROJECT ZONE

### JUNIORS

- 4-5:00pm – Disney arts & crafts
- 4-5:00pm – Beginners Rock climbing
- 4-5:00pm – Learn the Keyboard
- 4-5:00pm – Girls only football
- 4-5:00pm – Karaoke
- 4-5:30pm – Card & gift making
- 4-5:00pm – Pokemon Club
- 4-5:00pm – Hairstyling

- 5-6:00pm – Origami
- 5-6:00pm – Beginners Rock climbing
- 5-6:00pm – Rollerskating
- 5-6:00pm – Lego
- 5-6:00pm – Gaming
- 5:30-7pm – Card & gift making

- 6-7:00pm – Beginners Rock climbing
- 6-7:00pm – Animal arts & crafts
- 6-7:00pm – Chess
- 6-7:00pm – Rollerskating
- 6-7:00pm – Boxing

### MIXED - JUNIORS & SENIORS

- 4-5:00pm – Dance Squad
- 4-5:00pm – Morris Dancing
- 5-6:00pm – Pokemon Cards – Show & Trade
- 5-7:30pm – Performing Arts

### SENIORS

- 5-6:30pm – Song writing
- 6-8:00pm – Dungeons & Dragons
- 6:30-8pm – Music Jam session – Beginners welcome
- 7-8:00pm – Beginners Rock climbing
- 7-8:00pm – Boxing
- 7-8:00pm – Young leaders catch up (chill & chat)



## Dates for your diary

Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Y6 trip to Liverpool Maritime Museum
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Reception Bikeability session
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Y1 Bikeability session
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Parent Coffee morning
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday – school closed
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Christian Aid Week
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs Week
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 Music Workshops
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 Music Workshops
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Y5/6 Bikeability sessions
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Y5/6 Bikeability sessions
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	School closes for Whit break
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	School Opens
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for Summer break
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	School opens for Autumn term

Starting Sunday 31st March for 6 weeks  
Project Zone runs every Sunday evening.  
Members must book online.

