

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

04/10/2024



'Let your light shine'

I can't believe we only have two weeks left in school until half term - the weeks have just flown by! I am really looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to school for our first parents' evening of the year on **Monday 14th** and **Wednesday 16th October**. You will have the opportunity to discuss how well your child has settled into their new class, their attainment, progress and wellbeing and look at their work. Appointments are 5 minutes long and if you would like longer than this to discuss anything, please make another appointment – staff are always happy to see you at any time – please don't try to extend your appointment as it makes all the other parents after you run late! We are also holding our popular Starbooks Reading Café in the hall, so please drop in for a brew and a cake before or after your appointment. There will be lots of staff there who can chat to you about fun ways to encourage your child to read at home. I am extremely proud of all our children and how hard they have worked this half term and I know teachers are really looking forward to sharing your children's achievements with you.

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...



BE ON TIME!

School starts: 8:40am

Children must be in before 8:50 or they will be marked LATE

Thank you

Year 5 raised £94.45 for Christian Aid in their cake sale last week. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Starting reception class

If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, they are due to start reception class in September 2025.

You will need to apply for a place here:

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions>

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Hope'

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

Desmond Tutu

This week we pray for those who are forced to leave their homes due to conflict. We pray for your safety.

This week's big question:

Does it make any difference to how you feel about yourself, to how hopeful you are?

Staying Safe Online

Our guide this week focuses on online gaming and in particular the in-game chat function. This can be a really useful function when playing with friends, however it poses dangers to children of all ages. This is because children could be contacted by strangers. The guide this week gives tips and advice on issues that can arise and how we can safeguard our children using this technology.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers use a separate app – or a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't, meaning a child could start seeing messages from people they're not playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have an interest, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending them to meet in person and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers, and emphasize that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whatever they're talking to. These trolls often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident prying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a performance is underperforming, an opponent was unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that drop away from playful trash talk and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get increasingly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour of a friend is appropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account for potential trouble. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the difference between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes a range of inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Encourage children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GBRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety, writing mainly about tech and fitness. His work has been published at sites including IGN, Techradar, and plenty more.

Wake Up Wednesday | **The National College**

Source: See full version at <https://www.wakeupwednesday.com/guides/in-game-chat>

Use of this guide is at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.10.2024

www.wakeupwednesday.com
www.thenationalcollege.com
[@wakeup.wednesday](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com)
[@wakeup.weds](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com)

Attending school on time every day is the best way to ensure your children's future success. Children with good attendance achieve much better in school and go on to get better jobs than those with poor attendance. The government expects all children's attendance to be **at least 96%**.

Here is our class and whole school attendance for last week:

Class	Attendance
YR	99.2%
Y1	100%
Y2	98.4%
Y3	100%
Y4	95.2%
Y5	98%
Y6	98%
Whole School	98.4%

An amazing week for Y1 and Y3 who achieved **100%**. Our overall school attendance is above 96%, which means less lost learning time. Well done to all the children who achieved 96% or better.

Local Authority Attendance Update

The Local Authority will now be issuing fines (fixed term penalty notices) for parents who take children on holidays during term time. The link below will take you to the LA webpage containing information about penalty notices:

[School attendance | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk)

Playtime Snacks

We exercise lead to positive mental and physical health. Part of this is to educate our children to eat as healthily as possible, as this contributes to future success. The only snacks we allow at playtimes are **toast or fruit**, these can be brought in from home or toast can be purchased via ParentPay. Thank you for your support. We are a healthy school and constantly reinforce with our children that healthy eating and regular exercise lead to positive mental and physical health.

Water Bottles

Children are asked to bring a bottle to school filled with water which they can drink throughout the day. Drinking water throughout the day keeps children's brains hydrated and helps them to learn well. Only water is allowed in these bottles, as drinking juice throughout the day causes tooth decay. Children can drink juice or with their lunch. If any children persist in bringing juice in their water bottles, parents will be contacted.

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 and afternoon 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.

Nut Allergy

Our school is a **nut free zone** as we have children in school with severe allergies. Please do not send any food in packed lunches containing nuts or traces of nuts, including chocolate spread. Thank you.

Parents' Evening

Monday 14th and Wednesday 16th October
3:30 – 6pm

You will have the opportunity to speak with your child's class teacher about how well they have settled into their new class and their attainment, progress and wellbeing.

Bookings should be made on the school website:

<https://parents.schoolspider.co.uk/auth/login>

Our popular **Starbucks Reading Café** will be available in the school hall, serving free drinks and snacks; in addition you will be able to visit the **Book Fair** and there will be a range of services including the Mental Health Support Team, dental nurse and vaccinations team available to speak to.

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>



BANK QUAY BULLS NEWBIES

Every
Thursday
5pm-6pm



DALLAM PLAYING FIELDS, FOR
MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Maz 07913810479

#FIER MAKER

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Dates for your Diary 2024 - 2025

Tuesday 3 rd September	School opens
Friday 18 th October	School closes for half term break
Monday 28 th October	School opens
Friday 20 th December at 1:30pm	School closes for Christmas break
Tuesday 7 th January	School opens
Friday 14 th February	School closes for half term break
Monday 24 th February	School opens
Friday 11 th April	School closes for Easter break
Tuesday 22 nd April	School opens
Monday 5 th May	Bank holiday (school closed)
Friday 23 rd May	School closes for half term break
Monday 9 th June	School opens
Friday 27 th June	Warrington Walking Day (school closed)
Friday 18 th July	School closes for summer break

Dates for your Diary Autumn Half Term 1

Tuesday 8 th October	1:30 – 3pm Open afternoon for families of children starting school in September 2025
Tuesday 8 th October	Y1 trip to Warrington Museum
Friday 11 th October	Reception trip to Delamere Forest
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th October	Book Fair in the school hall after school
Monday 14 th & Wednesday 16 th October	Parents' Evenings for all classes and Starbooks Reading Cafe
Tuesday 15 th October	Y4 trip to Liverpool World Museum
Wednesday 16 th October	Trip to Waterstones for winners of reading golden tickets
Friday 18 th October	School closes for half term
Monday 28 th October	School opens