

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

01/11/2024



*'Let your light shine'*

As always, our children have returned from the half term break looking smart, with big smiles on their faces and ready to learn. This week I have been looking at our children's writing books and have been extremely impressed by the high standards of presentation, handwriting and the incredible vocabulary they use in their work.

I am very excited the half term ahead – our pupils have big plans to celebrate Remembrance, promote Anti-Bullying Week and raise money for Children in Need. Of course, we have some really exciting events planned for Christmas, so watch this space...

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.

### 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](http://warrington.gov.uk)

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	98%
<b>Y1</b>	<b>99%</b>
Y2	96%
Y3	96%
Y4	95%
Y5	95%
<b>Y6</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>97%</b>

An amazing week for Y1 and Y6 who achieved **99%**. Our overall school attendance is above 96%, which means less lost learning time. Well done to all the children who achieved 96% or better.





## ST BARNABAS IS ON A BUS!!!

Our school is featured on one of the brand new electric double decker buses in Warrington. If you spot the bus, take a photo of it and send it to the office on Class Dojo. The first 3 families to send in a photo win prizes for their children. We've had two winners so far, well done to Bessie Rose in Y5 and Marvin in Y1. There's still one more prize to win, so get bus spotting everyone! Good luck!

## Staying Safe Online

As part of our online gaming category, we return to an updated guide about Fortnite. Over the years, it has become a household name. Players are thrown into a 'free-for-all' battle until one remains. Due to its cartoonish appearance, it makes it attractive to younger players. As this allows multiplayer games there are potential risks and hazards that we need to be aware of and this week's guide gives hints and tips on keeping young people safe.

## Our Christian Value for this half term is:

*Justice'*

*"Let justice roll on like a river."*

Amos 5:24

This week we pray for those who have lost loved ones and for loved ones we have lost.

This week's big question:

*Why is justice important?*

## Come and join our school family.

We would like to welcome you to look around St Barnabas CE Primary School and have the following open days:

Wednesday 6th November 1.30pm to 3pm

Friday 8th November 9am to 11.30am

If you are unable to make one of the open days we can offer tours of the school upon request, please contact

stbarnabas\_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk or phone 01925 633606 to arrange.



**St Barnabas CE Primary School and Nursery**

*"Outstanding at enabling all pupils to flourish"*

**OPEN DAYS & TOURS AVAILABLE**

www.stbarnabasceprimary.co.uk  
stbarnabas\_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk Tel: 01925 633606

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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

**AGE RESTRICTIONS**  
PEGI 12

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**ALWAYS ONLINE**  
There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online, internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data). So you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players get rather less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

**CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT**  
Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

**IN-GAME COSTS**  
Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and V-Bucks – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

**VIRTUAL VIOLENCE**  
At its core, there's no denying that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent cosmetic touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, handguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

**POP CULTURE REFERENCES**  
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman in other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Dean Cain, The Watcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

**FREQUENT UPDATES**  
The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around six weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

**MATCH GAMING TIMES**  
Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

**SET SPENDING LIMITS**  
Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulsive purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

**USE UPDATES AS REWARDS**  
Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The pass costs around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

**BE WARY OF SCAMS**  
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game, make sure any young player knows this.

**ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER**  
Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're enjoying the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

**Meet Our Expert**  
Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site G0Recon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
**The National College**

X @wake\_up\_weds | f /www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 12.04.2023 Last reviewed: 30.10.2024

## Starting Reception Class

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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>

## 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.



*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


Happy Diwali to all our Hindu and Sikh friends and families.  
"When the inner lamp burns, it illuminates the whole world."



## St Barnabas Church Christmas Fair



In Church  
**SATURDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**  
**12-3PM**

Lots of stalls including: Tombola, Christmas & Gift Stall, Raffle, Cakes, Jams & Chutneys, Poke a Pot & Refreshments.   
Plus, a very special guest!

### Places in St Barnabas Nursery Available

We are now accepting applications for places in our nursery for January 2025.

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.

### Road Safety

We have had a number of complaints regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking. We appreciate how difficult drop off and pick up times can be but we must stress the importance of road safety – this includes safe parking and safe driving.




We have painted yellow zig zag road markings outside school for a very good reason: *the safety of our pupils*. You must not park or stop even for a moment on these markings. Any car stopped or parked in this restricted area can hide small children who are about to cross the road. The children may not see approaching cars and approaching motorists may not see the children.

Please do not stop in the middle of the road to let out your children.  
Thank you for your support.

## ChatHealth



We can help you with mental health, relationships, bullying & more...  
Get free confidential & anonymous advice from an NHS Specialist Community Nurse via text:

-  Young People aged 11-19: Text: 07507 330101
-  Parents and Carers of children aged 0-5: Text: 07507 327981
-  Parents and Carers of children and young people aged 5-19: Text: 07480 635994

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/happy-ok-sad>

We all deserve to enjoy life and feel good about ourselves but sometimes life can be tough!

Whether you're feeling great and want to stay that way, you're a bit tired and fed up or you're struggling to manage your feelings, we can point you to local and national information and resources. You can find tips ranging from how to boost your mood to where to get help if you're unable to cope.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their mental health, know that you are not alone and there are places you can go to get help. Visit '[I need help right now](#)' or our [Support Directory](#) to get the most appropriate mental health advice for you or a loved one. For information and advice about how to start a conversation about mental health, visit '[I'm looking for mental health training and resources](#)'.



### Dates for your Diary 2024 - 2025

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

### Dates for your Diary Autumn Term

Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	School opens
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	1:30 - 3pm Open afternoon for families of children starting school in September 2025
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	9 – 11am Open morning for families of children starting school in September 2025
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	10:45am Y6 to lead Remembrance Worship
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Y5 trip to Warrington Museum
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6 trip to Norton Priory
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	12 – 3pm St Barnabas Church Christmas Fair – everyone welcome
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	National Road Safety Week
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Y5 Fire Safety Visit
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	2:15 – 3pm Nursery and Reception Stay and Play
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	2:15 – 3pm Nursery Stay and Play
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	3:15 Y4 Parents' Meeting about Y4 multiplication check
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3&4 advent workshop at Liverpool Cathedral
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	3:15pm Starbooks Christmas Reading Café – everyone welcome
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school Christmas trip
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10am Y2 Nativity performance
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	1 – 1:45pm Little Movers <b>Nursery</b> Family Christmas Party 2 – 2:34pm Little Movers <b>Reception</b> Family Christmas Party
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Elf Run
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Disco: 3:15 – 4:30pm Reception & Ks1 4:45 – 6:00pm KS2
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Wonderland Trip – Reception, Y1 & Y2
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	3:40pm Christingle Service in St Barnabas Church
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Day!
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes at 1:30pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	School opens