

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

29/11/2024



*'Let your light shine'*

I can't believe we are already nearly at the end of November – time is just flying by and Christmas will be here before we know it! Our children's behaviour and work are excellent and they are letting their light shine in so many ways; we want to make Christmas as special as possible – it's going to be an extremely busy (but fun) time in school, so I thought it would be good to let you know about some of the events that are happening:

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December: Y3 & 4 advent workshop at Liverpool Cathedral
  - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas shop open every lunchtime
  - Monday 9<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- Y2 families invited
  - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December: 1 – 1:45pm Little Movers **Nursery** Family Christmas Party  
2 – 2:45pm Little Movers **Reception** Family Christmas Party
  - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Jumper Day and St Rocco's Reindeer 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: 9:15am – Y4 Keyboard Concert
  - 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: Something special will be happening...to be revealed!!!!
  - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December: School closes for the Christmas break at 1:30pm
- It's going to be a very busy, but very fun time!

*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://School attendance | 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	94%
Y1	98%
Y2	88%
Y3	98%
<b>Y4</b>	<b>99%</b>
Y5	93%
Y6	97%
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>95%</b>

An amazing week for Y4 who achieved **99%**. Our overall school attendance is **95%** - this is below our target of 96% and means too much lost learning time. Well done to all the children who achieved 96% or better.

## Staying Safe Online

This week we circle back to Snapchat, as it is one of the most popular messaging apps. Unfortunately, a large proportion of the audience are under 18, even though the minimum age limit is set at 13. Our guide this week sets out the risks that can be posed by Snapchat and how we can safeguard young people in the app.

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT** (Age Restriction 13+)

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent disappears 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**  
My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

**SCREEN TIME ADDICTION**  
Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing message' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images or imposts - so seeing continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

**ONLINE PRESSURES**  
Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations - creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

**PREDATORS AND SCAMS**  
Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have missed photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this - with the app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'Snapguard', a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

**MY EYES ONLY**  
Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Users can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

**UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
Snapchat's 'Family Center' lets you view the details of the child's account and blocks the child from the Family Center for them to see. You must invite a child to the Family Center for them to see. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide my location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

**FAMILIARISE YOURSELF**  
Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parenting guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the resources below.

**ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS**  
Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI responses to questions and how private they are. Talk about sexting and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they've used into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

**BLOCK AND REPORT**  
If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots at the bottom profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user - such as harassing or malicious messages, spam or misquoting an someone else.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Claire Southwood is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://thetnationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2023>

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## Our Christian Value for this half term is:

### 'Justice'

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

Martin Luther King, Jr

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

This week's big question:

Why do people need justice?



## Grand Christmas Raffle

17th December 2024

Tickets are just 25p each or £1 per book

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Christmas Treats Hamper
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Indulgent Pamper basket
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize K'Nex and Lego Technics Bundle
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize Handbag and Jewellery Hamper
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize Card Wallet and Michael Kors Purse
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize Children's Games Bundle
- 7<sup>th</sup> Prize Fire Truck Playset and Action Figures
- 8<sup>th</sup> Prize Christmas Books and Mug Hamper

Many other prizes including ...

\*Doll and plush toy Bundle \*Jigsaw Bundle \*Crystal Creations Craft Set \*Men's Fragrance Set \*Slippers and Eye Mask Gift Sets \*Air Fragrance Diffuser \*Touch gloves and a Power Bank\* Christmas Hand soap and Lotion \*Christmas Craft Sets x 2\* candle and Diffuser \*Cosy Night in Treats Gift Set\*

Tickets on sale now on ParentPay or from the Office

## School Term Dates 2024 - 2025

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	School opens
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	School opens
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes for Christmas break at 1:30pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	School opens
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term
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
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

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 Nursery Family Christmas Party 2 – 2:45pm Little Movers Reception Family Christmas Party
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
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Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	School opens



The festive spirit is alive and well as Warrington Youth Zone prepares to join Santa on his sleigh this holiday season, bringing joy to children and families across Warrington.

In co-ordination with the Warrington Lions and the Rotary Club of Culcheth & District, the Youth Zone team is excited to announce its biggest and most co-ordinated sleigh tour yet, with more young people being visited than ever before.

This year, Santa's Sleigh will visit new areas, ensuring no part of the town is left untouched by the magic of Christmas.

Careful planning has gone into scheduling, ensuring seamless coordination with other sleigh tours around the community.

The expansion includes stops in locations like Howley & Fairfield, which have not been included in previous years, making the event more inclusive than ever.

The sleigh tour is just one part of Warrington Youth Zone's holiday efforts, which include their annual Christmas present and food appeal to support families in need.

With the help of dedicated volunteers and partners, the Youth Zone ensures that no child in Warrington goes without a reason to smile this Christmas.

Keep an eye out for Santa and his helpers as they bring Christmas magic to your neighbourhood.

Follow Warrington Youth Zone on social media for updates, schedules, and ways to support their ongoing efforts to brighten the lives of young people in the community.



**HO HO HO!**

St Joseph's Family Centre

## St Barnabas Christmas Holiday Activity Club

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 10am to 2pm

Our Christmas Holiday Club will be run by Dawn and Lauren from St Joseph's Family Centre (you may remember them from previous clubs).

There is a new way to book places this year so Dawn will be around next Tuesday & Wednesday to register your interest and the following week to help you make your booking.

**SANTA'S SLEIGH TOUR**

## ChatHealth



Happy? Ok? Sad?



<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'.

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