

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

13/12/2024



'Let your light shine'

Wow, I am feeling extremely emotional today, at the incredible generosity of our children and families. The money is still being counted, but this year we will have raised approximately £600 for St Rocco's Hospice – this is the most we have ever raised and is also being matched with a donation of £500 from Rock Oil. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH, for helping such a worthwhile charity that supports so many in our local community.

Oh no! Elvin, the naughty elf has returned to St Barnabas and this year we have double trouble as he has brought his friend Eric along to cause even more mischief! Elvin has already been up to his old tricks, making a mess everywhere, playing with the toys in breakfast club and this morning we found that Elvin and Eric have kidnapped one of Santa's reindeer. I wonder what they will do next?

School closes on Friday 20th December, but on Monday 23rd December, Santa will be opening up St Barnabas between 10am and 12:30pm for any of our children and families to come and pay him a visit a receive a free gift. Please come in on Monday 23rd to say hello to Santa – come in through the KS2 gates and Santa will be waiting for you in the hall...ho, ho, ho!

Have a lovely weekend everyone...12 more sleeps!

Miss Hodgkinson

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



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>

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](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/school-attendance)

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.

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	91%
Y1	98%
Y2	94%
Y3	97%
Y4	99%
Y5	91%
Y6	97%
Whole School	95%

An amazing week for Y4 who achieved **99%**. Our overall school attendance dropped to **95%**, which means more lost learning time. Let's try hard to get back up above 96% again next week.

Staying Safe Online

As we fast approach the festive season, there will be lots of exciting times and celebrations. There will be lots of opportunities that present themselves, that can pose a risk to adults and children. Our guide this week covers a variety of tips and advice on how we can enjoy the festive season with as little stress as possible and how we can look after our children and ourselves.

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Justice'

"But let justice roll on like a river."

Amos 5:24

This week we pray for all those who are lonely this Christmas time.

This week's big question:

Should we ever question justice?

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.

At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season) 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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY**
Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Monitoring screen time, enabling parental controls and ensuring children engage primarily with trusted websites and apps can help reduce risks. Clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.
- 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**
The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, heaters and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of an emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-free candles to prevent mishaps.
- 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS**
More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road congestion and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Risk assessment, itinerary flexibility and travel insurance are essential. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.
- 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES**
Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross-contamination, unclear labeling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognize dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.
- 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**
Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like Influenza and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection rates. Promote hygiene, encourage vaccination, alcohol moderation and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.
- 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD**
Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Children's driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage professional safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.
- 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS**
Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if misused. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place lights on metal frames and avoid overhead decorations if never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.
- 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS**
Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and age requirements can be complex with so many options available. Inspect gifts carefully and ensure any instructions are clearly readable. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.
- 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE**
Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision-making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support for undue stress. Encouraging activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.
- 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY**
Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modeling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert
James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and prevention strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.

The National College

Source: See full reference in on guide page of <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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. Current as of the date of release: 13.12.2024



Grand Christmas Raffle

17th December 2024

Tickets are just 25p each or £1 per book

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

HEAT

STRUGGLING TO STAY WARM THIS WINTER?

HEAT can help with advice and advocacy, including a £150 payment to eligible households

For support, please speak to a colleague in Warrington Borough Council or contact us via the details below

0800 082 9002
HEAT@THEWISSEGROUP.CO.UK
WWW.HEAT-THEWISSEGROUP.CO.UK

SCAN ME TO GET STARTED

NHS
Bridgewater Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

DID YOUR CHILD MISS THEIR FLU VACCINATION?

You can book an appointment at one of our community clinics.

Contact the Warrington School-aged Immunisation team on 01925 946 808

HAVE

Holiday Activities and Food

Are your children on benefit related free school meals?

If yes, they can attend fully funded holiday activities at Easter, Summer and Christmas. Register your interest now at warrington.gov.uk/haf or email haf@warrington.gov.uk to find out more.

Not eligible? Many clubs offer paid places at a reduced rate.

WARRINGTON Borough Council | Department for Education

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.



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

St Barnabas Countdown to Christmas

Our children have worked incredibly hard this term and let their light shine in many different ways. We have many plans in school to make the last 2 weeks of term exciting, magical and memorable as countdown to Christmas. I thought you would like some more information about all the events that will be taking place over before the end of term.

Monday 16 th December	9:15am Y4 Keyboard Concert parents/carers invited
Monday 16 th December	Christmas Wonderland Trip Reception, Y1 & Y2 – NO CHARGE Coach will return to school at 3:45pm
Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner for Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y4 and Y5 All children in school will get Christmas dinner free of charge, including those who are not eligible for free school meals. Classes not having Christmas dinner on this day will have the normal lunch menu
Tuesday 17 th December	3:40pm Christingle Service in St Barnabas Church All families invited Pick your child up from school at 3:10pm and go to St Barnabas Church for the Christingle service
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner for Y2, Y3 and Y6 All children in school will get Christmas dinner free of charge, including those who are not eligible for free school meals. Classes not having Christmas dinner on this day will have the normal lunch menu.
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Party Day! Children should come to school wearing their party clothes All party food is provided by school
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Extravaganza trip to the Children's Adventure Farm Trust. Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 Children come to school wearing warm, comfortable clothes. Lunch is provided at the farm. £4 per child, payable on ParentPay
Friday 20 th December	Elf Day! Children can come to school wearing own clothes/pyjamas/dressed as an elf for a day of fun and games! All children's names entered in a special Christmas prize draw
Friday 20 th December	School closes at 1:30pm
Monday 23 rd December	Santa is coming to St Barnabas! 10:00 – 12:30pm Santa will be at our school! All families are welcome to come and visit Santa in his grotto - all children will receive a gift FREE OF CHARGE
Tuesday 7 th January	School opens

COPING AT CHRISTMAS

The Added Pressures of Christmas can be Tough, but it's important to know there's always Someone you can Talk to...



Call 111 & select option 2 to speak to the NHS Mental Health Crisis Response Service 24/7
Nhs.uk/mental-health



Under 35s can Call 0800 068 4141, Text: 88247 or Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org 24/7
Papyrus-uk.org



Call 116 123 to talk to Samaritans, or email: jo@samaritans.org for a reply within 24 hours
Samaritans.org



Call MIND's Mental Health Helpline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 0800 414 8247
Mind.org.uk



Text "SHOUT" to 85258 to contact the Shout Crisis Text Line, or text "YM" if you're under 19
Giveusashout.org



Mental Health Forum & Chat for Men from 5pm - midnight every day Call or Whatsapp 0800 585958
Thecalmzone.net

ChristmasCountdown.uk



Brand New Nutrition Club S&J Nutrition

Free Body Scan and Wellness Evaluation worth £50!

Do you want to:

- Lose / gain weight
- Increase energy levels
- Drop body fat
- Help with menopause symptoms
- Improve sleep
- Improve sports performance

*Free for first 100 people to see local community who book in



Contact Yvonne
07716712127