

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

14/02/2025



'Let your light shine'

I cannot believe we are already at the end of the half term; it really has flown by as we have been so busy in school. This year we are focussing on improving standards in writing across the school. Writing is a really difficult skill, as there are so many different aspects to think about including text structure, sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation. This term we are focussing on accuracy, especially remembering to use capital letters, the correct punctuation and then proof read for mistakes. I am so proud of how hard our children have worked to improve these skills and really risen to the challenge. We have also welcomed a lot of visitors into our school this half term and every one of them have commented on the standards of behaviour and enthusiasm for learning demonstrated by all our children. Everyone has let their light shine and deserve a good rest next week!
Have a lovely half term everyone – I look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 24th February.

Miss Hodgkinson

Confirmation Service

Congratulations to our confirmation candidates who were confirmed by Bishop Geoff, the Bishop of Liverpool, at St Elphin's on Wednesday. May God give you the courage to walk in his light and always let your light shine.



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



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)

BE ON TIME!

School starts: 8:40am
Children must be in before 8:50 or they will be marked LATE.

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	90%
Y1	99%
Y2	98%
Y3	98%
Y4	97%
Y5	98%
Y6	97%
Whole School	97%

Wow! What a great week for Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6, all with excellent attendance. Our overall school attendance this week was **97%**, which is excellent. Let's keep this up next week!

Staying Safe Online

Our guide this week covers an area unexpected for young children. However, the popularity in dating apps has grown rapidly in the last few years. Even though these are for people over 18, it is apparent that younger children are attempting to make use of them, exposing themselves to risks. Our guide breaks down the risks associated and offers expert advice on how to safeguard children.

Our Christian Value for this half term are:

Respect / Humility

'Thank you' is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, understanding."

Alice Walker

This week we pray to give thanks for all the people who help us in our lives.

This week's big question:

Should you give respect to those who haven't earned it?

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>

Places in St Barnabas Nursery Available

We have places available in our nursery for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds. 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 and 15 hours funding applications.

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.

Healthy Packed Lunches

If you do opt to send your child to school with a packed lunch, we do encourage to make healthy choices when preparing this: A healthy packed lunch should consist of:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Unrefined starchy food - for example multigrain bread, pasta or rice
- Sources of protein - meat, fish, eggs, beans etc.
- Milk or other dairy foods - i.e. cheese
- A small amount of fat, sugar and salt
- Water, milk or juice

Please be aware that we are a nut free school. We have children at school who have very severe nut allergies and would require medical assistance if they came into contact with nuts. Therefore, please ensure that your child's packed lunch does not contain any nuts and check ingredients if you are not sure.

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 www.thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASE OF ACCESS
The relatively low age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating app, produced by adults – who may not even be aware of their young person's involvement. Children's involvement on these apps – often many people – can lead to an age-appropriate relationship.

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS
As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Many people's profiles are not verified, so users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of photos or details. At the time of writing, we've identified young people to be under 18 years old and have been identified as being on these websites. It's not clear whether they are using the app to meet people or whether they are using it to bypass the usual measures to verify their identity. This can lead to more complex situations for experienced players.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS
Once someone is verified on a dating app, their profile is visible to other users. This can be a risk of contact with someone who may be a stranger. Some users may be using the app to meet people or to contact someone who is not who they appear to be. Some users may be using the app to contact someone who is not who they appear to be. Some users may be using the app to contact someone who is not who they appear to be.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
Some young people may feel they've formed a relationship with someone through online dating, but their views are often not shared with their parents or carers. Some users may be using the app to contact someone who is not who they appear to be. Some users may be using the app to contact someone who is not who they appear to be.

PEER PRESSURE
The pressure to be 'in' to relationships can be huge, and many young people may feel they need to use dating apps to fit in with their friends. Some users may be using the app to contact someone who is not who they appear to be. Some users may be using the app to contact someone who is not who they appear to be.

SKewed Perspectives
Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. Many users may be using the app to contact someone who is not who they appear to be. Some users may be using the app to contact someone who is not who they appear to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS
Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION
Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

REPORT AND BLOCK
Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to use a user's profile to demonstrate. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Verification Stamps
Flagging someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to authenticate a user's profile, including scanning documents (such as a driver's license or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the profile on their profile matches.

Meet Our Expert
Rebecca Jennings works of RASD (www.thenationalcollege.com) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.

WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Source: See www.thenationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 12.02.2025

Warrington Football Development

At Penketh High School (Sports Hall)
Heath Rd, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BY
Starting on Monday 27th January 2025
In association with First Kick Football

School years - Reception & Year 1 6:00pm - 6:45pm
School years - Year 2 & Year 3 6:45pm - 7:30pm
School years - Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Dear parents,
Places are now available to join a new 12-week football course every Monday at Penketh High School.

Our courses teach children correct football techniques by FA qualified coaches who have full DBS (CRB) clearance to work with children. The structure for the course is 'FUN through Football', building confidence for total beginners and moving onto more complex sessions for experienced players.

We provide a ball per player for the majority of our skills ensuring children get more touches of the ball and improve quicker than conventional coaching where children are waiting around to have a turn. The sessions are held in the fantastic sports hall which is open to both boys and girls.

The club has links to local junior teams of which players will be able to play for at the weekend. Players who show advanced ability on the course will be recommended for trials at professional academies. Players who have previously attended courses are currently playing for Preston North End, Blackburn Rovers, Manchester United, Liverpool, Blackpool, Everton, Burnley, Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale and Wigan.

The cost of the course is just £6.25 per week, which is payable in two instalments. The first payment of £25 is due when booking your child on and the second payment of £25 due at the first session. Parents are encouraged to watch the sessions but are welcome to leave children, as every session is fully supervised.

****NEW TOURNAMENT FORMAT****
Every four weeks we have a tournament in order for the children to put their new-found skills into practice with medals awarded at the end of the course for various categories.

ALL PLAYERS WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY AND MEDAL at the presentation, which is held on the final week of the course. Additional trophies will also be awarded in each group from categories including: Best Attitude, Star Player, Most Improved Player, Most Promising Player and Hardest Working Player.

To book a place for your child please telephone:
Scott
0151 363 6503 or 07514 316534
www.firstkick.co.uk

We cannot guarantee that the course will run in consecutive weeks. Please note we have a strict no refund policy, once the course has been booked.

Dates for your Diary

14.2.25	School closes for half term
24.2.25	School opens
26.2.25	KS2 Gymnastics Competition
28.2.25	Y3/4 Rugby Session
4.3.25	Shrove Tuesday
5.3.25	Y2 trip to Warrington
6.3.25	World Book Day
7.3.25	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning
7.3.25	Y3/4 Rugby Session
10.3.25 – 14.3.25	National Science Week
14.3.25	Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)
14.3.25	Y3/4 Rugby Session
21.3.25	Y3/4 Rugby Session
27.3.25	6pm Spring Concert
1.4.25	Primary Arts Network - Performance at the Parr Hall
3.4.35	Y4 trip to Quarry Bank Mill
4.4.25	8:45 Parent Coffee Morning
4.4.25	Reception trip to Chester Zoo
7.7.25	Starbooks Easter Cafe
8.4.25	Nursery and Reception Easter Stay and Play Session
9.4.25	10am Whole School Spring Service at St Barnabas Church – all families welcome
10.4.25	Nursery Easter Stay and Play Session
11.4.25	Learn to ride – Y3/4 bikeability session
11.4.25	School closes for Easter break
15.4.25	10am – 2pm Easter Holiday Club
16.4.25	10am – 2pm Easter Holiday Club
17.4.25	10am – 2pm Easter Holiday Club
18.4.25	10am – 2pm Easter Holiday Club
22.4.25	School opens for Summer term

School Term Dates 2024 - 2025

Tuesday 3 rd September	School opens
Friday 18 th October	School closes for half term
Monday 28 th October	School opens
Friday 20 th December	School closes for Christmas break at 1:30pm
Tuesday 7 th January	School opens
Friday 14 th February	School closes for half term
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
Monday 9 th June	School opens
Friday 27 th June	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
Friday 18 th July	School closes for Summer break