

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

28/02/2025



*'Let your light shine'*

It was lovely to welcome our children back to school this week, as always with big smiles on their faces and ready to learn. We have a busy and action-packed half term ahead – our KS2 children have already let their light shine this week, representing our school in gymnastics competitions – they excelled themselves and were excellent ambassadors for our school.

Next week is one of our favourite days of the school year – **WORLD BOOK DAY!** We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book. Don't worry if you don't have any costumes at home - we have lots of great costumes and props that children can borrow on the day. Throughout the day the children will be taking part in lots of activities that promote a love of reading, including spending time with their friends in our popular Starbooks Café. All our KS2 classes will also be visiting Waterstones where the staff have some exciting challenges planned for them...

Have a lovely weekend everyone, let's hope the sun keeps shining.

*Miss Hodgkinson*



## Baby & Child First Aid

Would you know what to do in an emergency?

2 hour class covers:  
CPR, Choking, Bumps, Bleeding, Breaks, Burns, Febrile Seizures & Meningitis Awareness



**Friday 28th March 9am - 11am**  
**St Barnabas CE Primary School**  
Book your **FREE** place by calling the School Office on  
**01925 633606**

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.

### 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>

### 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.

### Our Christian Value for this half term is:

#### *'Creativity'*

'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 our beautiful world, please help us to respect and look after it.

This week's big question is:

What does it mean to be creative?

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	100.00%
Y2	91%
Y3	95%
Y4	98%
Y5	98%
Y6	98%
Whole School	96%

Wow! What a great week for Y1, Y4, Y5 and Y6, all with excellent attendance. Our overall school attendance this week was **96%**, which means less lost learning time. Let's keep this up next week!

### School Uniform

Trainers should only be worn on PE days.

Black school shoes should be worn on all other days with school uniform. Thank you for your support.

## Warrington Football Development



### 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, which is open to both boys and girls.

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 drills 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 so trainers should be worn. Players are also advised to bring a still drink for the session.

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 £50 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](http://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

## Brick Festival at St Elphin's Church, Warrington, WA1 2TL

Saturday 22nd March 10am-4pm  
and Sunday 23rd March 12-3pm

Competitions, free-build area, displays,  
raffle, craft stalls and refreshments

Family ticket for up to 5 people £2  
Individual ticket £1.



Looking forward to  
seeing you there!



Ticket price covers both days

This week's guide focuses on the gaming category and looks at 'Marvel Rivals.' This is a multiplayer game that pits iconic superheroes against formidable villains. The game is free on PC and current consoles, but there are opportunities for real transactions on cosmetic items for characters. This is a game that is for children who are 12+, but as with any game can be attractive to younger audiences. Our guide offers information on safety concerns and how to support children to have fun in an age-appropriate way.

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://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS



ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

## IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

## IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

## VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

## FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

### MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



### DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.



## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



Dates for your Diary	
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
7.4.25	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 <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