

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

07/03/2025



'Let your light shine'

Our incredible children...

I really am proud of our children and the way they conduct themselves. Our year 5/6 classes took part in a workshop led by Dean Coody OBE this week. Dean is an ex-police officer who travels all over the world working children and young adults and delivering workshops on staying safe and respect. He was full of praise for our children saying, **"They are without doubt some of the most respectful and well-behaved classes I have ever delivered to."**

In addition, Y2 have visited Warrington Museum and all our KS2 classes visited Waterstones on World Book Day. The staff in the museum and manager at Waterstones said that every child who visited them was polite and respectful – they have invited us back again next year!

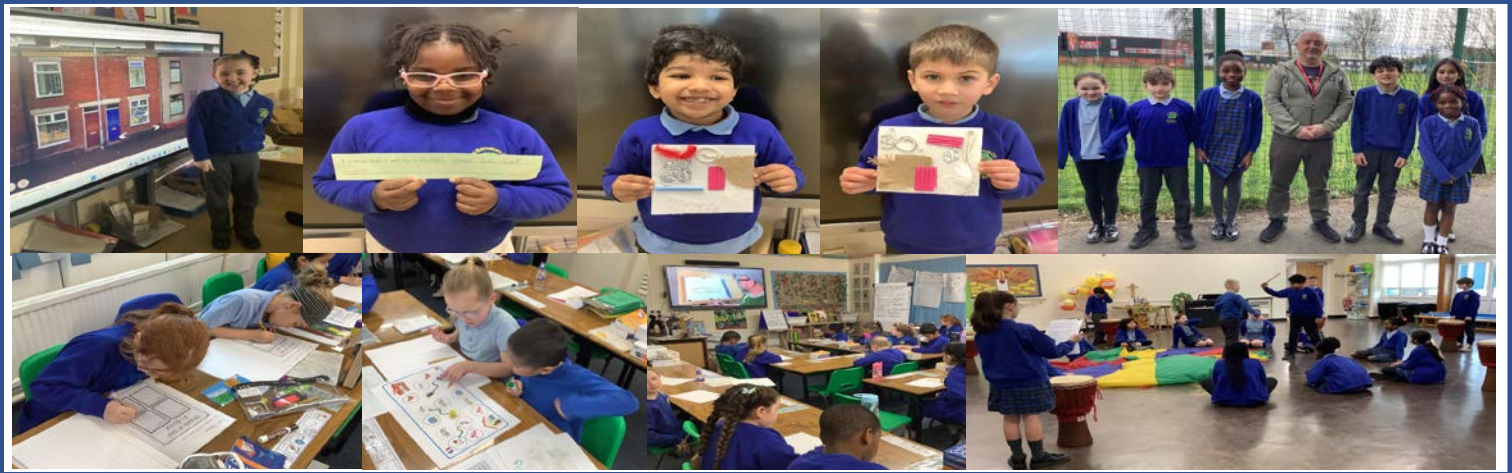
Music is definitely in the air in our school at the moment. Our year 4 and 5 classes are busy preparing their performance in Parr Hall in front of a huge audience for the PAN Concert on 1st April... we've had a few sneak previews and they are going to be amazing!

All our children in KS2 will also be performing in our **Spring Concert** which will take place at **6pm on Thursday 27th March**. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase their musical talents and the skills they have been learning in music lessons this year. There will be singing, dancing and music played on a range of instruments. It's going to be an amazing evening... save the date and look out for tickets, which will be available on Parent Pay very soon.

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...



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 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.

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Creativity'

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:10

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 inspires us?

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	86%
Y1	70%
Y2	94%
Y3	93%
Y4	93%
Y5	91%
Y6	96%
Whole School	89%

Wow! What a great week for Y6, with 96% attendance. Our overall school attendance this week was **89%**, due to lots of illness including chicken pox. I'm sure it will improve next week when everyone is feeling better and back at school.

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.


St Barnabas CE Primary School



'Golden Ticket' Easter Raffle

Friday 28th March 2025

Tickets £1 each and are on sale now

1st Prize Warrington Wolves Season Tickets (Adult + Child)
2nd Prize Massive Pokémon Hamper
3rd Prize £25 Just Eat Voucher

And another 32 other prizes including...

- Easter Treats Hamper * Huge Pikachu Soft Toy * Giant Nursery Toy Bundle * Lego Rabbit and Cuddly Toy * Stitch Backpack and Soft Toy * Basketball Hoop * Karaoke Set * Handbag Bundle * Puppy Cuddly Toy * Power Ranger and Money Box * Craft Hamper * 2 x Children's Headphones * Children's Headphone and Party Light * Children's Headphones and Plush toy * Lantern, Candle and Scarf * Fuzzy Duck Toiletries * Toy truck and car sets * Lynx Set and Braces * Pink Bear * Blue Plush toy * Purple Plush toy * Dragonball figurines * 10 further prizes of Pokémon Landorus, Thundurus & Tornadus Card Sets *




MINI FIRST AID

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

Over the years, the way we can engage with texts has massively changed, especially as we have moved into a digital era. Our guide this week, looks at how we can use technology positively, to support children who struggle with reading. It includes a broad range of tips and advice on accessibility features available.

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to hear their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, *Neuroteachers*, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Dates for your Diary	
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 - Y3, 4, 5 & 6 taking part
1.4.25	Primary Arts Network - Performance at the Parr Hall - Y4 & 5 taking part
3.4.25	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	
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



Colour Run

Sunday 11th May 2025
From 1pm

Adults - £15
Children - £12

Take part in a colourful 3km dash through
Walton Hall & Gardens

Scan here to find out more



or contact us using the details below:
01925 575780
Events@stroccos.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 511592
www.stroccos.org.uk



Inspiring your children to get on their bikes
and enjoy the freedom
and independence it brings.

At CycleBuddie, we pride ourselves in treating every child as an individual. Our sessions are exciting and cover not just learning to pedal independently, but total confidence in bike handling, steering and bike safety. Whether you or your child are only just starting out on your cycling journey, or just need that final push to get you riding confidently, we have a session that is perfect for you.

We also offer bespoke road safety sessions, route to work/school sessions and fun pre-school, EYFS & KS1 sessions for local schools.



CycleBuddie

Call Dannie or Jane

07496436495 / 07866636141

Website: www.cycle-buddie.co.uk

Facebook: [cyclebuddie.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/cyclebuddie.co.uk)



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