

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

21/11/2025



'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:

Tuesday 2nd December – school choir singing in Golden Square Shopping Centre

Monday 8th December: 3:15pm Starbooks Christmas Reading Café – everyone welcome

Wednesday 10th December: Christmas dinner for Nursery, reception, Y1, Y2 & Y5 – school will be paying for ALL children to have a Christmas dinner if they wish

Wednesday 10th – Thursday 11th December: Christmas Shop open at lunchtime for children to buy Christmas goodies

Thursday 11th December: 9:15am Y2 Nativity performance- Y2 families invited

Thursday 11th December: 2:30pm Y4 Keyboard Concert – Y4 families invited

Friday 12th December: St Rocco's Reindeer Run and Christmas jumper day

Friday 12th December: Christmas dinner for Y3, Y4 & Y6 – school will be paying for ALL children to have a Christmas dinner if they wish

Friday 12th December: Christmas Disco: 3:15 – 4:30pm Reception/KS1 & 4:45 – 6:00pm KS2

Monday 15th December: Little Movers Nursery and Reception Family Christmas Parties

Tuesday 16th December: 3:30pm Christingle Service in St Barnabas Church= all families welcome

Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Party Day!

Thursday 18th December: whole school trip to Children's Adventure Farm Trust Winter Wonderland

Friday 19th December: Elf Day!

Friday 20th December: School closes for the Christmas break at 1:30pm

It's going to be a very busy, but extremely fun time...I CAN'T WAIT!

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...



Mini Police

Our children have incredible leadership skills and are always keen to take on positions of responsibility. A very important role for some of our year 5 and 6 pupils is to become a mini police officer. Many children underwent a tough selection process, including being interviewed by a real police officer, then the children who were selected were invited to Stockton Heath Police Station on Tuesday to take part in a special attestation ceremony, just as real police officers do.

Whenever we take our children out of school, I am always confident that they will be excellent ambassadors for our school. This was definitely true of our mini police officers when they visited the police station on Tuesday. During the visit they met some high-ranking police officers who were all impressed with our children's confidence, public speaking and ideas about how to work together to make Warrington a safer place. Yet another great example of our children 'letting their light shine.'

Congratulations mini police!



Be on time!

Being on time to school every day is **REALLY IMPORTANT**. Children who are late miss vital learning and are picking up bad habits that could affect their future employability. Being just a few minutes late each day builds up to large amounts of lost learning over a school year. If your child is late twice within a 2-week period, you will be contacted to discuss how we can support you to get to school on time.

Minutes late per day	Days of lost learning in a year
5 minutes	3 ½ days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	10 days

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)

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.

Starting Reception Class

If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, they are due to start reception class in September 2026. You will need to apply for a place here: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions>



Packed Lunch ideas

A healthy packed lunch will give children the energy and nutrition they need to get the most from their school day – helping them to stay healthy, feel good and be ready and able to learn. Just like school meals, packed lunches should be made up of foods from the main food groups in the Eatwell Guide <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/food-guidelines-and-food-labels/the-eatwell-guide/>

and portions should be appropriate for a child's age and size. This will ensure every child has a healthy and nutritionally-balanced lunch.

5 top tips for your packed lunch

- Freezer packs can keep food cool. Freeze a (reusable) bottle of water which will be ready to drink by lunchtime.
- Get your child to help pack their lunch box – they are more likely to enjoy it.
- Love to dip? - cut up pitta bread or veg sticks to have with a dip.
- Use pastry cutters to cut funny shaped sandwiches.
- Protect your fruit by putting it in a small plastic container.

Some **GREAT** ideas for upping the veg content in your lunchboxes can be found via <https://simplyveg.org.uk/lunchboxes>

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Responsibility'



"You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."

Abraham Lincoln

This week we pray for all those who are homeless.

This week's big question is:

What or who helps us to be responsible?



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.

Naughty Elves & Reindeer Onesie

We have had some naughty elves arrive at school over the weekend and they are up to their usual mischief!

This year they are dressing up in reindeer onesies and trotting around school.



If you would like to help us out by adopting an elf please come to the office where they are on sale for £3.50 and the reindeer onesies can be bought for £2.50.



GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

8th December 2025

Prizes

- 1st Prize Fire Stick, Smart Watch and Ear Pods
2nd Prize Pamper Hamper
3rd Prize Pokémon Bundle

Plus many other prizes including...

- *Harry Potter Bundle * Star Wars Bundle * Mini Exercise Bike *
- *Retro Dance Mat * Karaoke Set * Cocomelon Toy*
- *Monsters Inc. Soft Toy * Handbag and Purse * Tickle Me Elmo *
- *Monster Snap Toy * Alcohol Bundle * Curlimal Toy * Golf Game *
- * Power Ranger Toy * Mechanics Build Toy * RC Dinosaur *
- *Board Games/Jigsaw Bundle * 2 x Board Games Bundles *
- * Jewellery Bundle * Car Transporter & Cars * Games Bundle *
- * Huge Nursery Toy Bundle * K'Nex Toy * Barbie Book & Toy *
- *Candle & Salt /Pepper Set * Buzz Lightyear Figurines *
- * Ty Beanie Fox * Chocolate Bundle * 5 x Pokémon Cards *
- * 10 x Free Child Tickets to Gulliver's World (with paying adult) *

Tickets available at just £1 each on ParentPay or from the School Office



Rec, Y1 & Y2 Disco

Friday 12th December

3.15 – 4.30pm

£4 – includes a snack, drink
& party bag



Key Stage 2 Disco

Friday 12th December

4.45 – 6pm

£3 – includes snack & drink
Sweets & glow sticks available to buy

Our safety message this week focuses on devices, particularly tracking devices like AirTags and SmartTags. They have been designed to support people with missing belongings but it has been revealed that they are also being misused. As they are easy to hide, they have been used on people to track them without their knowledge.

Our guide gives tips on what to look out for if children are being affected.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

THE CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE FARM TRUST

SELECTION BOX APPEAL 2025

This year CAFT will bring festive magic to 3,700 ill, disabled & socially disadvantaged children.

Bring a sweet smile to a child's face this Christmas by joining our Selection Box Appeal. Please donate your Selection Boxes by 3rd December.



OR DONATE HERE & WE'LL DO THE SHOPPING FOR YOU!

or visit caft.co.uk



helen@caft.co.uk 01565 830 053 Charity No: 1003675

"Family Life Matters"



ST JOSEPH'S FAMILY CENTRE CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

Can you support in raising funds or collecting food to provide local families with hampers and vouchers this Christmas?

We need donations of staple food items
tea bags - cereal - tinned food - cooking sauces
pasta - rice - sweet and savoury snacks
as well as Christmas treats
chocolates - puddings - crackers - biscuits

Donations for vouchers can be made using the QR code below or directly at the Centre.



9 Museum Street
Warrington WA1 1JA
01925 635448
contact@sjfc.org.uk



If you're a business wanting to support us, get in touch to see how you can help!

Holiday Club Booking Instructions

Follow this link to the new booking system www.eequ.org

- At the top right of the screen click "Join for Free" in the orange box.
- Enter your email address and choose a memorable password – you will need to make a note of this as you will need it for future HAF Club bookings.
- You will be sent an email to verify your email address and must do this before you can move on to book the club.
- Once you have registered click on the box at the top left of the screen called "HAF".
- Scroll down the list on the right-hand side and select Warrington Borough Council.
- Search for St Joseph's @ St Barnabas Primary School from the list of clubs
- Click on the photo (as above) and then click the green "Book" button at the bottom right-hand side of the screen.
- Click "Select Dates".



- Choose the dates you would like your child to attend and click "Book" at the bottom of the screen.
- You will need to enter the details for all children you are booking for so please click the "New Child Attendee" button and add their first name, last name and date of birth, then click "Save Child Attendee". You need to do this for each child you are wanting to attend.
- Once you have added your child(ren) you need to select them and then click the green "Next" button at the bottom of the screen.
- Next you will need to complete all their medical and dietary details along with any permissions and other information e.g., SEN, disability, etc.
- Click "Next"
- Click "Request Booking"
- You will then receive an email saying that your booking request has been sent to the council for approval.
- You should then get another email once the booking has been confirmed.

HÔ HÔ HÔ!

 St Joseph's Family Centre

St Barnabas Christmas Holiday Activity Club

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December

And

Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th December

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).

Please visit www.eequ.org to book your place for your child.

St Barnabas Countdown to Christmas

Tuesday 2 nd December	Y4 trip to Liverpool World Museum
Tuesday 2 nd December, 1pm	School choir singing in Golden Square
Friday 5 th December	8:45am Parent coffee morning – all families welcome
Friday 5 th December	Y3 trip to Warrington Museum
Monday 8 th December, 3:15pm	Starbooks Christmas Cafe and Christmas shop
Wednesday 10 th December	Nursery, Reception, 1, 2, 5 Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 10 th December – Thursday 11 th December	Christmas shop open at lunchtimes
Thursday 11 th December, 9:15am	Y2 Nativity Performance for parents Christmas shop open
Thursday 11 th December, 2:30pm	Y4 Keyboard Concert
Friday 12 th December	St Rocco's Reindeer Run and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12 th December	Y3, 4, & 6 Christmas dinner
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Disco: Reception & KS1 3:15 – 4:30pm KS2: 4:45 – 6pm
Monday 15 th December	Little Movers Family Christmas Parties for Nursery and Reception
Tuesday 16 th December, 3:30pm	Christingle Service in St Barnabas Church
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Party Day!
Thursday 18 th December	Whole school trip to Children's Adventure Farm Trust Winter Wonderland
Friday 19 th December	Elf Day!
Friday 19 th December	School closes for Christmas break at 1:30pm
Tuesday 6 th January	School opens