

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

28/11/2025



*'Let your light shine'*

It has been the most difficult week in our school, following the news of our beautiful Jamie's tragic death. Our school community is praying for Jamie's family and friends and we will do everything we can to support them at this most difficult time. Our children were told in an age-appropriate way yesterday and I have been overwhelmed with their sensitivity, kindness, maturity and compassion. Many of our children have been busy making beautiful cards and pictures and writing messages which have all been taken to Jamie's family.

Jamie's tragic death will have such a tremendous impact on us all and we want to come together to provide the best possible support for our St Barnabas community. Please rest assured that we have an extremely skilful staff team who are well trained to spot children who are struggling and to offer the right support, such as bereavement counselling, when it is needed.

I would like to thank you, our families, for your messages of support and offers of help – I am really touched by your kindness and will share them all with Jamie's parents – I know they will find some comfort in knowing how much you all care. Please contact me if there is anything at all you need. Please keep Jamie and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

*Miss Hodgkinson*



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



### 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://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.

### 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.

### Starting Reception Class

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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'*



This week we pray for Jamie. We pray for his family who are consumed with overwhelming grief. We pray they find strength and comfort. Please guide them through their pain and help all in our school community to try our best to light up the darkness with love and compassion.

#### **This week's big question is:**

Can we take responsibility for others' choices or actions?



### 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.





Can you help us with donation of new toys/gifts, pyjamas and selections boxes for children & young adults aged 0-18 years?

## DONATIONS ARE NOW BEEN TAKEN AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

**THE GATEWAY**

**GOLDEN SQUARE CUSTOMER SERVICES**

**HOWLEY HOTEL**

**PAVILLION TEA ROOMS**

**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL TIMES SQUARE**

**WARRINGTON TOWN HALL**

**THE ALBION**

**THE GREENWOOD HOTEL**

**THE STATION HOUSE**

**THE CHESHIRE CHEESE**

**THE RED LION**

**THE IRISH CLUB**

**WA1 1SR**

**WA1 1QB**

**WA1 2JP**

**WA1 3GF**

**WA1 2NT**

**WA1 1UH**

**WA2 7EG**

**WA2 0EQ**

**WA2 7FW**

**WA4 1JH**

**WA3 1HE**

**WA2 7AL**

**MON-FRI 9AM-5PM**

**MON-SAT 9.30-5.50PM, SUN 11AM-5PM, LATE NIGHT THURS UNTIL 8PM**

**MON-SUN 12NOON-11PM**

**TUES-THURS 9AM-2PM**

**MON-FRI 9AM-5PM**

**MON-FRI 9AM-5PM**

**MON-SUN 12NOON-11PM**

**MON-SUN 12NOON-11PM**

**MON-SUN 12NOON-11PM**

**MON-SUN 12NOON-11PM**

**MON-SUN 12NOON-11PM**

**MON-SUN 12NOON-11PM**

If you would prefer to make a cash donation this is a link to our just giving page



**WARRINGTON**  
Borough Council



**torus**  
foundation



**Sellafield Ltd**



## 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 12<sup>th</sup> December

3.15 – 4.30pm

£4 – includes a snack, drink  
& party bag



## Key Stage 2 Disco

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

4.45 – 6pm

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



Our guide this week focuses again on Tik Tok, as it is the world's go to short video platform, which is 13+. There is an endless stream of ready to access videos, but there are pitfalls to consider, such as age-inappropriate content, viral challenges and misinformation. Our guide explores the hidden hazards and gives advice for parents.

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

# TIKTOK

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**13+**  
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

## BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

## IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

## MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

## ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

### BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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**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](http://caft.co.uk)



[helen@caft.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.



 St Joseph's Family Centre

**St Barnabas Christmas Holiday Activity Club**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**  
**And**  
**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.eequ.org) to book your place for your child.



# TOY Appeal 2025



**Supporting Families in Need This Christmas**

**If you are a family who is vulnerable and feel like you need support, we are here to help.**

**Speak to our Community Centre Co-ordinator about how to refer into the service.**

**Alternatively, you can contact:  
Liz Hands, Triage Assessment Worker**

 **01925 818017 (Option 4)**

**Let's make this Christmas special for every child in Warrington!**





## *St Barnabas* *Countdown to Christmas*

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