

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

09/01/2026



*'Let your light shine'*

Happy new year everyone! I hope you have all enjoyed the break with friends and family. It can be hard getting back into the normal routine after Christmas, but I have been incredibly impressed with how well all our children have returned to school – focussed, enthusiastic and ready to learn and work hard from the moment they set foot in school on Tuesday. We have another busy term ahead, with a geography focus in our wider curriculum and lots of classes have already immersed themselves in learning and produced some excellent work in our Design Technology week. designing, making and evaluating an incredible range of work from healthy soup and pasta, textiles and beach huts.

We have lots of trips and visitors planned, linked to our curriculum, and a focus on positive mental health and well-being. Lots more information to follow in the next few weeks.

On Tuesday I gave out **168** attendance awards for children who achieved over 96% and 100% attendance for the Autumn Term. Overall, our whole school attendance was well above national - this is an incredible achievement and I hope to give out even more awards at the end of the Spring term. Good attendance is absolutely crucial to enable our children to have a happy and successful future – thank you families for your support.

It really is lovely to have our children back at school and see them letting their light shine in so many different ways. 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](http://warrington.gov.uk)

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

#### *'Compassion'*

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

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

**Colossians, 3:12**

This week's big question is:  
How can you show compassion?



### 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.

### Dates for your Diary

9.1.26	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning – everyone welcome
27 – 28.1.26	Y3 Winter Warmer trip
27.1.26	Y5 Fire Safety Visit
28.1.26	3:15pm Y6 residential parents' meeting
2.2.26	3:15 – 6pm Parents' Evening and Starbooks Reading Cafe
3.2.26	3:15 – 6pm Parents' Evening and Starbooks Reading Cafe
9.2.26 - 13.2.26	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
13.2.26	School closes for half term
23.2.26	School opens





## Staying Safe Online

Our guide this week looks at lots of tips that can help parents in supporting their children in an online environment. Our guide also supports parents in providing safe environments for children to be able to discuss anything that worries them online.

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).

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

## 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

## 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

## 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

## 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

## 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

## 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

## 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

## 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

## 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

## 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

## Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 07.01.2026