

St Barnabas CE Primary

School Newsletter

23/01/2026



'Let your light shine'

On Friday 30th January, we are celebrating our diverse school community with our St Barnabas Multi-Cultural Celebration. Our children will get to visit lots of different stalls where they will be able to try food from around the world, learn traditional dances, try on costumes and listen to stories told in some of the languages spoken by our school community. It's going to be a wonderful afternoon and opportunity to come together to celebrate everyone who is part of our St Barnabas community. Thank you to all the families who have offered to help throughout the afternoon.

Parents, you are invited to come and join us at 3:15 - please pick you or child up as normal then you can enter school through the main entrance to visit the stalls and enjoy the food and experiences.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Miss Hodgkinson

Goodbye Mrs Gleave

Mrs Gleave will be starting her maternity leave on Friday 30th January, to prepare for the birth of her baby.

We wish Mrs Gleave and her family lots of luck and look forward to meeting the new baby soon.

We welcome Mrs Lomax who will be taking over as year 1 teacher whilst Mrs Gleave is on maternity leave.

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)

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Compassion'

This week we pray for those who have lost ones.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted."
Aesop

This week's big question is:
Can kindness change the world?

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.

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>

Nut Allergy

Our school is a **nut free zone** as we have children in school with severe allergies. Please do not send any food in packed lunches containing nuts or traces of nuts, including chocolate spread. Thank you.

Please be aware that from Monday 23rd February the cost of a school meal is increasing to £3.20.



Dates for your Diary

27 – 28.1.26	Y3 Winter Warmer trip
27.1.26	Y5 Fire Safety Visit
28.1.26	3:15pm Y6 residential parents' meeting
30.1.26	Multi-cultural Afternoon. Parents invited to attend from 3:15pm
2.2.26	3:15 – 6pm Parents' Evening and Starbooks Reading Cafe
3.2.26	3:15 – 6pm Parents' Evening and Starbooks Reading Cafe
6.2.26	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning
9.2.26 - 13.2.26	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
10.2.26	Safer Internet Day
13.2.26	School closes for half term
23.2.26	School opens

Our safety message this week focuses again on Roblox, as it is one of the most popular games that children play. It offers user-created games and social experiences. Roblox is different from other traditional video games, and can expose young users to inappropriate content. Our guide offers advice on parental controls, limiting chat and encouraging open conversations.

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

ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including *Wired*, *TechRadar*, *The Telegraph*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Guardian* and *The New Statesman*.



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The National College

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