

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

06/02/2026



'Let your light shine'

Next week is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and this year's theme is 'This is our place.' It is all about friends, families, schools and communities creating an environment that gives children a real sense of belonging. Some top tips are:

- Be your true self
- Do the things you love: sport, video games, music, crafts; these are great ways to connect with each other
- Be kind to yourself when you make a mistake; you don't need to be perfect.
- Listen to your feelings and try to think about what you need.
- Talk to someone you trust – you are not alone

Next week our children will be exploring this theme in assemblies and lessons, our Wellbeing Warrior will be leading special activities and on Friday 13th February, we are having a special non-uniform day – it's called Be Yourself Day – children can come to school wearing their favourite colour, sports kit or in anything that expresses their true personality – just bring a £1 donation.

Stepping out of your comfort zone and trying new activities is also great for your mental wellbeing, so on Friday we are also having a special **NINJA WARRIOR CHALLENGE**...it's going to be exciting...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...



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://School%20attendance%20|%20warrington.gov.uk)

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>

Culture Afternoon

Last Friday, we had a fantastic celebration of the rich and diverse culture that make up our St Barnabas community – our children tasted food and experienced traditional storytelling, music and dancing from countries all over the world. It was a fantastic and memorable afternoon – a huge thank you to all the families who helped to make it such a special occasion.



Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Compassion'

This week we pray for those who are homeless.

*Is someone born with a caring personality or is it learned?
"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle."*

Plato

This week's big question is:

Can kindness change the world?

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

9.2.26 - 13.2.26	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
10.2.26	Safer Internet Day
12.2.26	2:30pm Y4 Keyboard Concert – Y4 parents invited
13.2.26	School closes for half term
13.2.26	Ninja Warrior Challenge!
13.2.26	Non-uniform Day
23.2.26	School opens

Staying Safe Online

Artificial intelligence is becoming a familiar part of young people's online experiences, with a variety of school tools and entertainment platforms in use. Our guide this week, breaks down what AI really is, helping adults explain it clearly and so children don't overestimate its abilities. It explores how AI systems work, where they appear online, and why understanding them matters. The guide also highlights key online safety considerations, including misinformation, data privacy, bias and over-reliance on AI tools.

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

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

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.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



DISABILITY FOOTBALL

A GOAL FOR ALL

Exciting and inclusive disability football sessions, designed to provide young people with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful game in a supportive and adaptive environment.

£5

PER SESSION



Inclusive, Welcoming Environment

Adapted Skills for All Abilities

Supportive Qualified Coaches & Volunteers

Build Confidence & Make New Friends

EVERY SATURDAY
10:00am - 11:00am-Under 16s
11:00am-12:00pm-Downs Syndrome & Open Age



PADGATE ACADEMY

WA2 0LN



For more information email Will at:

WillRadcliffe@WarringtonWolvesFoundation.com



Registered Charity 110734



RUGBY

for Everyone.

Join Our Weekly Rugby Sessions For Individuals With Learning Disabilities

£5

PER SESSION

Learning Disability Rugby League

- Inclusive, Welcoming Environment
- Adapted Rugby League Skills with qualified coaches
- Fun, Accessible Activities
- Supportive Coaches & Volunteers
- Build Confidence & Make New Friends

EVERY FRIDAY-
AGES 5-11,12-16,17+
18:00 pm – 19:00 PM
Victoria Park 3G Pitch,
Warrington, WA4 1HN

REGISTER TODAY!

VISIT:
[HTTPS://WARRINGTONWOLVESFOUNDATION.COM/LDRL](https://warringtonwolvesfoundation.com/LDRL)



For more information email Will at:

WillRadcliffe@WarringtonWolvesFoundation.com



Registered Charity 110734



FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CAMPS



SEND SPECIFIC
5+ Years Old

9AM - 3PM
17-20th Feb, 2026

£30 Per Day
(Siblings Go Half Price)
£100 for Full Week

Activities Include...

- MULTI SPORTS
- SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
- CREATIVE ARTS



Registered Charity 110734

Green Lane Special School
WA1 4LS



WillRadcliffe@WarringtonWolvesFoundation.com

01925 2488949



DISABILITY SPECIFIC CREATIVE CLASSES



DANCE

THEATRE

CRAFTS

MUSIC



SCAN ME



AmeliaTitchard@WarringtonWolvesFoundation.com
01925 248894



Registered Charity 110734



8am-6pm

16th-19th February



February Holiday Club

Den Building
Fires
Tools

Forest School

07873811881

@footprintsintheforest.fs@gmail.com

Facebook: Footprints in the Forest at

Chapelford Primary School (Great Sankey)



Booking link: <https://footprintsintheforest.kidsclubhq.co.uk>

PIC-COLLAGES



Active Families - Get Moving, Have Fun!

at
Bewsey & Dallam Hub
Longshaw St,
Warrington WA5 0DY

Friday
3.30pm-5.00pm
Starts 16th January 2026

Join us for Active Families, a fun-filled session designed to help you get active through sports and games.

- Parents/Guardians: Come along with your children
- Teens: Come solo or bring a friend (with appropriate adult consent)

This is a new community-focused way to boost your wellbeing while enjoying time together.

Play, Move, and Thrive! Let's make being active fun for everyone!

- ✓ Free to Join
- ✓ Community-Led
- ✓ For All Ages & Abilities

Sign up today and be part of the movement!
Call us at 07741 291 969 Email: dhynes@warrington.gov.uk




February Rugby Camp

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
03	04 WAITING FOR CAMP	05
10	11 LOOKING FORWARD TO CAMP	12 GETTING EXCITED
17 HOLIDAY CAMP	18 HOLIDAY CAMP	19

HOW TO REGISTER:
[HTTPS://REGISTER.ENTHOUSE.COM/S/EVENT/RUGBYLEAGUEHOLIDAYCAMP2026](https://register.enthouse.com/s/event/rugbyleagueholidaycamp2026)

8-15-15:30, DROP OFF 8:15-9:15

ST ELPHINS PRIMARY SCHOOL
FARRELL STREET, WARRINGTON
WA1 2GN

SPACES ARE LIMITED SO BE SURE TO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT! PRICE: £25




Charity No: 1003675



Join us for a free 2-hour outdoor family session at CAFT this half term. All craft activities located in the woodland have a minibeast theme, alongside marshmallow toasting. Our playpark and farm will also be open




CAFT provides visits for children and their families who are impacted by illness, complex medical needs, special educational needs, disability and social disadvantage.

Please go to our website to check our eligibility criteria and to book a slot www.caft.co.uk/families