

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

06/03/2026



'Let your light shine'



On Thursday, our KS2 children were treated to a fantastic theatre performance by the company Onatti, who specialise in engaging dual-language productions. The play, *Shipwrecked en France*, was written especially for KS2 pupils who are learning French.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show, and it was wonderful to see the children confidently following the plot and dialogue. They drew on their prior learning from French lessons and used some excellent "language detective" skills to work out new words and phrases.

A brilliant and memorable way to bring language learning to life — **incroyable!**

## World Book Day



### 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)

### 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>

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

### *Forgiveness*

"Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others."



**This week pray for all affected by the war in Iran.**

### 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February the cost of a school meal is to £3.20.

### Dates for your Diary

Dates for your Diary	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	National Science Week
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3/4 Warrington Wolves Gulp workshop – healthy eating and lifestyle choices and rugby session
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3/4 Warrington Wolves Gulp workshop – healthy eating and lifestyle choices and rugby session
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	6pm Y5 Primary Arts Network - Performance at the Parr Hall
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3/4 Warrington Wolves rugby session
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	3:15 – 4:30pm Easter Starbooks Cafe – all families welcome
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Reception trip to Chester Zoo
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	10am Whole School Spring Service at St Barnabas Church – all families welcome
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	6pm Spring Concert – tickets available for parents of children in KS2
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	School closes for the Easter break
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	School opens for the summer term

## Staying Safe Online

Our online safety message this week focuses on WhatsApp, a hugely popular platform for communicating. As it uses end to end encryption it can often make it difficult for adults to see when things are going wrong. Our guide this week reminds us that WhatsApp shouldn't be used by anyone younger than 13 and how features like group chats, disappearing messages, 'Channels' and location sharing can expose young users to pressure, unwanted contact and inappropriate content.

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 WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

## GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

## SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

## DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

## EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

## UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

## COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

### BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

### TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

### TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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: 18.02.2026

**THE CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE FARM TRUST**  
Charity no: 1005475

# EASTER AT CAFT

## FAMILY VISITS

WE WILL BE RUNNING 2 HOUR OUTDOOR EASTER VISITS FOR DISABLED AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO CHECK OUR ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND TO BOOK A SLOT  
[WWW.CAFT.CO.UK/FAMILIES](http://WWW.CAFT.CO.UK/FAMILIES)

St Barnabas CE Primary School

## Easter Raffle

Date 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Tickets £1 each and are on sale now!**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize      Easter Hamper  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize      Pokémon Bundle  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize      Basketball Hoop and Olllyball

And many other prizes including...

- \* Mini Metal Detector \* Golf Game \* Pokémon Battle Game \*
- \* Garden Lights and Tool Set \* Games Bundle \*
- \* Bluey Game/ Tea set and Camera \* 'Cars' Playset \*
- \* Headphones and Camera \* Birthday Party Bundle \*
- \* Playdoh Set \* Relaxation Bundle \* Teddy and Carrier \*
- \* Portable mini printer \* 3 x Kid's Cameras \*
- \* Bayliss & Harding Bundle \* Busy book & Tiger card game \*
- \* Bubbly and Biscuits \* 3 x Pokémon Cards \*

### Warrington speech, language and communication pathway



# Pop-Up Book Bank

First 10 books free

Everyone Welcome

At St. Barnabas Church

Lovely Lane  
WA5 1PX

On March 7<sup>th</sup>  
10am- 12pm

Hot Drinks Available

# Communicating with your child

## TALK, SHARE, PLAY

- T**ake turns communicating
- A**ttention: remove distraction such as turn off the TV put away your phone
- L**isten and respond to how your child communicates
- K**eep language simple
- S**it with your child so you can see each other's faces
- H**elp them turn the pages
- A**ttend to their requests
- R**epeat what they communicate and copy what they do
- E**njoy a book - talk about the pictures or what your child is most interested in
- P**retend - use everyday objects like cups, spoons, brushes and role play eg going shopping
- L**ove and support - you are the best play partner!
- A**llow child led activities
- Y**our responses are important



## RUGBY HOLIDAY CAMPS 2026

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>APRIL</b>
Tuesday 17th Wednesday 18th	Tuesday 7th Wednesday 8th
<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>
Tuesday 26th Wednesday 27th	Tuesday 2nd Wednesday 3rd
<b>AUGUST</b>	
W/C 3rd W/C 10th W/C 17th W/C 24th	



Register here:  
More details to be released closer to dates via the link



### April Rugby Camp

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	<b>31</b> LOOKING FORWARD TO CAMP	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b> GETTING EXCITED
	<b>07</b> HOLIDAY CAMP	<b>08</b> HOLIDAY CAMP	<b>09</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>

**REGISTER HERE:**

- 1 8:15 - 15:30, DROP OFF 8:15 - 9:15
- 2 ST ELPHINS PRIMARY SCHOOL, FARRELL STREET, WARRINGTON WA1 2GN

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**  
FOOD INCLUDED  
OPTION OF CONTACT & TAG RUGBY  
FUN RUGBY ACTIVITIES/GAMES  
FREE PLAY  
STAR OF THE DAY  
VISITS FROM WOLFIE

REGISTER HERE:

SCHOOL YEARS 2-6  
SPACES ARE LIMITED SO BE SURE TO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT!  
PRICE: £60 FOR BOTH DAYS