

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

17/04/2026



*'Let your light shine'*

Attending school on time every day is the best way to ensure your children's future success. Children with good attendance achieve much better in school, go on to get better jobs, have better mental and physical health than those with poor attendance. The government expects all children's attendance to be **at least 96%**.

This week we celebrated our Spring term attendance and I was extremely impressed with the number of attendance awards our children have achieved. I gave out **161** awards in total: bronze awards for 96% or above for the Spring term, silver for 96% and above for the Autumn AND Spring terms and 100% badges...absolutely brilliant, but I know we can be even better in the summer term!

This week I have been incredibly impressed with the excellent recall of knowledge, standards of work and creativity, innovation, persistence and teamwork demonstrated by our children in their DT projects. Some fantastic work has been produced across the DT curriculum including healthy snacks, textile labels, greenhouse structures and pneumatic systems. We definitely have many students who should consider pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers.

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)

### 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.



**May Rugby Camp**

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
12 LOOKING FORWARD TO CAMP	13	14
19	20	21 GETTING EXCITED
26 HOLIDAY CAMP	27 HOLIDAY CAMP	28

8:15 - 15:00, DROP OFF 8:15 - 9:15  
PARK ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, WROXHAM ROAD, WA5 3EF

SPACES ARE LIMITED SO BE SURE TO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT!  
PRICE: £50 FOR BOTH DAYS

WHAT TO EXPECT:  
VISITS FROM FIRST TEAM PLAYERS  
VISITS FROM WOLFIE  
OPTION OF CONTACT & TAG RUGBY  
FREE PLAY  
STAR OF THE DAY

FR Registered with THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY  
REGULATOR  
Registered Charity 110734

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

*'Courage'*

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

Joshua 1:9



This week we pray for those who are homeless.

This week's big question is:

What is courage? What does courage look like?

### Calling all Jigsaw Enthusiasts

St Elphin's, St Barnabas & Holy Trinity Churches invite you to join them at St Elphin's Church, Church Street, Warrington, WA1 2TL for a

## Jigsaw Day

Saturday

18<sup>th</sup> April 2026

10.00 – 2.00pm



Other Stalls include:

Refreshments    Cake Stall  
Tombola            Jams Stall  
Knitted goods    Wood  
Stained Glass    Silk Arrangements  
Candles

Admission £1.00 - includes free raffle ticket  
Proceeds to be split between the 3 churches

### 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.

### Free Online Safety Parent Workshop – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 7pm

Warrington Local Authority are totally committed to the digital safety and wellbeing of their students. As part of this, we are running a workshop dedicated to helping parents understand the risks their children face in their online lives and the practical things parents can do to help.

Please join us for this hour-long workshop in which Ruth Noble, Digital Safeguarding Education Specialist will provide you with lots of valuable insights and tools.

Including:

- Information on the latest apps and games your child may have access to.
- The harmful content your child may be exposed to.
- How you can help your child to safely navigate online risk.
- How to access our FREE [Online Safety Hub](#) with dedicated guidance for parents.
- An introduction to a parental app that allows you to control what your child sees online if they are at risk, plus other important features.

We hope to see you there, please use the link to register for your free place [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Our guide this week looks at app and play stores. It gives practical advice on how parents can manage risks. With millions of apps available and children accessing them from an increasingly young age, app stores can present a range of risks. From malware and copycat apps to inappropriate content and persuasive in-app purchases, this guide highlights how easily young users can encounter issues.

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](http://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

### MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE

Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

### UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS

Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

### PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES

App-making is a business, and most creators have found that 'freemium' software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some 'free' apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

### ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN

Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

### SIDeloADED BANNED APPS

'Sideloading' – the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS

Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. 'Screen Time' (iPhone) and 'Family Link' (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness – if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

### LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS

App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at listings by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

### TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

### Meet Our Expert

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



## Apprenticeship Opportunities with HMS

Housing Maintenance Solutions (HMS) is launching a recruitment campaign for **30 apprenticeship opportunities** across a wide range of roles, including **Business Administration, Site Management, and skilled trades** such as electrician, plumber, joiner, bricklayer, painter & decorator, plasterer, plus **Greenspace and Retrofit**.

HMS will also be hosting **careers fairs and open evenings**, giving prospective applicants the chance to learn more about the roles, application process and future career pathways.

### Upcoming Careers Fairs:

- **15 April 2026** – Halliwell Jones Stadium, Warrington (4.30–7.00pm)
- **21 April 2026** – BrewDog Stadium, St Helens (4.30–7.00pm)

These opportunities are ideal for individuals looking to start or progress their careers through an apprenticeship route. Registration is available via Eventbrite.

## Fundraiser

Some of our pupils are members of Warrington Starlights Dance team. The team have made starlight history and won a bid to compete internationally for the first time ever! This is an amazing opportunity but also very expensive, so Lola's mum is busy fundraising for the trip.

She is making personalised sunglasses and shirts for signing, which are ideal for school leavers.

If you would like to buy any of the items, contact Clair Taylor on 07443987967.

Sunglasses	£3.50
Shirts	£7.50
Sunglasses & shirt	£10



## Dates for your Diary

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	School opens for the summer term
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Y4 swimming
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Y4 trip to Liverpool Museum
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April, 3:25pm	SATs meeting for Y6 parents
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Y4 swimming
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday: school closed
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Y4 swimming
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Warrington Guardian taking Y6 leavers' photo
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs Week – Y6 pupils
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Y4 swimming
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 residential to Forest Camp
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Y4 swimming
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	School closes for Whit break
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	School opens