

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

20/10/2023



'Let your light shine'

We are really looking forward to welcoming parents into school next week for our first parents' evening of the year. Teachers really value being able to see you in person, share your child's achievements and show you their work. Our Starbooks Reading Café will also be open, serving drinks and tasty snacks and the book fair will also be in school.

I can't believe we have nearly reached the end of the first half term – it really has flown by and we have had so many incredible achievements to celebrate at St Barnabas. This half term we have been thinking about the value of generosity and our children have really lived out this value – in their excellent behaviour, giving up their time to help others and being caring and compassionate. I am incredibly proud of all our children.

Every minute of every day is packed with learning and fun at St Barnabas and our children have 'let their light shine' in so many different ways, including as historians, writers, scientists, artists, athletes and mathematicians!

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Hodgkinson

LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE: HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS WE HAVE LET OUR LIGHT SHINE THIS WEEK...



Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Generosity'

"Use what talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those who sang best."

Henry Van Dyke

This week we pray for all those living in places around the world affected by war and conflict.

This week's big question is:

If everyone was generous in the world, would there be no more arguments



Confirmation Classes

We will be running Confirmation Classes for children in year 5 and 6 after school every Tuesday from 3:15 until 4:15 starting on Tuesday 14th November, in preparation for the Confirmation Service on Sunday 28th January. A link to sign up will be sent out next week.



Book Fair:

Our Scholastic Book Fair will take place next week. Pop into the hall after school and purchase some exciting books for your children to enjoy at home.

Books start at £2.99 and every purchase made will help raise funds towards new books for school.

Book Fair times:

Monday: 3.15 - 5.40pm

Tuesday: 3.15 - 4.30pm

Wednesday: 3.15 - 5.40pm

Half Term Fun:

We have put together a list of ideas for ways to keep children active and healthy this October half term through a variety of camps and activities:

FREEDOM FOOTBALL HALF TERM CAMPS

<https://freedomfootball.classforkids.io/camps>

WARRINGTON WOLVES HOLIDAY CAMP

<https://register.enthouse.com/ps/event/HolidayCampActivity2023>

NETBALL CAMPS

- Appleton Netball Club -

www.nelliesnetball.co.uk/book-online

https://www.facebook.com/Nelliesnetball/posts/pfbid0262PfzvFLehWEo47rHGp8WYlBYb3jguq3PFTThekmFoRvXxGqseCLRCQESRj9PVPvchi?locale=en_GB

- Warrington Sport for All Centres

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=337791721940932&set=a.217681593951946>

WARRINGTON SPORTS ACADEMY

[Warrington Sports Academy Half Term Camps - Facebook link](#)

THE MINI MAKERY - Halloween crafts & food art

<https://buytickets.at/theminimakery/td>

WARRINGTON YOUTH ZONE

<https://warringtonyouthzone.org/young-people/holiday-club/>

Staying Safe Online

For 20 years FIFA has dominated the football gaming arena. Renowned developers EA (Electronic Arts) are making a version of their own called EA Sports FC 24, which is effectively FIFA 2.0. Our e-safety guide this week highlights how EA Sports FC 24 carries many similar risks to FIFA including addictive gameplay, abusive voice chats and expensive in-game purchases and provides hints and tips for parents and carers to tackle this.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run of glory. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name – EA Sports FC 24 – but don't let these two letters fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA torch, meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tend to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable sensation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and it's now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details are updated to their account. EA Sports FC 24 gives a currency start of just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child on in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to date for usernames or passwords as noted out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspicious spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites. It could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-orientated gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC 24. There's now also a cool portable mode app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to play toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs, but this may be about to build over. This year, double when playing online with strangers, voice chat with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to EA Sports FC 24. Allowing modes that allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This year's version of the game includes more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

David Coleman is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site Outdoornet and has worked in the gaming market for several years. A keen gamer, he has not only the latest tips, games and online trends, but also a parent's view on the importance of online safety, setting healthy digital boundaries, and how to ensure children have been published on influential sites including BBC and The Guardian.

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.10.2023

School Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Friday 27 th October	School closes for half term
Monday 6 th November	School opens
Thursday 21 st December	School closes for Christmas break
Monday 8 th January	School opens
Friday 9 th February	School closes for half term
Monday 19 th February	School opens
Thursday 28 th March	School closes for Easter break
Monday 8 th April	School opens
Monday 6 th May	Bank holiday – school closed
Friday 24 th May	School closes for half term
Monday 10 th June	School opens
Friday 28 th June	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
Friday 19 th July	School closes for Summer break

Dates for your Diary Autumn Half Term 1

Monday 23 rd – Wednesday 25 th October	Book Fair
Monday 23 rd October & Wednesday 25 th October	Parents' Evenings for all classes
Wednesday 25 th October	Year 6 trip to Liverpool Heritage Museum
Friday 27 th October	School closes for half term

