

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

28/03/2025



*'Let your light shine'*

What an incredible evening we had last night at our Spring Concert! The children recited poems with confidence, played instruments skilfully and sang brilliantly. Every year the standard of performance gets better and better, which is testament to the hard work and talent of our children and the dedication and expertise of the staff who work with them. Thank you, families, for your support.

I can't believe there are only 2 weeks left until the end of the spring term. We have some eggcellent Easter celebrations planned for the last week of term, including our annual decorated egg competition. Children are invited to decorate a hard-boiled egg at home – be as creative as you like! Eggs should be brought to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April and the winner for each class will be announced on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. There are prizes for the winner in each class and every child who takes part will also receive a small chocolate egg.

On Sunday we celebrate Mother's Day and I would like to say a huge thank you to all the mums, grandmothers, foster mums, step mums, mother figures, mums to be and all the men that are doing the mother and father jobs too. I hope everyone has a wonderful day!

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...





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WARRINGTON  
Borough Council



Community Foundation

## EVERY BODY COUNTS

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES IN WARRINGTON

We provide help and advice for you and your family on...

Mental wellbeing



Nutrition



Physical activity



**Every Body Counts**

A free programme for children and young people aged 5-16 years\* (up to 25 years with special educational needs) and their families. Our programme will help family members make better informed lifestyle choices leading to positive health gains including physical activity, mental wellness and nutrition. Our approach is compassionate and inclusive where our families will feel supported, their needs understood and coached for long term behavioural change.

**BE THE CHANGE**  
#BeTheChange

SCAN BELOW FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



@WWRLFoundation f wolvesfoundation  
warringtonwolvesfoundation warrington-wolves-community-foundation

T 01925 248894 E community@warringtonwolvesfoundation.com  
www.warringtonwolvesfoundation.com

### Parent Coffee Morning

8:45am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April. This session we will be welcoming **Warrington Wolves** to talk about **Everybody Counts**, a brand new, **free** after school activity for parents and children, the Mental Health Support Team and Torus Housing Foundation. Come along for a cuppa and a chat.

### 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)

### BE ON TIME!

School starts: 8:40am

Children must be in before 8:50 or they will be marked LATE.

### Places in St Barnabas Nursery Available

We have places available in our nursery for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds.

Please ask the school office for an application form or to make an appointment to look around.

We can also assist with 2-year-old and 15 hours funding applications.

### Starting Reception Class

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, they are due to start reception class in September 2025.

You will need to apply for a place here:

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions>



Wishing all our Muslim families and friends around the world a happy and blessed Eid.

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH

# SPRING FAIR

Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>

12- 3pm  
in church

Stalls include:

Tombola ~ Cakes ~ Bric a Brac  
Raffle ~ Gifts ~ Jigsaws & Books  
Poke a Pot ~ Jewellery ~ Refreshments

Everyone Welcome



### Easter Eggstravaganza!

Our annual decorated egg competition is taking place soon. There will be a winner from each class and all entries will receive a chocolate prize! Competition entries should be brought into school on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April**. Winners will be announced on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**.



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

### *'Creativity'*

"Creativity is seeing what everyone else sees and thinking what no one else ever thought."

*Albert Einstein*

This week we pray for those living in places affected by climate change. Please help us to protect and care for our planet.

This week's big question is:

*Can we get more or less creative?*

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 and go on to get better jobs than those with poor attendance. The government expects all children's attendance to be **at least 96%**.

Here is our class and whole school attendance for last week:

Class	Attendance
YR	95%
Y1	97%
Y2	93%
Y3	98%
Y4	99%
Y5	99%
Y6	96%
Whole School	97%

A great week for Y4 and Y5 who have both achieved an impressive **99%**. Our overall school attendance last week was **97%** - this is fantastic – keep it up everyone!

### School Uniform

Trainers should only be worn on PE days.

Black school shoes should be worn on all other days with school uniform. Thank you for your support.

### St Barnabas

# Come and Join our Easter Feasty Day

Friday 11th April

### MENU

BBQ Chicken in a Bun with wedges and sweetcorn

OR

Hunters Chicken with wedges and sweetcorn

Cheese Flan with salad potatoes

Easter Cornflake Cake  
Or  
Fresh Fruit

Chilled Milk or Water



Please pay £2.80 via Parent Pay, if you normally pay for your lunch. Reception, Years 1 & 2 do not need to make payment. Thank you.



## Staying Safe Online

Our guide this week focuses on the world of social media and a platform called Bluesky. This is a microblogging platform and as accounts have to be public, this opens up the potential to trolling, cyberbullying and the spread of misinformation. It should be noted that Bluesky is a platform with an age restriction of 13+.

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 BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

## NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

## INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being contacted by spammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

## TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

## DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

## ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

## RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

### ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

### LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

### KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unavourable. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

## Meet Our Expert

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



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>

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## School Term Dates 2024 - 2025

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	School opens
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for Easter break
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	School opens
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday – School Closed
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	School closes for half term
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	School opens
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Warrington Walking Day – School Closed
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for Summer break

## Dates for your Diary

21.3.25	Y3/4 Rugby session
21.3.25	Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)
27.3.25	6pm Spring Concert – Y3, 4, 5 & 6 taking part. Tickets are free, 2 per family, please pick up from the school office.
1.4.25	6pm Primary Arts Network Performance at the Parr Hall – Y4 & 5 taking part
3.4.35	Y4 trip to Quarry Bank Mill
4.4.25	8:45am parent Coffee Morning
4.4.25	Reception trip to Chester Zoo
7.7.25	3:15 – 4:30pm Starbooks Easter Cafe
8.4.25	Nursery and Reception Easter Stay and Play Session
9.4.25	10am Whole School Spring Service at St Barnabas Church – all families welcome
9.4.25	Donkeys visiting our school
10.4.25	Nursery - Easter Stay and Play Session
11.4.25	Learn to ride – Y3/4 bikeability session
11.4.25	School closes for Easter break
15.4.25	10am – 2pm Easter Holiday Club
16.4.25	10am – 2pm Easter Holiday Club
17.4.25	10am – 2pm Easter Holiday Club
18.4.25	10am – 2pm Easter Holiday Club
22.4.25	School opens for Summer term

### 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.



St Barnabas CE Primary School

## **'Golden Ticket' Easter Raffle**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize** Warrington Wolves Season Tickets (Adult + Child)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** Massive Pokémon Hamper
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** £25 Just Eat Voucher

**And another 32 other prizes including...**

- \* Easter Treats Hamper \* Huge Pikachu Soft Toy \* Giant Nursery Toy Bundle \* Lego Rabbit and Cuddly Toy \* Stitch Backpack and Soft Toy \* Basketball Hoop \* Karaoke Set \* Handbag Bundle \* Puppy Cuddly Toy \* Power Ranger and Money Box \* Craft Hamper \* 2 x Children's Headphones \* Children's Headphone and Party Light \* Children's Headphones and Plush toy \* Lantern, Candle and Scarf \* Fuzzy Duck Toiletries \* Toy truck and car sets \* Lynx Set and Braces \* Pink Bear \* Blue Plush toy \* Purple Plush toy \* Dragonball figurines \* 10 further prizes of Pokémon Landorus, Thundurus & Tornadus Card Sets \*





# HAF

## Holiday Activities and Food

**Are your children on benefit related free school meals?**

Scan me →



If yes, they can attend up to four fully funded holiday activities this Easter. Browse now at [warrington.gov.uk](http://warrington.gov.uk). Bookings open 9am on Monday 10 March. Email [haf@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:haf@warrington.gov.uk) to find out more.

**Not eligible?**  
Many clubs offer paid places at a reduced rate.






#HAF2025




**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**10am to 2pm.**