

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

04/04/2025



'Let your light shine'

Goodbye Mrs Viridi...

Today we are saying goodbye to Mrs Viridi who is leaving to take on a new challenge as a family support worker. Mrs Viridi has worked in our nursery since September 2021 and will be very much missed by children, parents and staff. We would like to thank her for being an incredible nursery room leader, for all her hard work, passion, commitment and everything she has done to support our youngest children and their families. We wish Mrs Viridi the very best of luck in her new job. She will be an amazing family support worker.

It's been a very busy week for our amazing children...

On Tuesday, our year 4 and 5 classes took part in a joint concert with other Warrington schools at the Parr Hall – their singing and dancing was sensational and the organisers came to tell me that our children had stood out from all the other schools with their exemplary behaviour throughout the rehearsal and concert...what superstars!

On Wednesday year 3 and 4 took part in a rugby tournament. They played 8 matches against other Warrington schools and won 7 of them.... they were also complimented for their outstanding behaviour and sportsmanship. In addition, year 4 went on a trip to Quarry Bank Mill on Thursday – the staff there thought that our children were in year 6, not year 4, as they had such excellent geographical knowledge. Yet more examples of the incredible ways our children let their light shine, not just in school but everywhere they go!

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the spring sunshine everyone.

*Miss Hodgkinson*

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS OUR AMAZING CHILDREN HAVE 'LET THEIR  
LIGHT SHINE' THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL...





Registered with  
FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR  
Registered Charity 1110734



WARRINGTON  
WOLVES  
THE WIRE  
Community Foundation



WARRINGTON  
Borough Council

## 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.

SCAN BELOW FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



## BE THE CHANGE

#BeTheChange

 @WWRLFoundation  wolvesfoundation  
 warringtonwolvesfoundation  warrington-wolves-community-foundation

T 01925 248894 E [community@warringtonwolvesfoundation.com](mailto:community@warringtonwolvesfoundation.com)  
[www.warringtonwolvesfoundation.com](http://www.warringtonwolvesfoundation.com)

### 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>



### Easter Starbooks Cafe

Our Easter Starbooks Reading Cafe will be open on Monday 7th April from 3.15pm - 4.30pm. Come along and spend time in our 'eggcellent' Easter themed cafe packed full of 'cracking' activities, refreshments and books!

### 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	91.67%
<b>Y1</b>	<b>99.17%</b>
Y2	94.0%
Y3	97.5%
Y4	93.91%
Y5	94.5%
Y6	97.5%
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>97%</b>

A great week for Y1 who have achieved an impressive **99.17%**. 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 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**.



### **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.**



Instagram remains a very popular app amongst all age groups, bearing in mind this is a 13+ app. It has endless streams and videos, keeping young users constantly connected. As there are live broadcasts from influencers, this can raise concerns over children being exposed to inappropriate content, but also raise the question of screen time and online pressures. Our guide this week, offers support and tips on the latest version of Instagram.

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 INSTAGRAM

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

#### AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

#### RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

#### THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

#### SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

#### EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

### SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

### OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

### BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

### 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.

**WakeUpWednesday**

**The National College**

**@wake\_up\_weds** **/www.thenationalcollege** **@wake.up.wednesday** **@wake.up.weds**

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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

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.



# BEWSEY BADGERS

Our new Badger group is opening and now recruiting children aged 5-9

**TUESDAY**  
17.30-18.45

<https://shorturl.at/AJh9Y>





## 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 15th to Friday 18th April**

**10am to 2pm.**