

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

11/04/2025



'Let your light shine'

I cannot believe we have reached the end of another term, though I must say everyone in school – children and staff – have worked so hard they are all ready for a break! Our children have demonstrated what confident performers they are this term, with excellent performances from all our KS2 classes in the Spring Concert, drama and readings in church and an exceptional performance from Year 4 and 5 in the PAN Concert at the Parr Hall. Many of our children have also represented the school in sporting competitions including rugby, football and gymnastics competing against many other schools and demonstrating not only excellent sporting ability, with many wins, but great encouragement of others. Well done St Barnabas superstars. I hope you all have a blessed Easter and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on **Tuesday 22nd April**.

Happy Easter everyone!
Miss Hodgkinson

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



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	93%
Y1	98%
Y2	95%
Y3	92%
Y4	96%
Y5	91%
Y6	92%
Whole School	94%

A great week for Y1 who have achieved 98%. Our overall school attendance last week was **94% - this is far too much lost learning time.**

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Creativity'

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2 vs 10 ESV

This week we pray for those who are homeless.

This week's big question is:
What can stop us being creative?



Easter Eggstravaganza!

A huge well done to everyone who took part in our annual egg decorating competition – the entries were eggcellent; everyone eggcelled themselves this year and it was almost impossible for teachers to choose a winner for their class.



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. Bookings open 9am on Monday 10 March. Email 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.

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.



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 22 nd April	School opens for summer term
Tuesday 22 nd April	Y5 trip to Rock Oil
Friday 2 nd May	8:45am Parent coffee morning
Monday 5 th May	Bank holiday: school closed
Thursday 8 th May	VE Day Service at St Barnabas Church
Monday 12 th – Thursday 15 th May	KS2 SATs Week
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th May	Christian Aid Week
Friday 16 th May	VE Day Celebration Picnic – all classes
Monday 19 th – Tuesday 20 th May	Y6 residential to Forest Camp
Friday 23 rd May	School Closes for Whit Break
Monday 9 th June	School re-opens
Friday 13 th June	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning
Friday 27 th June	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
Monday 30 th June – Friday 11 th July	Health and Lifestyle Fortnight
Tuesday 1 st July	Sports Day
Wednesday 2 nd July	Moving Up Day – all classes
Wednesday 2 nd & Thursday 3 rd July	Y6 transition days (Y6 children visiting the high school they will be attending from September)
Friday 4 th July	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning
Friday 4 th July	1:30pm – 3pm Summer Fair
Wednesday 9 th July	6pm Y6 Leavers' Party
Wednesday 16 th July	2pm Y6 Leavers' Service
Friday 18 th July	Summer Fun Day

Staying Safe Online

This week's guide focuses on search engines, which are a routine part of our everyday lives. They give us access to billions of sites, which in turn increases the risk of children being exposed to inappropriate content. Our guide gives practical steps in how parents can safeguard children.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

FUNNY JOKES

ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

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.



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