

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

12/09/2025



'Let your light shine'

There's a really happy, positive buzz around school this September, with all our children really well settled in their new classes, behaving beautifully and working hard. There have already been many amazing achievements to celebrate and we've only been back at school 2 weeks!

I know that all our children also 'let their light shine' outside of school, for example with sporting achievements, community support and fundraising. If your child is a 'home hero' and does something that they are really proud of outside school, please let me or their class teacher know and we will celebrate their achievements in our Friday Celebration Worship. Being a parent can sometimes feel like the hardest job in the world... Here are some of the things we can do as parents/carers to help our children thrive at school and ensure their future success.

1. Keeping our children in a good routine with a consistent bedtime and getting up time.
2. No screens before bedtime as this affects sleep. Limit and monitor your child's access to devices including on games such as Roblox and Minecraft.
3. Give your child a healthy breakfast such as porridge, Weetabix, toast, yoghurt and fruit. Avoid sugary cereals and cereal bars.
4. Make sure your child is in school every day **on time**. We can administer prescribed medicine and pain killers (such as Calpol) to children with your consent so even if they have a cold or are a bit under the weather, send them in and we will call you if they become too unwell to be in school.
5. Read **WITH** your child every night – just 10/15 minutes will make a HUGE difference. Talk with your children about what they are reading and encourage them to read independently if they are able to. This is the **MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO** to support your child's future success; as children who read widely and often achieve better than those who don't.
6. Encourage your child to be active – why not go for a walk, jog or bike ride together in the park? Good physical health supports positive mental health and high achievement at school.

As a busy working mum with 2 boys, I know how tricky developing some of these positive routines can be – if you want any help or support with good routines, please speak to Mrs Fisher or I – we are outside on the playground at the start and end of each day and very happy to help!

I would also like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to a mum to be – Mrs Emmott and her husband are expecting their first child in December – congratulations from us all.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

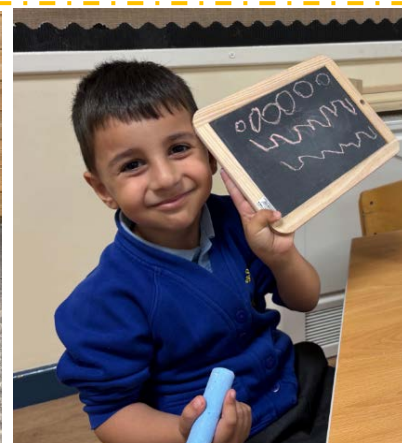
Miss Hodgkinson

Starting Reception Class

If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, they are due to start reception class in September 2026. You will need to apply for a place here: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions>

Start and Finish Times

School opens at **8:40am** and all children should be in school by **8:45am**. Gates are locked at 8:50am and anyone who arrives after this time will need to enter via the school office and be marked as late. At the end of the day, doors open at 3:10pm and all children should be collected by 3:15pm. Being just a few minutes late each day adds up to days of lost learning over a year - **BE ON TIME!**



School Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	School opens for Autumn term
Friday 24 th October 2025	School closes for half term
Monday 3 rd November 2025	School opens
Friday 19 th December 2025	School closes for Christmas break at 1:30pm
Tuesday 6 th January 2026	School opens for Spring term
Friday 13 th February 2026	School closes for half term
Monday 23 rd February 2026	School opens
Thursday 2 nd April 2026	School closes for Easter break
Monday 13 th April	School opens for Summer term
Monday 4 th May	Bank holiday – school closed
Friday 22 nd May	School closes for half term
Monday 8 th June	School opens
Friday 3 rd July 2026	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
Friday 18 th July 2026	School closes for Summer break

Summer Holiday

Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	School opens for new school year
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Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Creativity'

"An essential aspect of creativity is not being afraid to fail."

This week we pray for all those who are homeless.
We pray for your safety, shelter and refuge.

This week's big question is:
What inspires us?



Dates for your Diary Autumn Half Term 1

Wednesday 17 th September	Y5 Swimming
Friday 19 th September	9 – 11:30am Open morning for families of children starting school in September 2026
Monday 22 nd September	School Photos
Wednesday 24 th September	Y5 Swimming
Thursday 25 th September	9am Harvest Worship led by Y5 Parents of Y5 invited
Tuesday 30 th September	Film Night for children after school 3:15 - 5pm
Wednesday 1 st October	Y5 Swimming
Friday 3 rd October	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning
Tuesday 7 th October	1:30 – 3pm Open afternoon for families of children starting school in September 2026
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th October	Book Fair in the hall from 3:15pm
Monday 13 th & Tuesday 14 th October	Parents' Evenings for all classes Starbucks Reading Cafe open in the hall from 3:30pm
Friday 24 th October	School closes for half term

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 chocolates spread. Thank you.

THE FUN
MARTIAL ARTS
TRAINING SYSTEM
FOR CHILDREN 3-5
YEARS OLD



- Learn Through Play
- Improve Balance & Co-ordination
- Develop Flexibility
- Increase Self Confidence
- Have Fun
- Learn Respect
- Learn Basic Self Defence

Padgate	Padgate Community Centre	Monday 4:15-5:00pm
Great Sankey	Whittle Hall Community Centre	Wednesday 3:45-4:30pm
Orford	Orford Day Centre	Thursday 6:15-7:00pm
Penketh	Penketh Pool and Community Centre	Friday 3:45-4:30pm

All Instructors are fully qualified and insured to teach and have also completed an Enhanced Disclosure/DBS check.



Limited spaces available. Book your FREE TRIAL LESSON online now at

WWW.UKTC.CO.UK
or phone 01786 845060

FREE TRIAL LESSON



TAEKWON-DO CLASSES FOR ALL AGES (5 YEARS+) OVERLEAF



UNITED KINGDOM TAEKWON-DO COUNCIL

FITNESS
& SELF
DEFENCE
CLASSES

TAEKWON-DO

FOR KIDS
(5YRS+),
YOUTHS
& ADULTS



TAEKWON-DO - the worlds most popular martial art taught by the UK's leading Taekwon-Do organisation. Ideal for all ages (9 years +).



ACTIVE TIGERS for boys and girls aged 5-8 years is the fun and safe Martial Arts training programme that will help improve their fitness, self confidence, self discipline, coordination, flexibility, and teach them effective self defence skills.

Appleton
Appleton Parish Hall
Tuesday 4.45-5.45pm

Culcheth
Culcheth Community Centre
Wednesday 5.00-6.00pm

Great Sankey
Whittle Hall
Community Centre
Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm

Great Sankey
Great Sankey Primary School
Wednesday 7:00-8:00pm

Lymm
Lymm Youth & Community Centre
Thursday 4:30-5:30pm

Orford
Orford Day Centre
Thursday 7:00-8:00pm
Thursday 8:00-9:00pm (Youth & Adult)

Padgate
Padgate Community Centre
Monday 5:00-6:00pm

Penketh
Penketh Pool and
Community Centre
Friday 4:30-5:30pm

Winwick
Winwick Primary School
Tuesday 7:00-8:00pm

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FREE TRIAL LESSON



LITTLE TIGER CUBS CLASSES FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS OVERLEAF



Join us for coffee morning
9-10.30 term time only
Boulting Avenue Family Hub, Dallam
(formerly known as Little stars children's centre)

Professionals attending:

- 12th Sept - Families United
- 19th Sept - Blood Pressure Checks
- 26th Sept - Poverty Truth Commission
- 3rd Oct - Young Carers Hub
- 10th Oct - Warrington Disability
- 17th Oct - WARRPAC
- 24th Oct - United Utilities

Come and meet new people, explore further support and build confidence and social skills.

Free hot/cold drinks and toast for all.

Play and singing session for younger children



FAMILY HUB

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 their

Jigsaw Festival

18th - 20th September 2025

Thurs: 4.00 - 8.00pm

Fri: 12.00 - 5.00pm

Sat: 10.00 - 4.00pm



Other Stalls include:

Refreshments

Chocolate Tombola

Knitted goods

Stained Glass

Cake Stall

Jams Stall

Candles

Admission £2.00 includes free raffle (free re-admission with programme over the 3 days)



**St. Gregory's
Catholic High School**
'One family inspired to learn.'

JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN
EVENING ON THURSDAY
18TH SEPTEMBER
4PM TO 7PM

www.stgregoryshigh.com



Our guide this week focuses around fact and fiction and how we can support our children to know when information they are reading online is fake. Some information presented can sound very convincing and can upset and alarm children. Our guide supports parents in being able to tackle tricky topics in a calm and positive manner.

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 CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College

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



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