

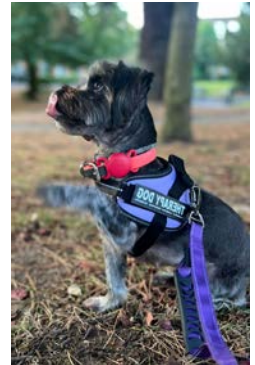
# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

26/09/2025



*'Let your light shine'*

I would like to introduce you to Nala. Nala is our school dog – she's a Shorkie and she spends every Thursday afternoon with us. Nala is trained as a therapy – she is extremely calm and gentle. She will be spending time in every classroom in addition to working with individual children.



Year 5 led our harvest worship yesterday. They shared really important messages about looking after our planet, appreciating the plentiful food we have and all playing our part in preventing climate change. The children spoke confidently, recited poetry with expression and passion and sang beautifully. I am so proud of all of them.



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...



## Starting Reception Class

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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>

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

**'Creativity'**

*"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."*

Maya Angelou

This week we pray for all who are lonely.

This week's big question is:

Do you always need to make something to be creative?



### Holidays in term time

In line with national expectations and Warrington Borough Council's policy, schools are required to monitor attendance closely and take action where there are unauthorised absences.

Where a child has 10 or more unauthorised absences (equivalent to 5 full school days) in an academic year, this may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) being issued. Schools are advised not to authorise holidays in term time and parents should be aware that this may result in a FPN being issued if the above criteria are met.

Your child's school will monitor attendance, and where appropriate they will refer cases to Warrington Borough Council for consideration of an FPN. The local authority will review each referral and determine whether a FPN should be issued.

Fixed Penalty Notice Charges.

- £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days.
- Failure to pay may lead to prosecution in Magistrates Court.

A maximum of two Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued per parent for the same child within a three-year period. After this, any further unauthorised absence may result in a prosecution.

#### School Term Dates 2025 - 2026

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

#### \*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\*\*

From Wednesday 1st October the cost of a school meal will be increasing to £3.05 - please make sure your ParentPay accounts are topped up to reflect the price change. Thank you.

#### Packed Lunch ideas

A healthy packed lunch will give children the energy and nutrition they need to get the most from their school day – helping them to stay healthy, feel good and be ready and able to learn. Just like school meals, packed lunches should be made up of foods from the main food groups in the Eatwell Guide <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/food-guidelines-and-food-labels/the-eatwell-guide/> and portions should be appropriate for a child's age and size. This will ensure every child has a healthy and nutritionally-balanced lunch.

5 top tips for your packed lunch

- Freezer packs can keep food cool. Freeze a (reusable) bottle of water which will be ready to drink by lunchtime.
- Get your child to help pack their lunch box – they are more likely to enjoy it.
- Love to dip? - cut up pitta bread or veg sticks to have with a dip.
- Use pastry cutters to cut funny shaped sandwiches.
- Protect your fruit by putting it in a small plastic container.

Some GREAT ideas for upping the veg content in your lunchboxes can be found via <https://simplyveg.org.uk/lunchboxes>

#### Dates for your Diary Autumn Half Term 1

Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Welcome Service for our new reception children – all parents and families invited, 9am
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Film Night for children after school 3:15 - 5pm
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Y5 Swimming
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	1:30 – 3pm Open afternoon for families of children starting school in September 2026
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Book Fair in the hall from 3:15pm
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evenings for all classes Starbooks Reading Cafe open in the hall from 3:30pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term

#### Magnetic Safety (Child Accident Prevention Trust)

The Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) warns that more than 300 children a year are rushed to A&E after swallowing magnets and one in ten needs life-saving surgery.

When strong magnets stick together inside the body, they can rip through a child's gut, cutting off blood supply and causing life-threatening injuries. Even toddlers have needed hours of emergency surgery, and some children are left with lasting internal damage.

Magnets don't just come in toys – they're also found in jewellery kits, fridge magnets, puzzles, dartboards, fidget toys and desk gadgets. Worryingly, some magnets sold online are 17 times stronger than the UK safety limit.

Remind parents to:

- Buy only from trusted brands and retailers.
- Be cautious with cheap copies and online marketplaces.
- Keep magnets and products containing them out of children's reach.

#### 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 chocolate spread. Thank you.



# FAMILY & COMMUNITY EVENING



☀ You're Invited! ☀

An Evening of Fun, Activities & Community Support  
Discover what support is available in Warrington while  
enjoying a night of engaging activities and friendly faces.  
Everyone is welcome — come and be part of it

**02 OCTOBER 2025 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

For more information: 01925 977277 or [info@wyz.org.uk](mailto:info@wyz.org.uk)

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY EVENING

Organisations from across Warrington are coming  
together to host a fantastic event at  
**Warrington Youth Zone**  
packed with fun activities and valuable information  
about the support services available to YOU and your  
family. Discover this all while having a great time!

**FREE TO ATTEND  
COME AND JOIN US!**

☀ WHAT'S ON? ☀

SPORTS & GAMES - ARTS & CRAFTS - SPIN THE WHEEL -  
FIDGET TOY MAKING - FACE PAINTING - AND SO MUCH MORE!



# 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:

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

# GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE



**WE ARE RECRUITING FOR THE 2026 SEASON**

**COME DOWN TO A TRAINING SESSION**

**ARE YOU IN YEARS 5 & 6 -  
COME JOIN OUR TEAM!**

**WE TRAIN AT  
CROSFIELDS RUGBY CLUB  
MON & WEDNESDAY -  
6PM TILL 7PM**



Get in touch to find out more [warringtongirlsrl@gmail.com](mailto:warringtongirlsrl@gmail.com)



Our guide this week focuses around online safety, in particular Snapchat. Even though this has an age rating of 13+, it is still a popular app amongst young children. As it evolves, so to do the risks. Our guide this week breaks down the newest additions and updates which are a must read.

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 SNAPCHAT

**SNAP STREAK 97**

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

### SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

### SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

### USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

### 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

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

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