

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

03/10/2025



*'Let your light shine'*

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, we have our first parents' evenings of the school year. Parents' evening gives you the opportunity to speak to your child's new class teacher about how well they have settled into their new class in addition to discussing learning, wellbeing and looking at children's workbooks. Our parents' evening also gives you the chance to connect with other families – our Starbooks Reading Cafe will be open, serving drinks and snacks, with a range of reading themed activities for the children to enjoy. There will also be a book fair, where you can buy a range of book and gifts; a pre-loved uniform stall and more. Please join us for a cuppa at Starbooks Cafe before or after your appointment.

As you know, Mrs Emmott shared the wonderful news that she is expecting her first child and will be starting her maternity leave in November. I am pleased to let you know that Miss Rossiter will be our year 5 class teacher whilst Mrs Emmott is off. She will be spending lots of time in school getting to know our year 5 children over the next few weeks and will be available at parents' evening to meet parents.

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...



### 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

#### 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.

#### 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 7 <sup>th</sup> October	1:30 – 3pm Open afternoon for families of children starting school in September 2026
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
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Book Fair in the hall from 3:15pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	2:30pm Y5 Space Museum – parents invited
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	School opens

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

##### *'Creativity'*

*"Creativity is seeing what everyone else has seen and thinking what no one else has thought."*

Albert Einstein

This week we pray for all killed, injured or affected by the Manchester synagogue attack.

This week's big question is:  
Can we get more or less creative over time?



#### 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.



# Daresbury Laboratory Family Science Day

## Tuesday 28 October 2025

9:00am – 2:30pm | 12:30pm – 5:30pm

Science Fair

Family Show

Workshop

Tour

**Limited tickets – Book at your local Family Hub now!**

£5 per family, includes sandwich lunch and local coach transfer

Please note – with the exception of blue badge holders,  
there will be no parking or drop off on site



<https://tinyurl.com/wkckkj3>



Looking for a fun and inspiring day out with the family? Come along to meet the staff and explore the amazing world of science and technology at the Daresbury Autumn Access Day 2025!

It is **£5 cash per family** which includes the coach fare & lunch for everyone. This event is for young people aged 8-14 years; however, we will have activities to keep siblings entertained also.

Booking is essential at <https://eequ.org/book/family-science-extravaganza-with-warrington-borough-council-20003>

Please note that under 18s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and the coach transport must be used (apart from blue badge holders)

### 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>

*Join us for coffee morning*  
9-10.30 term time only  
Boulting Avenue Family Hub, Dallam  
(formally 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 message this week focuses around gaming, in particular, EA FC 26. It brings top tier football and continues to offer family-friendly modes like kick off and career.

It does also bring with it some risks that our guide explains to parents and carers. These can include voice chat with strangers and potential exposure to scams. Read our guide to gain practical advice and tips on how to keep our young players safe.

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 EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
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## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

### AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

### VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

### SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

### LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

### MONITOR VOICE CHAT

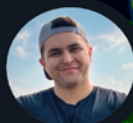
As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

### BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>



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