

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

04/09/2026



'Let your light shine'

We're back for a brand-new school year! It has been amazing to welcome our children back to school this week and see them connecting with old friends, making new friends and enjoying their learning. It is an absolute pleasure to stand on the gate every morning and see our children looking so smart with big smiles on their faces, walking into school. I am really impressed with our children's excellent behaviour and focus on getting back to the important task of learning – every child in our school has already 'let their light shine' in many ways this week.

A warm welcome to our new families who have joined us in Nursery, Reception and throughout school. We look forward to working closely together with you and celebrating your children's successes at St Barnabas – I know there will be many!

Keep checking the newsletter each week and Class Dojo messages for details of events taking place throughout the year. Next week on Friday 11th September at 8:45am, we have our very first parent Coffee Morning of this year. Coffee mornings are a chance to grab a cuppa, chat with other parents and connect with useful services. Come along – everyone is welcome.

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...



First day fun in Reception Class



Year 2 have been settling into their new classroom, they've been doing lots of DT, collaborative play and are letting their lights shine!

Year 4 have been researching all about simple machines and how they make our life easier.

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Friendship'

'A good friend is a blessing from God.'

Samuel 1 18.3



This week's big question:

What makes a good friend?

This week we pray for all those affected by the floods in Nepal.

Water Bottles

Children are asked to bring a bottle to school filled with water which they can drink throughout the day. Drinking water throughout the day keeps children's brains hydrated and helps them to learn well. Only water is allowed in these bottles, as drinking juice throughout the day causes tooth decay. Children can drink juice or with their lunch. If any children persist in bringing juice in their water bottles, parents will be contacted.

Starting reception class

If your child was born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023, 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!**

Playtime Snacks

We are a healthy school and constantly reinforce with our children that healthy eating and regular exercise lead to positive mental and physical health. Part of this is to educate our children to eat as healthily as possible, as this contributes to future success. The only snacks we allow at playtimes are **toast or fruit**, these can be brought in from home or toast can be purchased via ParentPay. Thank you for your support.

LOOK OUT FOR THE CONSENT FORM AND COMPLETE IT

Service Provided By:
IntraHealth

Intrahealth will be visiting your child's school to deliver the **flu vaccination**.

WE WILL BE AT:

St Barnabas School



DATE:

16th September

Please ensure you have completed your form decision before the date of our team visit to school



WHY IS THE FLU VACCINE IMPORTANT?

Flu is a virus that changes every year. Even healthy children can become seriously unwell from flu. All eligible children are offered a free flu vaccination.

The flu vaccine helps protect your child and those around them during the winter months.



Protect your child this winter.



HAVE YOU NOT RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM INTRAHEALTH?

If you haven't received information or a consent form from the Intrahealth School Aged Immunisation Team, please get in touch with us.

Please do not contact the school regarding consent or vaccination queries.



03333 583 397



Imms.W-CE@intrahealth.co.uk



www.intrahealth.co.uk

Our team can help with:

✓ Completing or accessing a consent form

✓ Questions about the flu vaccination

✓ Information about the vaccination process

✓ Any support you may need



PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE INTRAHEALTH TEAM
if you have any questions — we're here to help.



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 a

Jigsaw Festival

17th - 19th September 2026

Thurs: 3.00 - 7.00pm

Friday: 12.00 - 5.00pm

Sat: 10.00 - 4.00pm



Other Stalls include:

Refreshments

Chocolate Tombola

Knitted Goods

Stained Glass

Silk Flowers

Cake Stall

Jams Stall

Candles

Wood

Books



Admission £2.00 - includes free raffle ticket
(free re-admission with programme over the 3 days)
Proceeds to be split between the 3 churches

Our guide this week focuses on skin betting which is an emerging trend where players gamble using in-game cosmetic items that can carry real-world value. This guide helps parents understand how these systems work, why they appeal to young people, and how easily they can blur the line between gaming and gambling.

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 SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Esports Coaching at the University Campus of Esports.

Bubba Gaeddert is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.07.2026

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB!



From September our Breakfast Club is changing as we move over to the National Breakfast Club Programme.

All school children are invited to come from 8.15am every day for free and receive a healthy breakfast. This will replace the bagels that are currently available to children on arrival in their classroom.

We will maintain our self-funded wrap around care from 7.30am at a reduced charge of £2.75 until 8.15am where children will then join the free session.

To enable us to properly plan and purchase food, please can you follow this link to register your interest [FREE BREAKFAST CLUB – Fill out form](#)

You do not need to book for the breakfast club, you can just turn up.

School Uniform

- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Pale blue polo shirt
- Grey trousers or blue tartan skirt/pinafore
- Black shoes must be worn NOT boots please



PE Kit

St Barnabas CE Primary School and Nursery

School PE Uniform

- PE sports t-shirt with school logo, royal blue shorts or black/navy joggers/leggings & trainers.
- Children should come to school in full PE uniform on planned PE days.



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.



Dates for your Diary Autumn Half Term 1

Friday 11 th September	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning – all families welcome
Wednesday 16 th September	Flu vaccinations
Monday 21 st September	School Photos
Monday 21 st September - Friday 25 th September	Pupil Ambassador Week
Friday 25 th September	9am Harvest Worship led by Y5 Parents of Y5 invited
Friday 2 nd October	8:45am Parent Coffee Morning
Monday 19 th & Tuesday 20 th October	Parents' Evenings for all classes Starbooks Reading Cafe open in the hall from 3:30pm
Friday 23 rd October	School closes for half term

Term Dates for the Academic Year 2026 – 2027

Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
AUTUMN	Wednesday 2 nd September to Friday 23 rd October	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October inclusive	Monday 2 nd November to Friday 18 th December

Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December 2026 to Tuesday 5th January 2027 inclusive

Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
SPRING	Tuesday 5 th January to Friday 12 th February	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February inclusive	Monday 22 nd February to Thursday 25 th March

Easter Holiday Friday 26th March to Friday 2nd April 2027 inclusive

Term	First Half Term	Half Term Break	Second Half Term
SUMMER	Wednesday 7 th April to Friday 28 th May	Monday 31 st May to Friday 11 th June inclusive	Monday 14 th June to Wednesday 21 st July

Closure Days

BANK HOLIDAY Monday 3rd May 2027

WARRINGTON WALKING DAY Friday 25th June 2027