



Barnsbury Primary School and Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs J Harrup

28th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term and managed to have some important family time. It's so good to see the sun shining today as it lifts everyone's spirits—let's hope it continues into the weekend and beyond.

We say a fond farewell to Miss Curtis today who is leaving Barnsbury after being with the school for eight years. She is going to be working on a cruise ship around the Bahamas which sounds absolutely wonderful. We thank her for her dedication and positivity and wish her every success for her new adventures.

It was lovely to see so many Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in their uniforms on Tuesday. This was to celebrate Thinking Day / Founder's Day which is celebrated by Scout and Guide organisations around the world.

INSET Day

On Monday, all of the teachers took part in dance and gymnastics training as part of their continuing professional development. It was such an informative day and we all learnt so much about how best to teach these aspects of the primary curriculum. Please see the body of the newsletter for some photographs of the teachers taking part.

Manipulative marketing in games (Better Internet for Kids)

Children's online experiences increasingly intersect with potential financial and psychological risks. Manipulative marketing tactics are commonly employed in digital platforms, games, and apps that target children. Understanding these tactics is crucial for parents and safeguarding professionals, as they can lead to unauthorised spending, privacy breaches, and impacts on mental wellbeing. To read more about how manipulative marketing affects children and young people, please click [here](#).

World Book Day

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 6th March, children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character on Thursday 6th March. They should be prepared to talk to the class about their chosen character and/or bring in book. We are also delighted to confirm that the Book Fair will also take place that week (3rd-6th March). The Book Fair will be open before and after school so please pop in and support us in promoting our love of reading with the children. Each child will receive a £1 World Book Day voucher which can be used against the purchase of any book. In addition to this, there is an opportunity for your child to win a £5 gift voucher to use at the Fair. The theme for World Book Day is 'Read your Way'. To highlight the importance of this we would love for the children to send in pictures of them reading THEIR way. Please could any pictures be sent in by Monday 3rd March.

Parent Consultations

We look forward to welcoming parents to school on Tuesday and Thursday of next week for Parent Consultations. If you have not made an appointment with your child's class teacher, please do so over the weekend.

With kind regards

Mrs J E Harrup
Headteacher

Teacher Training



2024-02-10 00:28:28



2024-02-10 03:03:00



10 03:03:17



2024-02-10 03:03:34

Be Wildfire Aware

On Wednesday 12th February, I visited the Year 6s with Eric, a firefighter from Surrey Fire & Rescue Service, to talk to the children about wildfires. The children learnt about the causes and consequences of wildfires. They also found out that we get them here in the UK, including on our local heathlands, with most being started by people being careless. We also discussed what to do if a wildfire was spotted and the incredibly useful What3Words location app.

I was very impressed with how engaged everyone was with the activities and the thoughtful answers to the scenario about what to do if they were to spot a fire – Get to a safe place and ring 999.

The children asked some brilliant questions about Eric's experiences as a firefighter. Thank you to Eric for coming along and supporting the sessions.

Everyone left with a lot of very important knowledge, with the promise they would help to spread the word with friends and families to help keep our heathlands safe. Great job Year 6!

For more information about being wildfire aware, visit www.tbhpartnership.org.uk/wildfire

Michael Jones
Education Officer – Thames Basin Heaths Partnership



The Rethink Waste Project is back!

The Rethink Waste project is a passionate one from the Surrey Environment Partnership and Greenredeem. We're determined to make Surrey a greener place to enjoy and we believe that Surrey schools deserve the best which is why we want to help fund their eco-projects.

The February round is now live.

If you are new to Rethink Waste - <https://rethinkwaste.co.uk/register?referrer=2630740>

If you already have a login - [Login](#)

Our school is now eligible to receive donations from any member of the Rethink Waste platform.

Registration is free and you can start collecting points now.



Taking part involves short videos, activities and quizzes all about small changes we can make to help the planet. Whilst learning top tips, you can also collect points to donate to Barnsbury Primary School. Last year, we came third which resulted in funding for our Eco projects! Can you help us beat our record?

A BIG thank you to everyone that has signed up so far, the February round is due to end at midnight on Friday 28th February and we are currently first on the leader board! Can you help us beat our record?

Miss Freeland

Reception Teacher, Early Years Lead

Eco and Outdoor Learning Lead

Dates for your diary 2024-25

Spring Term

March

3rd—6th	Book Fayre
Tuesday 4th	Parents Evening 3:30pm—5:30pm
Thursday 6th	Parents Evening 3:30pm—7pm
Thursday 6th	World Book Day
Friday 7th	9.00am Rock Steady Concert (Friday bands)
Weds 12th	Local Governing Committee Meeting
Friday 14th	5T Class Assembly
Tuesday 18th	9.00am Rock Steady Concert (Tuesday bands)
Friday 21st	1M Class Assembly
Thursday 20th	Year 2 School Trip
Tuesday 25th	Year 4 School Trip
Thursday 27th	9.00am Rock Steady Concert (Thursday bands)
Friday 28th	1B Class Assembly
Friday 28th	1:30pm KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal
Monday 31st	1.30pm KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal

April

2nd-4th	Year 6 Residential
Thursday 3rd	6pm KS2 Production Performance
Friday 4th	1:15pm End of Spring Term

Dates for your diary 2024-25

Summer Term

April

Tuesday 22nd	Start of Summer Term
Thu 24th & Fri 25th	PTA Silent Discos (times TBC)
Weds 30th	Local Governing Committee Meeting (8am to 10am)

May

Friday 2nd	3B Class Assembly (9.00am)
Friday 9th	PTA Bingo Night
Friday 16th	2M Class Assembly (9.00am)
Friday 23rd	2T Class Assembly (9.00am)
Friday 23rd	End of half term
26th May-6th June	Two week half term

June

Weds 11th	Reception School Trip
Weds 18th	Class photos
Weds 25th	Local Governing Committee Meeting (8am to 10am)
Thursday 26th	Sports Day
Friday 27th	Oak Class Assembly (9.00am)

July

Friday 4th	Ash Class Assembly (9.00am)
Tuesday 22nd	End of Term (1:15pm finish)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.02.2024

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS



ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five 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. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



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Surrey Paediatrics Parenting Service



The Paediatrics Parenting Support Service is offering support to parent/carers and their families living in Surrey who are exploring the possibilities that their young person, 5 years old and younger may be neurodivergent.

Our practitioners provide a 6-week group intervention, either online or face-to-face in the community.

You can find out more information and how to refer into the service at www.Barnardos.org.uk or by scanning the below QR code:



Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.



Surrey Paediatrics Parenting Service



Have your thought your little one might have ADHD or Autism?

The Paediatrics Parenting Support Service is offering support to parents and carers living in Surrey who are exploring the possibility that their child, aged 5 or younger, may be neurodivergent, exhibiting challenging or avoidant behaviours, or seeking help to improve their child's social and emotional skills.

We provide a 6-week support group, either online or face-to-face in the community, to empower families with strategies and resources for their child's development and well-being.

You can find out more information and how to refer into the service at by scanning the below QR code or email: surreysupportu5@barnardos.org.uk





HOLIDAY COURSE



EASTER

Fun, engaging, inclusive, safe football activity for Boys & Girls of all abilities, during the school holidays. Book now for our upcoming Holiday Course by scanning the QR code or using the below website and course code.

chelseasoccerschools.co.uk
SS-BLEN-S-16

Area	Dates	Venue
Surrey	Monday 7th April - Friday 11th April	Blenheim High School
Timings	Ages	Cost
09.00-15.00	School Year 3-6	£180.00



HOLIDAY FUN CLUB

AT WOKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Tuesday 15th–Thursday 17th April
9:15am–12:30pm

Explore the story of Easter
through games, craft, cooking
and music.

For children in school years reception–yr5

£5 per day or £12 for all three days

Siblings £4 per day or £10 for all three days



For more information and to book
scan the QR code or visit
WOKINGURC.ORG.UK

SPRING INTO EASTER



Woking United Reformed Church
White Rose Lane, Woking, GU22 7HA



YOUR BARNSBURY PTA NEEDS YOU!

**Help us shape the future of
Barnsbury school and it's
children by helping us raise
vital funds...**

WE NEED YOUR:

**INPUT...your opinions matter
TIME...however much you can spare
DONATIONS...big or small and your
help CREATING AWARENESS**



**Contact your class rep or email:
pta@barnsbury@surrey.sch.co.uk**