

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Safeguarding:

At St. Basil's Catholic Primary School we are committed to providing a nurturing, caring and safe learning environment where pupils thrive, are confident, happy and secure. **If you have any safeguarding concerns, then please speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads.**

For further information about Safeguarding at St Basils please see the following documents by either clicking the link or scanning the QR code;

Safeguarding Parents Leaflet

[20097821 \(stbasilsprimary.halton.sch.uk\)](https://stbasilsprimary.halton.sch.uk/20097821)



Child Friendly Leaflet

[20095039 \(stbasilsprimary.halton.sch.uk\)](https://stbasilsprimary.halton.sch.uk/20095039)



Designated Leads for Safeguarding at St Basils:

Mrs Sheppard (HT)

Mrs O'Donnell (DHT)

Mrs Bond/Miss Yearley (Family Liaison & Welfare Officers)

Miss Abbot/Mrs Jones (SENCO)

Mrs McCabe (Attendance)

Mr Duffy (Pupil Welfare Governor)

Attendance update

Please be aware that students who have an attendance of below 90% will not have their absences authorised unless medical evidence is provided.

You can view your child's absence record via the School Gateway App. You access this via the reporting tab and then Attendance, it will give you your child's attendance rating.

Thank you for your co-operation.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE (Colour coded in line with the traffic light system)

Week commencing 04.12.23

Well done to class 4GS with the highest rate of attendance!!



FSAR	1DD	2LG	3NC	3AW	4CG	4GS	5JS	6CH	6KL
93.3	94.6	96.5	91.3	95.3	97.1	94.3	96.7	94.8	95.6

IMPORTANT NOTE

Can we please remind parent/carers that if your child has vomited or had diarrhoea they must not return to school until 48 hrs has passed since the last bout.

Thank you for your support.



Christmas Dinner - Monday 18th December

Christmas Party Afternoon - Tuesday 19th December

Christmas Disco - Wednesday 20th December

School closes for the Christmas break at 3.10pm - Thursday 21st December

School Meals Week Commencing 18.12.23

Monday - Christmas dinner day

Tuesday - Christmas party day the children will receive a party box with a burger/veggie burger on a bun and chips with a shortbread biscuit for dessert

Wednesday - Chicken curry with naan bread or tomato pasta bake and jam sponge cake for dessert

Thursday - Fish fingers and chips or veggie hot dog and rock buns for dessert.



Holiday Activity and Food Provision

Halton Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)

Winter 2023

Halton Borough Council is delighted to announce that it has secured additional Government Funding from the Department of Education to enable local providers to offer FREE activities during the winter holiday period to school aged children from Reception to Year 11, who receive benefits-related to free school meals. There are also a number of places available to other vulnerable groups of children and young people, such as SEND up to 18yrs, Young Carers, NEET.

Please visit the following link to find details of all activities that will be running.

All activities will include a **FREE! lunch**

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/hit/start/haf.aspx>

Change Your Life

Learn something new



Skills Funding Agency



Family Learning

Online Wellbeing Workshop – St Basil's Years 1, 2 & 3 Children & Parents

Would you like to have the opportunity to work with your child in school?

Dear Parent/Guardian/Grandparent

School has booked the Family Learning tutors from Halton Borough Council to run an **'Online Wellbeing Workshop'** for families in Years 1, 2 & 3 at school on **Wednesday 10th January, 1.30 – 3.00 pm**. During this time you are invited to join your child in school for a variety of activities designed to provoke discussion and learning around how to stay safe when online. Children are exposed to many online dangers, so as parents it is important to know how to keep them safe. This fun, hands on workshop will support you with this.

Activities will focus on:

- Creating safe passwords
- Navigating Online risks
- Sharing information safely



Please complete the slip below and return it to school to book your place.

I would like to attend the **'Online Wellbeing Workshop'** for children in Years 1, 2 & 3.

Parent's Name: _____

Child's/Children's name(s): _____

Child's/Children's Year Group(s): _____



BASIL TOTS PLAYGROUP

Christmas Party

Wednesday 20th December 9am - 11am

Lots of festive fun and activities

Christmas Crafts/Games

Soft play

Buffet



£1 Entry fee



St. Basil's
Catholic Primary School

St Basil's Catholic Primary School
Hough Green Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 4SZ
Telephone: 0151 424 7887

Halton Community Centres

FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Come and join us for lunch, games and crafts

Castlefields Community Centre, Runcorn

Upton Community Centre, Widnes

Wednesday 27th December

11.00-2.00 pm

Thursday 28th December

11.00-2.00 pm

Friday 29th December

11.00-2.00 pm

Lunch will be served at 12.30 pm

Children must be in receipt of free school meals to benefit from this offer
Booking is essential as we have limited availability and children must be
accompanied by a responsible adult

For children and young people, which is 4-16 for HAF, up to 18 if they are SEND

SA - SEND Accessible: physically accessible venues or event

F - Family Friendly: accessible for all families

To book call

Castlefields Community Centre: 0151 511 7474

Upton Community Centre: 0151 511 6161

www.haltoncommunitycentres



Department
for Education


HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life –

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMAND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RME (Resilience & Awareness in Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering risk-informed and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

School are supporting St Wilfrid's Parish Advent Appeal and if you would like to donate and pass to school, we will ensure that the donations arrive at the church.

Thank you

St Wilfrid's Advent Appeal 2023

'Trinity Safe Space Charity provides for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants in the Borough of Halton, catering for their needs by giving them material goods, food, clothing as well as information, care, and support with their physical and mental health'. This year we are appealing again for you to buy an extra Christmas present for someone who really needs it. All items must be new, unwrapped and left at the back of Church where they shall be collected and delivered to our brothers and sisters in need.

Items needed...

Men's boxer shorts (underwear) sizes small, medium, large and XL

Men's T-shirts size 34 – 38 chest size

Jeans for men in a variety of sizes and leg length

Winter coats for men and women in a variety of sizes

Warm gloves, hats and scarves for men and women

Socks for men and women size 6 up to size 12

Frying pans, toastie maker, stock pot pans, electric kettles, electric toasters, hand blenders/juicers, chopper, small cafetières.

Toiletries for men and women, (preferably single items rather than sets) e.g., shower gel, deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes

Single duvets or warm blankets

All items need to be at Church before the **Third Sunday of Advent, 17th December**. Please be as generous as you always are in seeing Jesus in the often forgotten in our community.





Read to Succeed

**Read 5 times a week, for 5 weeks to
earn a book prize!**



Childcare
Choices

Supporting families
with childcare costs

childcarechoices.gov.uk




HM Government

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free childcare from the term **after** their 3rd birthday.

Children of **Working Parents** may also be entitled to **30 hours childcare** per week.

To find out if you qualify and apply, go on-line to:

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

(You can also apply for Tax Free Childcare on the same link)

IMPORTANT: PARENTS NEED TO APPLY FOR THEIR 30 HOUR ELIGIBILITY CODE THE TERM BEFORE THEY WANT TO CLAIM 30 HOURS

To ensure you can claim 30 hours free childcare from **January 2024**, HMRC advise parents **to apply before the end of December at the latest**, as any applications received after 31st December 2023 will **not be** eligible to claim the additional hours in the spring term

To be eligible for 30 hours from January 2024, both parts of the criteria below must be met:

- The child must be 3 or 4 years old before **31st December 2023**; and
- Working parents must have applied and been issued with an eligibility code with a start date **before 31st December 2023**

If you have any questions, speak to your childcare provider

REMINDER – Parents who have already applied and are eligible for 30 hours are reminded that they MUST RE-CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY EVERY 3 MONTHS, by logging into their Government Gateway account, otherwise the code will expire and become ineligible.

Christmas Mass Times

Saturday 23rd December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

5pm – St. Bede

5pm – St. Michael

5pm – St. Basil

5pm – St. John Fisher

Sunday 24th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am – St. Bede

Sunday 24th December – First Mass of Christmas

6pm – St. Bede

6pm – St. Michael

6pm – St. Basil

6pm – St. John Fisher

Midnight – St. Bede

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

10am – St. Bede

10am – St. Michael

10am – St. John Fisher

Tuesday 26th December – St Stephen's Day

12noon – St Bede (Mass with Altar Servers)





St. Basil's
Catholic Primary School

PRE-SCHOOL

at St Basil's Catholic Primary School

3-4 Year Old Places

Available Now

Ofsted
Good School



Offering morning,
afternoon and full days
for 15 and 30 hour
funded places.

**BOOK NOW PLACES
ARE AVAILABLE**

Please contact the School Office on
0151 424 7887
to book an appointment

St Basil's Catholic Primary School
Hough Green Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WAB 4SZ
Telephone: 0151 424 7887

*We love, learn and succeed
following Jesus*

You are always welcome to any mass within St Wilfrid's Parish, timetable is below

Mass & Service Times

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil	St Bede	5.00pm
	St Basil	5.00pm
Sunday	St Bede	9.00am
	St Michael	9.30am
	St John Fisher	10.30am
	St Bede	11.15am
	St Bede	4.00pm

Weekday Mass Times (see parish newsletter for weekday variations)

Monday St Basil 9.00am Exposition & Morning Prayer 9.30am Holy Mass
Tuesday St Bede 11.30am Exposition & Holy Rosary 12 Noon Holy Mass
Wednesday St Bede 6.30pm Exposition & Evening Prayer 7.00pm Holy Mass
Thursday St Michael 11.30am Exposition & Holy Rosary 12 Noon Holy Mass
Friday St John Fisher 9.00am Exposition & Morning Prayer 9.30am Holy Mass
Saturday 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Confessions and Holy Rosary

St Bede's Church is open for private prayer Monday to Friday 10.00am - 13:00pm

Admission to Primary School September 2024

If your child was born between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020 they are eligible to start Reception class in September 2024, and you can apply NOW:

- You must complete a preference form **online** at [School admissions website](https://www.halton.gov.uk/schooladmissions), where you will be given a receipt
- A paper copy of the preference form can also be requested from schooladmissions@halton.gov.uk
- All **online** applicants will receive their offer of a school place electronically on the 16th April 2024
- Offer letters will be posted to applicants who submit a paper preference form on the 16th April 2024
- **Don't leave it too late** – you are likely to miss out on the school place you want if you apply late. **Deadline is 15th Jan 2024**



Closing date for Primary School Applications:
15th January 2024