

# St. Basil's

Catholic Primary  
School

*"We love, learn and succeed  
following Jesus"*

DECEMBER 2023

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 11.12.23

**Well done to class 5JS with the highest rate of attendance!!**



FSAR	1DD	2LG	3NC	3AW	4CG	4GS	5JS	6CH	6KL
93.8	96.9	97.9	94.7	94.7	94.8	96.5	99	95.2	87.6



Kid Stuff by Frank Horne:

The wise guys tell me that Christmas is Kids Stuff....Maybe they've got something there -

Two thousand years ago three wise guys chase a star across a continent to bring frankincense and myrrh to a kid

Born in stable with an idea in his head.....

And as bombs crash all over the world today

The real wise guys know that we've got to go chasing stars again

In the hope that we can get back some of that Kid Stuff

Wishing you Peace and Joy this Christmas,

With Best Wishes

From Mrs Sheppard and all the staff



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**School reopens on Monday 8th January**

**4CG and 4GS Swimming - Tuesday 9th January daily until Friday 12th January**

**4CG and 4GS Swimming - Tuesday 16th , Wednesday 17th and Friday 19th January.**

**Y3/Y4 Trip to the Grosvenor Museum - Thursday 18th January**

**Y6 Trip to Lowe House - Tuesday 23rd January**

**Please check for updates on future newsletters**

**Thank you!**

# School Meals week commencing 08.01.23 is week 1 menu

NUTRITIONIST APPROVED		WINTER MENU				
WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
<b>MAIN DISH</b>	Quorn curry with 50/50 rice & naan bread	Chicken goujon wrap with herby potatoes	Roast of the Day with roast potatoes and gravy	Pepperoni pizza	Fish of the day with chips	
<b>VEGETARIAN MAIN DISH</b>	Quorn hotpot with crusty bread	Vegetable meatballs in a tomato sauce with spaghetti	Roast Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes and gravy	Cheese & tomato pizza	Quorn nuggets with chips	
<b>ACCOMPANIMENTS</b>	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	
<b>DESSERTS</b>	Chocolate sponge & custard	Flapjack	Carrot cake	Shortbread biscuits	Jam coconut sponge	
<b>FRESH FRUIT OR YOGHURT</b>	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	
<b>JACKET POTAT</b>	Cheese	Beans	Tuna	Cheese and beans	Tuna	

## Does your child need care this winter?

**NHS**  
Mersey and West Lancashire  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Trust



**Urgent Treatment Centre**



**GP Surgery**



**Pharmacy**

**Choose the right service**



**111.nhs.uk**



**Call NHS 111**

This handy guide shares information on how to access the right NHS service for your child if they become ill, so they can be treated quickly and effectively.

### Online symptom checker

Our friends at Alder Hey have created a web page which shares lots of useful advice on common symptoms in children. Visit [www.alderhey.nhs.uk/symptomchecker](http://www.alderhey.nhs.uk/symptomchecker) for further details.

### When to go to a doctor

Common illnesses that can be treated by your GP are:

- Persistent coughs
- Eye infections
- Ear pain
- Skin infections

Out of hours, you can also call 111.



### When to go to A&E

A&E is for people with life-threatening illness or injury, which include:

- Shortness of breath
- Seizures
- Severe bleeding or burns
- Head or eye injuries
- Allergic reactions
- Serious animal bites
- Uncontrolled pain



### When to go to a pharmacy

They can help with:

- Coughs and colds
- Upset tummy
- Minor cuts, bumps and bruises
- Minor stings and bites



### When to go to urgent treatment / walk-in centres

If your GP surgery is closed, the centres have specialist nurses and doctors that can help. Common conditions that can be treated here include:

- Cuts and scrapes
- Minor burns
- Minor breathing difficulties
- Suspected fractures
- Uncontrolled fever



**If your child is struggling to breathe or loses consciousness, call 999.**

**Help us to help you this winter. Scan here for further information.**



### Your local Urgent Treatment & Walk-In Centre is open 365 days a year, including Bank Holidays



**St Helens Urgent Treatment Centre**  
WA10 1HU

Monday to Saturday 7am-10pm  
Sunday & Bank Holidays 9am-10pm

**Widnes Urgent Treatment Centre**  
WA8 7GD

Monday to Sunday 8am-9pm

**Huyton NHS Walk-In Centre**  
L36 6GA

Monday to Saturday 8am-8.30pm  
Sunday & Bank Holidays 10am-8.30pm

**Runcorn Urgent Treatment Centre**  
WA7 2DA

Monday to Sunday 8am-9pm

**Halewood NHS Walk-In Centre**  
L26 9UH

Monday to Saturday 8am-8.30pm  
Sunday & Bank Holidays 10am-8.30pm

**Kirkby Urgent Treatment Centre**  
L32 8RE

Monday to Sunday 8am-8.30pm



Well done to all of the children for taking part in the Maths Challenge this half term. All of the children have worked hard to learn their number facts and should be very proud of themselves. We will continue to learn our number facts next half term. A big well done to all of our winners from the prize draw.





**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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



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**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): \_\_\_\_\_



# 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 (Raising 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



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](http://www.haltoncommunitycentres)



Department  
for Education

  
HALTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



# 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>



Childcare  
**Choices**

Supporting families  
with childcare costs

[childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 **31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**; and
- Working parents must have applied and been issued with an eligibility code with a start date **before 31<sup>st</sup> 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.**



# BASIL TOTS PLAYGROUP

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS  
9AM - 10.30AM

**EVERYBODY WELCOME**

£1 ENTRY - REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



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





St. Basil's  
Catholic Primary School

# PRE-SCHOOL

at St Basil's Catholic Primary School

## 3-4 Year Old Places

Ofsted  
Good School

## Available Now



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*

## Christmas Mass Times

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

5pm – St. Bede

5pm – St. Michael

5pm – St. Basil

5pm – St. John Fisher

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9am – St. Bede

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – First Mass of Christmas**

6pm – St. Bede

6pm – St. Michael

6pm – St. Basil

6pm – St. John Fisher

Midnight – St. Bede

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

10am – St. Bede

10am – St. Michael

10am – St. John Fisher

### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December – St Stephen's Day**

12noon – St Bede (Mass with Altar Servers)





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

## Mass & Service Times

### Sunday Mass Times

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

### Weekday Mass Times (see parish newsletter for weekday variations)

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

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](mailto:schooladmissions@halton.gov.uk)
- All **online** applicants will receive their offer of a school place electronically on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- Offer letters will be posted to applicants who submit a paper preference form on the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024**



Closing date for Primary School Applications:  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2024