WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.

Please see your child's class handbook for more information

Newsletter: 19 September 2025

Barlow Hall Primary School

School website: barlowhallprimary.co.uk

The Place2Be website has a range of parenting support and Information including practical tips to support children's wellbeing and behaviour on a wide range of topics from sibling rivalry, to anxiety and battleground mealtimes to building secure relationships and a whole host more of valuable support. To find out more please go to: https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/

Manchester Schools Cross Country – City South heats, Chorlton Park



Last week, a team of over 20 children attended the first cross-country meeting of the year on Tuesday 9th September at Chorlton Park. As always, it is a major achievement to sign up, turn up and complete the course and it was great to see so many children keen to take part. Sahith was the stand-out performer from our school, finishing 4th in a field of nearly 100 competitors. The runners then attended the second event on Tuesday of this week, where they had to run even further. Once again Sahith was a standout competitor but everyone tried hard and really did do their best, despite poor weather, mud











Our school day starts at 8.45am and it is our expectation that the children arrive from 8:30am (when our gates open), ready to start their learning at 8:45am.

The school gates will be closed at 8:50am. To enter the school after this time you will need to sign your child in via the school office and then take your child to the Sure Start Children's Centre

We ask that you wait with your child in the Children's Centre until a member of the Early Years Team is available to collect your child.



Our Breakfast club opens at 8 am and costs £5 per session whilst our After school Club runs from 3:15 pm until 5 pm and costs £8 per session (or part of). Children receive a snack and can play or relax with our own school staff.

Please can we remind parents that After School Club bookings need to be made via the School Gateway app by 2 pm on the required day. Places are limited to 30 so if you know that you need certain days ot dates please book them in advance to ensure that your child has a place..

Articles of the Week – Article 24



Every child has the right to be in the best possible health. This includes their mental health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment.

EXPLORINGMENTAL HEALTH

Pupils were asked what was needed for positive mental health. Some of the answers they came up with included:

- Understanding the different types of emotions you have.
- Knowing that it is usual and ok to have times when you might feel sad or worried
- Learning different ways to look after your mental health
- Having a trusted adult to speak with about your feelings.
- Making sure you exercise regularly.
- Making sure you have a healthy diet.
- Spending relaxation and fun time with friends and or family.
- Taking part in hobbies or activities that you enjoy.
- Being involved in activities to help others.
- Limiting screen time or access to other online platforms.
- Health care – being able to see a doctor, nurse or counsellor if you need to.
- Being able to enjoy all your rights.

Everybody has mental health – all the time! Most people have times when their mental health is not as good as it is at other times.

Education about health and wellbeing is part of Article 24.

Term Dates

Gates open 08:30, Lines go in 8:40 am
Break up Friday 24 October 3 pm
AUTUMN HALF TERM

Return to school Monday 3 November
Break Up Friday 19th Dec 2pm, No ASC
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Return to School Monday 5 January 2026
Break up Friday 13th February 3 pm
SPRING HALF TERM

Return to school Monday 23rd February
Break up Thursday 2nd April 2 pm (No ASC)
EASTER HOLIDAYS
Return to school Tuesday 20th April
School closed Monday 4 May Bank Holiday
School closed INSET Thurs 7 May – polling
Break up Friday 22nd May 3 pm

SUMMER HALF TERM
School reopen Monday 1st June
School Breaks up 17 July 2pm No ASC
School Closed – 20+21 July INSET Days

WHAT'S ON

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon - Celebration assembly
Tues – Oracy Assembly (fortnightly)
Wednesday – Singing Assembly
Thurs Sure Start Cheeky Monkey sessions
Fri –Themed Assembly linked to children's rights
Fri – Nursery ball and Motor Skills with CITC
Fri Y1 – Y6 CITC skills training
Fri – Y4 Swimming



Thurs 25. Inclusion Coffee Morning – 9am -10 am
Fri 26 Themed Assembly International Day of Sign Language
1.10 Black History Month
3.10 Themed assembly - Harvest
3.10 Starting strong Course with Sharon Drinkwater
8.10 Y5 to the People's History Museum
6-10 -Dyslexia Awareness week
7.10. 2pm House Team Meetings
8.10 – Y5 History trip People's History Museum
10.10 Themed assembly - World Mental Health Day
17.10 Show Racism the Red Card (non-uniform - wear red)
17.10 House Points winners announced
17.10 Themed Assembly – Show racism the red card
21.10 House winner non-uniform day
24.10 Themed assembly - Introduce Anti Bullying week
24.10 Break-up for half term – 3:15 pm
3.11 Return to school
4.11 Nasal Flu Immunisations Reception to Y6
5.11 Interim reports and parent surveys out to parents
11.11 Remembrance Day
11.11 Anti-Bullying Week
11.11 Pupil Progress evening 1
18.11 Pupil Progress Evening 2
20.11 Children's Day
27.11 Inclusion Coffee Morning 9 am
28.11 Year 5 Class Assembly – 9 am - parents invited
28.11 Reception and Y6 Height and weight **screening**

YEAR 4 SWIMMING - FRIDAYS

Year 4 children will be swimming this year and will need a swimming costume, or tight fitting swim shorts, not baggy, a towel and a swimming hat.Full details of the uniform and PE kit can be found on our website or click here

INCLUSION COFFEE MORNING

BARLOW HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

9am, Thursday 25th September

Concerns about your child's listenina

Wondering about how to access information

Worried about language delay?



A safe and confidential platform to meet other parents and professionals to discuss concerns and share experiences about your child.

Find out which agencies will be coming in to talk to parents and some exciting new courses for parents, including Starting Strong, and Space.

All parents/carers welcome.

Please join us for a hot drink and an informal chat in school.

You can sign up by contacting us on 0161 881 2158, or email

Get Ready to Volunteer

at Old Moat Children's Centre

Manchester Adult Education

Sure Start Children's Centres



During the course, you will...

1. Think about the skills and qualities you have and want to develop
2. Learn more about different volunteering roles and responsibilities
3. Get support to find a suitable volunteering role

Old Moat Sure Start Children's Centre
Old Moat Lane, Withington
M20 1DE

Find out more
Wednesday 24th Sept
9:30
Bring proof of ID and address to enrol

Course details
Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30
01/10/25 - 22/10/25

Manchester Adult Education | Manchester City Council | Funded by GMCA | Department for Education





Menu week:

Week 1: **Wed 22 September:**

Week 2: **Mon 29 September:**

Week 3: **Mon 6 October:**

Click the week number above to see each menu



ATTENDANCE: A Guide for Families

Missing a few days of school may not seem like a big deal but every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. Evidence shows that pupils who have good attendance enjoy better wellbeing and school performance than those who don't.



What can I do to support my child's attendance?

- Ensure your child attends school EVERY DAY unless ill.
- If they are ill please ensure that you inform the school ASAP by calling the school office on **0161 881 2158** or on School Gateway. Only keep them home if they are really unable to attend.
- Let us know with as much notice as possible if your child has an appointment.
- Phone school EVERY morning that your child is absent, so that our attendance records are accurate and up-to-date.
- Make sure your child arrives on time! Remember, doors close promptly at 8:45a.m. Late comers not only miss vital lesson time but also disrupt learning for other members of the class too.
- For any support around attendance or routines, speak to our Parent Support Advisor, Sharon Drinkwater.

What is an authorised absence?

There are only a few circumstances where a child is allowed to miss school. These include:

- Illness
- Medical appointments (proof will be required). These should be booked outside of school hours where possible.
- Exceptional circumstances such as a bereavement
- Religious observance (up to 3 days a year)

A child can go to school with a cough as long as they don't have a temperature.

Other absences will likely be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Term time holidays will NOT be authorised and will likely result in a fine.

What will the school do?

We will monitor the attendance of all children regularly
We will telephone home if no reason is given for the absence and will record this. School will work with parents/ carers to ensure children have good attendance
School will closely monitor children who persistently miss school. You will receive letters reminding you of attendance issues and you will be asked to come into school to talk about it. A parenting contract may be discussed.
When a child has missed 10 or more sessions for unauthorised reasons, school will consider a fine as per the new attendance framework.

What does the law say?

School begins at 8:45

From August 2025 schools have been required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. These sessions do not have to be consecutive The fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. If a parent receives a second fine within any three-year period, this will be charged at the flat rate of £160. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. The vast majority of fines for unauthorised absence are issued for term time holidays.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories

#WakeUpWednesday®

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