Newsletter: 3 October 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/

WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

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

Articles of the week

Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all that they can to ensure that children survive and reach their full potential.

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

Pupils were asked to consider the following question 'What are all the things that you need to survive and to develop?'

Some of the things they came up with can be seen below.

- Good health – physical and mental
- Education
- Healthy food
- Clean water
- Somewhere safe to live
- People to look after you
- A name and an identity so you can be registered for healthcare and education
- Protection so you are safe from abuse and neglect
- A good standard of living
- Time and space to relax and play
- Knowledge of your rights

Can you think of any others?



Due to the formation of our new CAT (Connect AllianceTrust), we now have spaces for 2 parent governors to join Barlow Hall's governing body.

Emails will go out to parents later today regarding the information about our Parent Governor election.

If anyone is interested in the vacancies please contact admin@barlowhallprimary.co.uk or speak to the office or Ms Corlett, to book an informal meeting with her, so that you can find out more about the role and discuss the required skillset for anyone considering applying.

Informal talks need to take place before the 9th October as nomination forms will go out to parents who have expressed an interest in the role next Friday, the 10th October, if more than two candidates apply.

Chorlton & Didsbury Foodbank
Together with Trussell

We would like to say a great big thank you to all those parents who were able to support our Harvest appeal in aid of the Chorlton and Didsbury/Trussel Trust Foodbank. Your donations were gratefully received by the Foodbank earlier today

Thank you also to Mr Vaughan for organising our fantastic Harvest Assembly.

Some of the fantastic donations for the Foodbank



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



Week 1: **Mon 13 October**
Week 2: **Mon 30 October**
Week 3: **Mon 6 October:**
Click the week number above to see each menu



Coming Soon
Show Racism the Red Card: Wear red Friday 17 Oct





House winners to be announced Fri 17 Oct, Autumn 1 Winning team's non-uniform day prize to take place Tuesday 21st October

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



Mon 6-10 -Dyslexia Awareness week
Tues 7.10 Reception Class Autumn Walk
Tues 7.10. 2pm House Team Meetings
Wed 8.10 – Y5 History trip People's History Museum
Fri 10.10 Themed assembly - World Mental Health Day
Fri 17 Show Racism the Red Card: non-uniform-wear red
Fri 17.10 House Points winners announced
Fri 17.10 Themed Assembly – Show racism the red card
Tues 21.10 House winner non-uniform day
Fri 24 Themed assembly - Introduce Anti Bullying week
Fri 24.10 Break-up for half term – 3:15 pm
Mon 3.11 Return to school
Tues 4.11 Nasal Flu Immunisations Reception to Y6
Wed 5.11 Interim reports and parent surveys
Tues11.11 Remembrance Day
Tues 11.11 Anti-Bullying Week
Tues 11.11 Pupil Progress evening 1
Tues 18.11 Pupil Progress Evening 2
Thurs 20.11 Children's Day
Thurs 27.11 Indusion Coffee Morning 9 am
Fri 28.11 Year 5 Class Assembly – 9 am - parents invited
Fri 28.11 Reception and Y6 Height and weight **screening**
Fri 5.12 – Y2AV Class Assembly- 9am parents invited
Mon 8.12 House Team Meetings
Tues 9. 12 Christmas sing-a-long and Makers Market
Thurs 11 Christmas Jumper + Christmas Dinner Day
Mon 15.12 UKS2 Pantomime time tbc
Tues 16.12 Non uniform day half-term house winners
Thur 18.12 Party Days – tbc
Fri 19.12 – Carols by Candlelight 1:30 pm
Fri 2 pm - Break up – No after school club
2026: Mon 5 Jan – School returns





What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VPNs

VPN use among UK teens is on the rise – with a noticeable uptick following the introduction of the Online Safety Act's age-verification rules. A VPN – or virtual private network – can boost online privacy by hiding internet activity and masking the user's location. But while this technology has legitimate uses, it can also allow children to bypass safety filters and access inappropriate content. This guide covers what parents and educators need to know about VPNs and how to keep young people safe.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

VPNs are commonly used by young people to get around blocks on school networks or parental controls. This could include accessing social media, gaming sites or adult content that would otherwise be filtered out.

ACCESSING INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

When a VPN is active, content filters can no longer see which sites a child is visiting. This means they could access inappropriate content without detection. This also makes it harder to intervene when a child is engaging in risky behaviour, as it may be difficult to detect it's happening.

REDUCED TRANSPARENCY

VPNs may make parental monitoring software ineffective, stopping parents from monitoring their child's activities, including their ability to identify potentially harmful or inappropriate content or online contact. This in turn may prevent parents from protecting their children from attempted sextortion or other online threats.

FALSE SENSE OF ANONYMITY

Children believing that VPNs make them 'invisible' online may seek to explore unsuitable internet content, including content which might otherwise be blocked. This may result in them seeking and accessing increasingly inappropriate – or even harmful – content.

INCREASED EXPOSURE TO MALWARE

Many free VPN apps are poorly regulated and may carry hidden malware. Young people installing unverified software could unknowingly open up their device (and home network) to spying, data theft, computer viruses, or even remote access by criminals.

RISK OF MALICIOUS VPN PROVIDERS

Although VPNs may increase privacy from network or service provider filtering and monitoring, this results in providing user and usage data to VPN providers. Some VPN providers may track user activity and sell that data to advertisers – or worse, malicious third parties. Not all VPNs are trustworthy.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF VPNS

Explain how VPNs can help protect user data and therefore may be appropriate when using public or other unsecured Wi-Fi, or while dealing with sensitive corporate or personal data.

EXPLAIN THE RISKS OF VPNS

Discuss online risks, including harmful, disturbing, and criminal content. Inform children about criminal contact, such as sextortion, and how VPNs may restrict adults from monitoring children's internet use and helping them avoid these risks.

FREE ISN'T FREE

Discuss the risk of 'free' VPNs and how they may sell or use people's data, which adds privacy risks. Additionally, discuss the potential for added malware in VPN downloads, and how these compromise devices and apps, leading to potential fraud or theft.

CHECK DEVICES FOR VPNS

VPNs can be installed as both apps and browser extensions, so regularly check these on the devices used by the young people in your care. If they have been using VPNs, discuss it, listen to their reasoning, and inform them of the associated risks. In some cases, it may be appropriate to block VPN use via parental controls and other settings.

DISCUSS ONLINE BOUNDARIES

Reinforce the importance of keeping safe online and how filtering and monitoring helps keep young people safe – explain this to them rather than just 'being strict'. Encourage an open conversation around what they're accessing and why.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been created in collaboration with Gary Henderson, director of IT at a large independent school in the UK, an ambassador for the Association of Network Managers in Education and the Vice Chair of the Independent Schools Council Digital Advisory Group.



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