



Callands Primary Academy School

Dear Parents and Carers,



12 days to go

What a magical week it has been in school as we head towards Christmas! Our school hall has been filled with lots of joy, as the children in Year 1 and 2 filled the hall with their fabulous performance of Bethlehem Bake Off. The production featured a baking competition in Bethlehem where unexpected guests like shepherds, angels, and Wise Men join to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The children have kept us all entertained with catchy songs and some humorous jokes and also spoke with such confidence. A huge thank you to all staff for preparing them so well and to all families who came along to support and share these special moments. The children in Miss Tabern and Mrs Davies class have taken part in an Elf Run today to raise money for their charity – St Rocco's Hospice. We will let you know the final amount raised before we finish for Christmas. We are also looking forward to their Christmas performance next week, always a personal favourite of mine. We are very PROUD of all our pupils.

On behalf of the school, I would like to say a very big thank you to our dedicated Friends of Callands, who have run a number of successful fundraising events throughout the Autumn term. Your hard work and commitment is very much appreciated AND there is still more to come with the Christmas Discos and Events next week.

May we wish all our children, families, staff and governors a Happy Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back to school for the new term on Tuesday 6th January 2025.

Mrs Bentley, Headteacher

As we approach Christmas, we wish you all an enjoyable and festive break, which hopefully allows the rest and recuperation that so many people need at this time of year. We are mindful that Christmas is not without its stresses; the Safeguarding Team would like to share with you, some websites where, if required, you may access advice and support for a range of issues, which may be experienced during this time of year.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

[For Families Anna Freud](#)

[Warrington CAMHS](#)

Coping with Grief

Some of our families have suffered bereavements during the last year, this may be the first Christmas without loved ones being present. Winston's Wish have created an advice blog:

<https://winstonswish.org/>

Technology

Technology in many device forms is often given at Christmas. The National Online Safety website has some very useful guides for parents on topics such as social media and gaming. We would ask parents to be mindful of age recommendations for apps and the safeguarding issues that can occur when children are accessing apps that are not age appropriate. <https://nationalcollege.com/parents>

Childnet have created this useful family agreement to start discussions about how to behave on line and set clear expectations for your family. [Family agreement](#)

The Good Tech Gift Guide may be useful so that you know which technology can help children grow, create and explore. [Good Tech Gift Guide](#)

The Safeguarding Team

IMPORTANT DATES

Admission to Reception for September 2026

If you have a child due to start school next September (born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022), you can now go online at <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions> for information about primary schools and how to apply for a place online. The deadline to complete your application is midnight on **Thursday 15th January 2026**.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance – up to Friday 12th December

Year Group	Attendance (Year To Date)
YR	94.8%
Y1	94.8%
Y2	93.9%
Y3	95%
Y4	94%
Y5	95.9%
Y6	95.1%
All	94.8%
94.7% National	

Attendance

Red = Below national

Green = Above national

Attendance had dropped significantly due to the recent virus, but I am pleased to inform you that it is now on the rise! It is wonderful to see the children back and feeling well again.

If your child is ill, what YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence. **01925 444795, choose option 1 for the dedicated mailbox for absence.**

Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Please be assured that if you do email or leave a voicemail, all messages are picked up and responded to where necessary. Leaving a message or sending an email is the most effective way to ensure your child's absence is recorded.

OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

SHARING SANTA APPEAL

A 'PROUD' moment for Poppy last week. Poppy has helped make 10 Christmas Decoration bundles for a local Sharing Santa appeal, to donate to families who need some help celebrating Christmas this year.

Each bundle has a small Christmas tree and a mix of donated Christmas decorations in. Well done Poppy, we are also PROUD of you.



SHOWCASE SUCCESS

Lily shone on stage in this year's end-of-year dance showcase at The Parr Hall.

She performed in three separate routines and delivered each one with confidence, skill, and enthusiasm. We are incredibly PROUD of her hard work and outstanding achievement. Well done Lily – keep on shining!





SANTA DASH SUCCESS

Another 'PROUD' moment for Isabelle, who took part in running the 5K Santa dash (and then the 1k mini dash!) to raise money for the Liverpool Women's Hospital NICU. The hospital looked after her little brother in the first days of his life. She raised £120. Well done Isabelle, we are really PROUD of you!

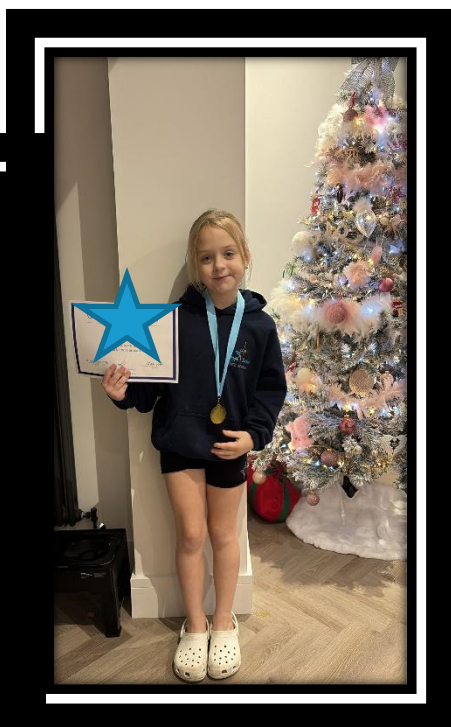
SANTA DASH SUCCESS

Alice and Tommy have also taken part in the Santa Dash last Sunday at Walton Gardens. As well as taking part in this event, they met the Mayor. A good day was had by all. Alice and Tommy, we are PROUD of you both.



MARTIAL ARTS SUCCESS

Dennis has recently graduated to 'Red Belt' in Martial Arts. He has worked hard to achieve this and we can tell how PROUD you are Dennis, we are also PROUD of you.



RISING STAR SUCCESS

Amelia has just received a trophy for being a 'Rising Star' from Miss Abi at Abigail Barlow Dance Academy. Amelia attends Modern, Acro and Lyrical classes on a weekly basis and is at her happiest when she's dancing. We can tell how happy you are Amelia, we are PROUD of you.

OUT OF SCHOOL EVENTS



The poster features a collage of children's faces at the top with the large letters 'HAF' overlaid. Below this, the text 'Holiday Activities and Food' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. A blue banner contains the question 'Are your children on benefit related free school meals?' in white. To the right of this banner is a QR code with the text 'Scan me' above it. Below the QR code, a red box contains the text: 'If yes, they can attend up to four fully funded sessions this winter. Bookings will go live on 1 December at 12pm. SEND specific clubs will go live on 28 November at 7pm. Email haf@warrington.gov.uk to find out more.' Below this, a green box contains the text: 'Not eligible? Many clubs offer paid places at a reduced rate.' At the bottom, there are four small photos of children engaged in various activities. The bottom right corner features the logos for 'WARRINGTON Borough Council' and 'Department for Education', along with the hashtag '#HAF2025'.

HAF
Holiday Activities and Food

Are your children on benefit related free school meals?

Scan me

If yes, they can attend up to four fully funded sessions this winter. Bookings will go live on 1 December at 12pm. SEND specific clubs will go live on 28 November at 7pm. Email haf@warrington.gov.uk to find out more.

Not eligible?
Many clubs offer paid places at a reduced rate.

#HAF2025

WARRINGTON Borough Council
Department for Education

This is a reminder that Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) is open for bookings for children that receive benefit related free school meals. They also have a limited number of places left for children that have an EHCP and/or are being supported by social care/early help.

The pantomime and light show are fully booked, but plenty of food boxes are still available to collect on 2nd January. Each box contains all the ingredients needed to prepare a family meal, and every child in the family can take one home. In addition, they will be handing out Little Inventor boxes, which include everything required to create a science project. Book here: <https://eequ.org/book/pick-up-a-food-box-and-science-kit-town-with-warrington-borough-council-11069> (Please note: the 12pm slot is sold out, but other times are available further down the page.)

They have spaces available on most clubs which range from cooking, multi-sports and traditional play. The full list can be found at <https://eequ.org/warringtonhaf>



Dear Parents, Guardians and Father Christmas/Santa,

Has your little elf asked for an e-scooter or e-bike for Christmas?

The following is basic information on where e-bikes and e-scooters can be used within the law.

We want to make sure your Christmas presents end up in a pile like this...



...and not this



	E-Scooter *	E-Bike (pedals)	E-motorbike (no pedals)
What is it?	Any scooter powered by a battery.	A bicycle powered by a 250w max battery with pedals to propel (15.5mph)	A battery powered motorbike, moped or bike with no pedals to propel.
Under 16 in public	No *	14+ only	No
In a public area	No *	Yes, if compliant	Yes if taxed and insured
On private land - with the landowners permission	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can I use it on cycle paths?	No	Yes	No
Can I use it on the pavement?	No *	No	No
Can I use it on the road?	No	Yes	Yes
Is there a safety risk?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Is there a fire risk?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Would it be seized?	Yes *	Yes, if not compliant	Yes if not taxed and insured
What can I get instead that is legal for public use?	Commuter or stunt scooter. These can be used in public areas such as parks, skate parks and pump tracks. Always wear safety equipment.	Consider a mountain bike. A great way to commute, offering independence and exercise, use in forests and on pump tracks. Always wear safety equipment and use a bike lock.	Age dependent, if over 14 then look at an e-bike, following our guidance and doing your own research. Head to a local private track for more information
Where can I use the legal scooter or bike?	Search for pump tracks to test your skill levels and look at skills training.	Local councils offer information online for the area and clubs for mountain biking and BMX.	Motorcross Clubs.

*This does not include rental scheme e-scooters which are insured to be used by riders over 16 with a license. Refer to scheme

No one wants to seize anyone's presents!



Cheshire
Constabulary



Stay safe and legal





The Trans Pennine Trail 2025 Christmas Holiday Activity Pack is bursting with festive fun for families and children and is available FREE to download from our website.

You'll find nature-themed challenges like a winter scavenger hunt, creative crafts such as making a bird feeder, and a delicious cake pop recipe to try at home. The pack also features sensory games, puzzles, and a heart-warming story adventure with the Trail's friendly mascots, encouraging everyone to explore the great outdoors.

With colourful characters leading the way, this activity pack inspires kids to discover winter wildlife, get creative, and enjoy the magic of the outdoors. There are opportunities to share their adventures and to earn a digital certificate.

The packs are ideal for Key Stage 1 and 2, but there's something for everyone – whether you're a teacher, parent, or young explorer. They're perfect for use on

the Trail, in your local park, or even indoors on a rainy day. Every pack is designed to help everyone learn, play, and make memories while exploring the outdoors.

The activity pack can be used 'on the go' by downloading it to a mobile or can be printed at home. But they can send out printed copies to people who don't have a printer or are unable to access the website if you get in touch with them.

Download it from our Children's page at: [TPT Activity Packs | Trans Pennine Trail](#)



CALLANDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

TERM DATES September 2025- July 2026

	Date of opening	Date of closing
Autumn First Half Term	Wednesday 03.09.25	Friday 24.10.25
Autumn Second Half Term	Monday 03.11.25	Friday 19.12.25
Spring First Half Term	Tuesday 06.01.26	Friday 13.02.26
Spring Second Half Term	Monday 23.02.26	Wednesday 01.04.26
Easter weekend: Friday 3 April 2026 – Monday 5 April 2026 (Falls within the holiday period)		
Summer First Half Term	Wednesday 15.04.26	Friday 22.05.26
Bank Holidays: May Day - Monday 4 May 2026		
Summer Second Half Term	Monday 08.06.26	Wednesday 22.07.26

INSET Days:

Monday 1 September 2025, Tuesday 2 September 2025, Monday 5 January 2026,
Thursday 2 April, Thursday 23rd July 2026



CALLANDS PRIMARY ACADEMY SCHOOL
TERM DATES 2026-2027

September 2026– July 2027

	Date of opening	Date of closing
Autumn First Half Term	Wednesday 02.09.26	Friday 16.10.26
Autumn Second Half Term	Monday 02.11.26	Friday 18.12.26
Spring First Half Term	Monday 04.01.27	Friday 12.02.27
Spring Second Half Term	Monday 22.02.27	Thursday 25.03.27
Easter weekend: Friday 26 th April 2027 – Monday 29 th April 2027 (Falls within the holiday period)		
Summer First Half Term	Monday 05.04.27	Friday 28.05.27
Bank Holidays: May Day - Monday 3 May 2027		
Summer Second Half Term	Monday 07.06.27	Friday 16.07.27

INSET Days:

Tuesday 1 September 2026, Friday 2 July 2027, Monday 19 July 2027, Tuesday 20 July 2027,
Wednesday 21 July 2027