

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 24th November 2023

Each child is uniquely created and loved by God.

www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk



Our School Christian Values are Aspiration, Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion.

This week we have found out about keeping safe.

Attendance

We are always challenged to have the best attendance we can and our target this year is 97%. This week our attendance is 93.36%.



Do remember that we close our gates at 8:45am everyday and we finish at 3pm.

This Week...

Firstly, thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need own clothes day last Friday. We are pleased to inform you that over £180 was raised!!

On Monday during worship we discussed keeping safe, especially when walking home. Every child was given a keyring which had the words 'Be Bright Be Seen,' and we thank Miss Traviss for signing us up for these.

Our children have started learning their songs for their Christmas celebrations and the singing is sounding amazing already! Letters have gone home regarding requests for costumes – please can these be brought into school as soon as you are able. Year 2 have also been busy creating puppets and props for the KS1 Nativity and they are looking fabulous!



On Tuesday we had a special 'AIM High Day' with children from five other schools to work with an author. The children had a very busy and creative day and met some new friends on the way!

We look forward to our next 'Aim High Day' next term.

Yesterday, the building work started on developing our 'Secret Garden' area and the space has been quickly cleared! Over the next few weeks we look forward to seeing how this area develops.

What a busy week!

Christmas Lunch on Friday 15th December

Have you signed up for our School Christmas lunch? Please make sure you have signed up by Tuesday 28th November.



Acorn Class 2024

If you have a child born between 1 September 2019 - 31 August 2020, due to start school next September, please apply for a school place. The applications opened on Friday 3rd November 2023 and will close at midnight on Monday 15th January 2024. Please go to the KCC website—

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places>

School Dates– Term 2

1st December	Flu Immunisation
4th December	Year 2 trip
5th December	Year 5 Singing carols
12th December	KS1 Nativity @ 2pm
13th December	KS1 Nativity @ 2pm
14th December	Pantomime: Years 1– 6
15th December	Christmas Meal
15th December	KS2 Carol Service @ 2pm
15th December	PTFA event
18th December	Class parties
19th December	Last day of term

Friday Worship

In our Friday celebration we share our stars of the week, children who are in our Golden books for showing our School Values, team points and any other celebrations from our School community:

Well done to: Millie B, Lenny, Henio, Sophia N, Debbie, Eloise, Aaron, Layla, Lola, Charlie, Alice, Charlie-J, Mishika and Damon.

Well done to Disciples for the most team points this week!

Term Time Absences

I have received a very large volume of requests for absence recently, mostly centred around holidays. I am unable to authorise holidays in term time; it is just not possible and whilst I do sympathise with both the cost of holidaying outside of term time and family commitments, our pupils just miss too much face to face learning. We are working with the local authority to drive our attendance numbers up, and the local authority is issuing fines for those who do take children out of school. We are bound by 'Working together to improve school attendance' and its table of responsibilities which can be read here: [Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance \(GOV.UK\)](#)

Keeping in contact

If you would like to contact your child's class teacher here are the class email addresses.

If it is an urgent matter please contact the School office.

Acorn: acorn@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Willow: willow@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Beech: beech@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Maple: maple@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Chestnut: chestnut@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Lilac: lilac@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Oak: oak@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Safeguarding Concerns

Please can we remind everyone that the School Designated Safeguard leads are Mrs Duncombe and Mrs Pring. If you have any concerns do contact us.

Reminders

Please can we ask that we have no chocolate nut spread in sandwiches as we have children who are allergic to nuts in school.

Chocolate should be in moderation and we ask that the children do not have other sweets in their packed lunch boxes.

Keep warm this weekend!

With best wishes

Moira Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW