

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 9th May 2025

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.

We thought about what VE Day means to us.

Attendance

We continue to work hard to achieve the Attendance expectations from the Department for Education.



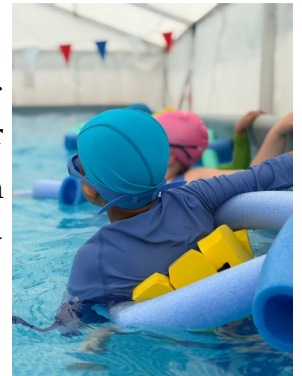
Our School gates open at 8:30am every day and School starts at 8:45pm.

Whole School attendance was 96% this week.

This Week...

I do hope you all had a fabulous Bank Holiday weekend and although this week was only four days we certainly made sure we tried to fit in as much as we could!

This week saw Years 1, 2 and 5 start their swimming lessons in our pool. The children were very excited and with Holly and Graham, our instructors, have had a very positive week. It was a privilege to see children nervous at the start of their first session to skip down to the pool and show real confidence in the water throughout the week.



One of our younger children shared that she wanted to swim every day!

This week also saw Year 3 and 4 complete their Show in a Week – Alice in Wonderland. The children worked hard learning their lines, music and dance routines. They created their props and on Thursday spent the day at Trinity Theatre rehearsing ready to perform in the afternoon.



The show was fabulous and it was amazing to see our children perform in a professional theatre with lights, costumes and sound too! My thanks go to the Year 3 and 4 team and the team at Trinity for making this experience possible.

What a week!

ROYAL VICTORIA PLACE

CHANGING TIMES

A new chapter is beginning for Royal Victoria Place, and your input is important.

Parts of the centre are underused, and we're exploring how they could be reimagined for modern retail, town centre living, community, and leisure spaces.



What is happening?

Royal Victoria Place is under new local ownership, following Tunbridge Wells Borough Council purchasing the centre in October 2023.

There is now a unique opportunity to rethink how this key space serves the town and wider area, and ideas are being gathered to inform future decisions and ensure the centre plays a valuable role for years to come.

Now's your chance to tell us what you want to see here.

The engagement period will run between **2 May to 25 May**, visit rvpfuture.com to find out more about local events around the borough and ways to get involved, or scan the QR code on the next page to take the short survey.

Changing times - an opportunity for more

Parts of the shopping centre are vacant, such as the food court. Or, like Ely Court and Market Square, they are underutilised or no longer suitable for modern retail requirements and modern consumer trends. As a result, we are exploring new activities and alternative uses for these spaces as well as opportunities to relocate existing tenants to busier and more appropriate locations.

These changes aim to unlock redevelopment potential, support the local economy, deliver community benefit and new town centre living, whilst safeguarding the Council's investment.

Who are the Emotional Wellbeing Team?

Who are we?

We are the Emotional Wellbeing Team at your child's school. Emotional Wellbeing Teams are a government initiative also known nationally as Mental Health Support Teams. We're specially trained to help children at school with their emotional wellbeing and mental health. From time to time, children and young people need additional support with their emotional wellbeing and mental health, so we're here to help. Getting the right support early can prevent problems getting bigger, so that your child can enjoy school, home, time with family & friends, and other activities.

Who can we help?

We provide support to all children in the school, and work together with everyone in the school community to promote a 'whole school approach' to emotional wellbeing and mental health. We also work with children and their parents/carers in group or 1:1 sessions to support with specific problems.

How we can help

We have several ways to support your child, including:

Whole school activities and workshops to promote emotional wellbeing and increase understanding of how to take care of our mental health.

Group and 1:1 sessions to support parents/carers including:

Supporting your children with worries and fears

Understanding your child's behaviour

Website link:

<https://www.nelft.nhs.uk/kent-primary-schools>

Our work in primary schools:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TVCwJDjU-c>

Zuska Kennard – Senior EWP:

I am so excited to be part of the West Kent team expanding into your school. I am looking forward to working collaboratively to support children, young people and families to promote wellbeing.



Kerri Adofo – EMHP:

"I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all and working alongside you to support the young people in your schools. I am passionate about the difference we can all make when it comes to helping children navigate life's challenges and realising their potential."



Celebration

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:

Stars of the Week: Lorraine, Zak, Uriel, Khloe, Juno, All of Maple, All of Chestnut, Farisa, Nyla, Myla and Zoe.

Team Point winner: Saints.

Well done to Mila and Edward for successes out of school.

Please do let us know if you are awarded any achievement outside school– we would love to celebrate!

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: safeguarding@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

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.

Please make sure children are dressed in the correct uniform and have a named water bottle everyday. If your child has to wear earrings please can we ask that they are small and not hooped.

And finally...

The weekend looks to be warm again, so hopefully you will all have a lovely time!

Moiria Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW