

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 16th May 2025

Each child is uniquely created and loved by God.

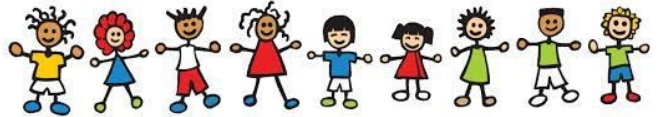
www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk



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

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 8:45am.

Whole School attendance was 96% this week.

This Week...

It has been a very busy week for Year 6 who have worked extremely hard preparing and also completing their final assessments or SATS. It has been a privilege to watch them take on each challenge with confidence and determination. Our thanks go to Year 4 and 5 who allowed us to use their classrooms and spent their mornings in the hall.

Swimming has continued with Year 3 and 4 beginning their lessons. Next week is our final week with Year 6 having the opportunity to swim!

Today Year 2 are visiting our local park to investigate and explore and tonight we have our PTFA discos and I am sure we are going to have lots of fun! Our thanks go to the PTFA for running these events.

Next week we have Class photographs on Tuesday and we ask that all children come in smart uniform. Those children who are swimming will have their photographs taken first.

St Barnabas School at the Amelia Scott Centre!

Exciting news! St Barnabas School has taken centre stage in a new exhibition space in the entrance foyer to the Amelia Scott Centre in Tunbridge Wells.

The exhibition focuses on the creation of our wonderful new mural. It also explores the role that our School Council played in the project and the Arts Mark Awards that were achieved.

If you can spare the time, why not plan a trip up to the Amelia Scott this half term to see the exhibition and enjoy what centre has on offer.

Kent Test

For children starting secondary school in September 2026

If your child is currently in Year 5, and you intend to apply to a Kent Grammar school, register online at kent.gov.uk/kenttest

Registration opens on 2 June 2025 and closes at midnight on 1 July 2025

Who is the Kent Test for?

The Kent Test is for children who wish to apply for a Kent Grammar school place for September 2026 and are either resident in the UK or are the children of UK Service Personnel / other Crown Servants returning to the UK. A list of Kent Grammar schools can be found [here](#). **Schools in Medway, Bexley and Bromley are outside the Kent Local Authority area.** If you live outside Kent, please consider carefully before registering whether your child can attend the testing session in Kent, and how they would travel to school if they were offered a school place in Kent.

How do I register for the Kent Test?

Go to kent.gov.uk/kenttest and create an online account for yourself as parent/guardian. Add your child's details to your account to start the registration process. When you have completed and submitted your registration you should get a confirmation email. If you do not, the registration may not have been completed correctly. (Tip: Please check your junk/spam folder for the email before contacting us!)

What if my child has access requirements?

If your child has a disability or SEN which will affect their access to testing, you should discuss this with their primary school before registering them, as the school will need to apply for any necessary access arrangements. Requests will not be accepted after 1 July 2025.

What happens after I register?

If your child attends a school outside Kent, we will email you details of their test centre by the end of August. Let us know if after registration you move house, change your email address or your child changes primary school. Otherwise, their test papers may go to the wrong place, or you may not get their results.

How do I apply for a Kent Grammar school?

You apply by naming the school as a preference on your Local Authority's secondary application form.

If my child is assessed suitable for grammar school by the Kent Test, will I automatically be offered a grammar school place?

No, a Kent Grammar school assessment does not guarantee your child a place in a Kent Grammar school.

Grammar schools are often oversubscribed, meaning more children apply than the school has room for. Oversubscribed schools use their admission criteria to rank applicants in priority order, so it's important to check the admission criteria for schools you are interested in. A Kent Grammar school can only consider your child for a place if you have named it on your application and your child has been tested and assessed suitable for admission.

If your child is not offered a place at the school, you can appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel and may be able to add them to the school's waiting list.

Key dates

Monday 2 June 2025	Registration opens at kent.gov.uk/kenttest . You will receive a confirmation email when registration is complete.
Tuesday 1 July 2025	Registration closes at midnight. If your child attends a school outside Kent, you will receive an email by the end of August with your Allocated Test Centre.
Thursday 11 September 2025	Children who attend a Kent primary school sit the test in their school.
Saturday 13 September 2025 / Sunday 14 September 2025	Children who attend primary schools outside Kent or are Educated at Home sit the test in a Test Centre.
Thursday 16 October 2025	Kent Test Decisions emails are sent after 4pm to the email address used to register the child.

Need help?

Further information about the test and about transport to grammar school for low-income families can be found on our website at kent.gov.uk. If your child is outside the age range for the test, or cannot take the test on a Saturday please email kent.admissions@kent.gov.uk.

For help registering please email kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk. Only one registration per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of registration. Keep your login details safe and use the email address you registered from for all communication with the team.



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: Noah R, Aaradhya, Raif, Year 2, Sophia, Tilly, Ted, Alicia, Charith and all of Oak!

Team Point winner: Saints.

Well done to Einoras, Audrey and Layla for super sporting success!

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...

Have a lovely weekend!

Moira Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW