St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 27th June 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. This week we reminded ourselves about The Reading Challenge for this Summer.

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 95.8% this week.

This Week…

The children have been busy getting ready for their Sports Days next week and the timings for each class were sent home in an email this week. Please do make sure the children have their correct kit, had sun cream applied and have their own water bottle.

On Tuesday and Thursday we met our new Acorns for 2025- 2026 and it was lovely to see them and welcome them into our School. We look forward in getting to know them more in September.

As part of their Young Enterprise this week, Year 6 have been busy preparing for the selling of their products from tasty drinks to yummy food! Tomorrow, Saturday 28th June, our Young Enterprise teams from Year 6 will be selling their products under the Clock Tower from 10am– 12pm. Do go along and pick up a tasty treat or two!

Being safe in the sun!

Please can we ask that:

-Your child comes in with a named hat to wear

- Your child has a high factor sun cream (at least SPF 15) applied before sending them to school.

- Your child brings a water bottle to school and encourage them to drink plenty of water – we will remind them too!

Summer Reading Challenge

On Monday staff from The Amelia came to talk to the children about the Summer Reading challenge.

It is running between Saturday 5 July to Saturday 6 September in Kent. It's free and open to all children aged 4 to 11.
This year's theme is Story Garden - Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors. This exciting new theme will inspire your child to explore the magical connection between storytelling and nature.

Take part your way
To take part in the Summer Reading Challenge, your child can sign up at The Amelia or any library in Kent or via the Reading Agency website.

Join the Summer Reading Challenge at any of our Kent Libraries. They must be library members to join and get extra rewards.
They'll get a folder to track their reading. The more books they read, they will earn:

- stickers to decorate their folder
- a bookmark after 2 books read
- a packet of seeds after 4 books read

6 books read, children have completed the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge! They can collect a medal and certificate from their local library.
To get each reward, your child must visit a library and speak to a member of staff. Books must be borrowed from the library to count toward the in-library Summer Reading Challenge.

Reasons to take part
The Summer Reading Challenge provides:

- an amazing way to boost confidence and self-esteem
- better preparation ready to return to school in the autumn

support for the move into a new year group.
The library offers free access to books and fun family activities all through the summer.

Free events and activities across Kent
Our libraries are bringing the Summer Reading Challenge to life with a packed programme of free events and activities for children and families.
This year's theme, Story Garden, invites children aged 4 to 11 to explore the link between reading and the great outdoors, where nature and imagination come together. From storytelling sessions and craft clubs to STEM activities, gardening, and upcycled/recycled crafts, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

How to get rid of headlice

Treat head lice as soon as you spot them. You can treat head lice without seeing a GP. You should check everyone in the house and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day. There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

Wet combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:

- wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
- comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends

It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair. Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

Medicated lotions and sprays

If wet combing has not worked or is not suitable, you could try a medicated lotion or spray. These kill head lice in all types of hair, and you can buy them from pharmacies, supermarkets or online. Head lice should die within a day. Some lotions and sprays come with a comb to remove dead lice and eggs. Some treatments need to be repeated after a week to kill any newly hatched lice. Check the pack to see if they're OK for you or your child and how to use them. If lotions or sprays do not work, speak to a pharmacist about other treatments. Some treatments are not recommended because they're unlikely to work.
For example:

- products containing permethrin
- head lice "repellents"
- electric combs for head lice
- tree and plant oil treatments, such as tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil and lavender oil herbal remedies

You cannot prevent head lice

There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice. You can help stop them spreading by wet or dry combing regularly to catch them early. Do not use medicated lotions and sprays to prevent head lice. They can irritate the scalp. There's no need for children to stay off school or to wash laundry on a hot wash.

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: Maisie, Audrey, Gianluca, Esme, Jasper, Asu, David A., Nikola, Ishrat, Destiny, Stanley and Bella.

Team Point winner: Saints.

Handwriting Awards: Nyla, Luke, Joshua, Anas, Destiny, Macie, Riley, and Vrishank.

Well done to Tunmise for her success at the Sevenoaks Art Festival.

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!

With best wishes, Moira Duncombe @StBarnabasSchoolTW

Did you know that the School Office have an Instagram and Facebook account? Do have a look and maybe follow to keep up to date!