

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 4th July 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 discussed the importance of Hope.

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 certainly has been a week of outside learning with our Sporting events occurring this week.

We were certainly challenged with the differing weather and as I said to our Year 2 event yesterday, the only weather we had not had this week was snow....

The children were fantastic and several School records broken and special mention goes to Albie, Logan, Bella, Dexter, Ajus, Liliana, Daniel, Evie, Molly, Rowan and Alexis who all broke School records. We will let you know the winning House next week when the whole of Year 6 are back with us.



Yesterday, Year 1 went to Scotney Castle which is always a favourite for our children. The day started slowly with their bus breaking down before getting to us, but the bus company provided new vehicles and the children were off! The class soon made up for this delay and had a super time exploring and finding out about the gardens and the castle itself.



Today we found out that we had achieved our School Games Gold Award again for this year which is fabulous news!

Year 6 have had their transition days this week and have found out a little more about their new schools. What an amazing week!

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.

Picnic in the Park

St Barnabas School and the PTFA would like to invite you and your family to come and join us for a family picnic at the Lower Playing Field of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park at **4:15pm on Friday 18th July**.

The School and PTFA will arrange some refreshments to suit all ages and play equipment to keep the little ones busy. Please feel free to get a game or kick about going with a group of friends and families.

We will be asking for cash donations for refreshments, alternatively, you could make an Arbor donation when you get your drinks.

This year, we have arranged the use of the Oast House toilets so we can all enjoy the event in a little more comfort.

So please pack a picnic and make your way down to the park on the last day of term to join us for an evening of family fun, sun (hopefully) and friendship.

We look forward to seeing you there!



NONSENSE POETRY & ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

Two magical days of laughter, creativity, and imagination! Join us for a joyful, silly, and inspiring adventure into the world of nonsense poems and colourful illustration! Led by author and poet Kerry Edmed and artist and illustrator Jane Swannell, children will create their very own quirky poems and bring them to life with vibrant, imaginative artwork. Every poem and illustration will be carefully formatted by Kerry and Jane into a professionally printed book - a beautiful collection of the children's work, and a lasting memory of two magical days. Book is included in the price

ART THAT TELLS A STORY

We'll explore the playful works of Dr Seuss, Spike Milligan and Lewis Carroll - true masters of nonsense! Then, children will become poets themselves, discovering the magic of wordplay, rhythm, and rhyme while growing in confidence and self-expression.

With Jane's gentle guidance, each child will illustrate their poem in their own unique style - no experience needed, just a love of colour and creativity! Games that Spark Confidence & Friendship We believe learning should be joyful. Throughout both days, we'll play team-building games that boost confidence, and encourage imagination, in a warm environment Healthy snacks provided but please bring a packed lunch

NONSENSE POETRY & ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

£99 FOR TWO FULL DAYS OF FUN, CREATIVITY AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING

AGES 7-14

PROFESSIONALLY PRINTED KEEPSAKE BOOK OF YOUR CHILD'S POETRY AND ILLUSTRATIONS

MONDAY 11TH AND TUESDAY 12TH AUGUST 2025

9.30AM - 2.30PM

ST BARNABAS SCHOOL HALL
ST BARNABAS SCHOOL
QUARRY RD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS TN1 2EY

£10 VOUCHER FOR ALL ST BARNABAS STUDENTS

TO BOOK A PLACE, CONTACT:
JANESWANNELL@HOTMAIL.COM

SPACES ARE LIMITED - DON'T MISS OUT!

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: Peggy, Noah A, Alfie-Lee, Uriel, Catherine, Juno, Maple Class, Miss Sarjeant, Aser, Kimmy, Lovinia and Sherri.

Team Point winner: Saints

Well done to Cody for his fantastic effort in the Mont Blanc Marathon.

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...

Today we say goodbye to Miss Sarjeant as she finishes her training and wish her well in her new job. Have a lovely weekend!

With best wishes, Moira Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW