

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 18th 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 hopes and dreams and thought about our future jobs and aims.

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 97% this week – well done everyone!

This Week...

Today is our last day of this academic year and we certainly have had an amazing year from our Harvest Festival in church to our Christmas Nativity... from our class Farm trips to having a swimming pool on site... from our Sponsored Walk to achieving the School Sports Gold award.

This week has been a week for our Year 6 children to shine with their school production "Star Wars" on Monday which was full of fun.

On Tuesday they celebrated their Young Enterprise success with a trip to Creams which they thoroughly enjoyed!



Wednesday the whole school went to church for the Leaver's Mass and every child in Year 6 was given a candle as they start their new journey.



Today they have their own Assembly where we celebrate them and also present awards for all their efforts—not just this year, but also during their time at our School. We wish all of our Year 6 the best of luck and we know they will Aspire and look forward to hearing about their next adventures.

This week we also say goodbye to Sophia N. and Shania who are moving schools and also Mrs Chadwick and Miss Mercer. Miss Mercer is going on Sabbatical to teach in South Korea and we look forward to hearing about her adventures too.

This week Year 2 have been completing their Time and Place topic on Vietnam. Yesterday the children's art work was put on display for everyone to see:



A **FREE**, FAMILY-FRIENDLY
OUTDOOR THEATRE EVENT

Now that's what I call



a story!

on **Sunday 17th August 2025**

The playground, Grosvenor and Hilbert Park

1pm and 3pm

50 MINUTE INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCES
FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AGED 4-11

Parents must remain with children at all times

A FOGH
FAMILY
FRIENDLY
EVENT

fogh.org.uk/events



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 today 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: Dyuthi, Aahan, Leo, All of Beech, All of Maple, All of Chestnut, Kimmy, Charith, Henry, and All of Oak.

Thank you to our work experience students who have helped across the school this week and all our staff, Father John and our Governors for their hard work and dedication this year. Special thanks go to our PTFA who are helping to lead our Picnic event after 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...

I hope you have a lovely Summer break and wish the best of luck to all our children who are leaving.

I look forward to welcoming back everyone else in September!

With best wishes, Moira Duncombe @StBarnabasSchoolTW