

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 19th December 2025

Each child is uniquely created and loved by God.

www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk



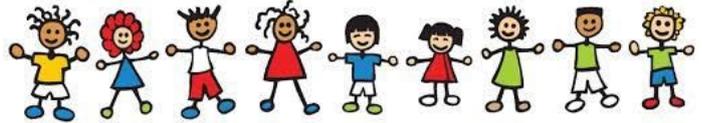
Our School Christian Values are Aspiration, Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion.

We look towards the Christmas traditions

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.

This week our attendance was: 94%



This Week...

What a fabulous Christmas week we have had this year!

Our KS2 led the community in a wonderful Carol Concert on Tuesday from the soloists to the readers, from the actors to the singers! It was lovely to see the church full of so many of our families – well done everyone!

On Wednesday our Year 5 class went to sing at a local care home and were welcomed warmly with Christmas cupcakes! The children sang with gusto and have been welcomed back next year!



Yesterday we had our Christmas lunch and Martin and Sophie in the kitchen did us proud!

Everyone had a lovely lunch and the crackers had very corny jokes. To give you an example, here is the one in my cracker:

'Why did the scarecrow win an award? He was outstanding in his field.'

Today is our last day and we wish everyone a very happy Christmas. December has been challenging and I do hope everyone has a chance to rest and breathe. We say goodbye to Elijah, Saanvi and their families and also to Mrs Tompsett.

Thank you for all your kindness and gifts and finally...Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS 2025



at
**S. Barnabas' Parish
Church**
(Church of England)
Stanley Road TN1 2RH

Saturday, 20th December

4.00pm **COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE**
Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, 24th December

4.00pm **CHILDREN'S CRIB AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

12midnight **MIDNIGHT MASS**
and Procession to the Crib,
with traditional Christmas carols



Christmas Day

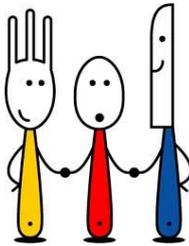
Thursday, 25th December

11.00am **SUNG MASS OF THE DAY,**
with traditional Christmas carols

Families are welcome at all of our services.

S Barnabas' Church extends best wishes to you
for a blessed Christmas and new year!

Help!



I wonder if you can help your child over the Christmas holidays by helping them to use a knife and fork when having a hot meal at home.

We are noticing that more of our children cannot use a knife or fork correctly.

Thank you for your help.

Christmas traditions.. Did you know?

The Roman calendar contained lots of holidays in honour of their Gods, including the holiday of Saturnalia. Saturnalia was held on the 17th December in honour of Saturn, the chief deity in ancient Rome. The celebration lasted for 4 days, and included masters and their servants swapping roles, so the servants would be served by their master instead.

In the Middle Ages Christmas celebrations started on Christmas Eve, and lasted until the 6th January. Many monarchs chose this merry day for their coronation. This included William the Conqueror, whose coronation on Christmas Day in 1066. Mince pies were originally baked in rectangular cases to represent the infant Jesus' crib, and the addition of cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg was meant to symbolise the gifts given by the three wise men.

The Tudors: during the time of Henry VIII there were many fun traditions. On the twelfth night a cake was baked with a bean inside, whoever found the bean in their slice, became the King of the Bean. This meant that they were in charge, and everyone had to copy what he did. If the 'King of the Bean' drank or danced everyone would do the same. Christmas was also a time for dressing up in the Tudor era. Feasts included a lot of sugar that was in sweet wine and sugar banquets with models of castles, dragons, holly and edible goblets.

A lot of the Christmas traditions we know today come from the Victorian times. Queen Victoria and Albert, with their nine children, played a big part in these changes. It became customary to exchange presents on Christmas Day and children became more involved in Christmas. Victorian children's presents were usually quite simple, such as sweets, nuts or oranges, although rich children might hope for a toy such as a toy train. Christmas Boxes were given to servants and tradesmen on the 26th of December, which became later known as Boxing Day. Many other now-familiar elements of Christmas also originated in this period, including Christmas trees, printed Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, and eating turkey (instead of the traditional goose) and eating a Christmas pudding.



Community Larders / Warm Spaces

Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church Community Larder, 12 Upper Grosvenor Road, TN1 2EP

Tuesdays from 1pm – 2:30pm

You are invited to come and choose from a selection of **fresh fruit and veg, chilled meats, bakery items, chocolate, tinned goods and more**. You will leave with a bag of groceries for a recommended donation of £2. Please bring your own bags.

Please email for any further information: communitylarder@twbc.org.uk

The **Community Cafe** is open each **Tuesday from 11.00am - 1.00pm** in the main church Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to come along for hot drinks and cakes for a donation. No need to book.

St Philip's Community Larder, Birken Road, TN2 3TE

Tuesday from 12pm-1pm is the Community Larder where you can get a top up on food. Bring a carrier bag or a few and a little bit of money for a donation.

St Mark's Community Larder, St Mark's Road TN2 5LU

Wednesday afternoons. £3 suggested donation for a large bag of food and toiletries. To book a time slot for collection, please text 07984 523646 or email stmarkscommunitylarder@gmail.com

All very welcome

Christ Church Southborough Community Larder, Prospect Road, TN4 0EG

Thursdays - 12 noon to 1.00pm. If you'd like to donate items to our Community Larder you can do so through the collection basket located in Costcutter, London Road Southborough, or for larger donations email - dave@christchurchsouthborough.com

St Matthew's Community Larder

Friday morning - 9.30 - 10.45am at the Bethel Hall (between 25-27 High Brooms Road

Anyone can come to the community larder. There are no restrictions and no referral is needed. For a small donation of £3 you can take away a bag full of quality food.

For more information about the Community Larder, please visit the website <https://stmattscommunitylarder.co.uk/>

Rusthall Community Larder @ St Paul's Church Centre; High Street, Rusthall TN4

Friday - 12.30pm to 2.15pm. Suggested donation of £2 per bag.

Number One Community Centre; 1 Rowan Tree Rd, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5PX

Wednesdays; 9.15-10.30am

Warm Spaces

Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship - Tuesdays from 9am - 4pm

St Philip's Church - Wednesdays from 9am - 1pm

St Matthew's Church - Wednesdays from 10am - 4pm

Salvation Army - Wednesdays & Thursdays from 10am - 1.30pm

Christ Church (TW) - Tuesdays from 2-4pm & Thursdays from 10-12.

United Emmanuel - 2nd Tuesday of each month for Coffee Morning; 10-11.30am

Hawkenbury URC - 3rd Tuesday of each month for Coffee Morning; 10-11.30am

King Charles the Martyr Church Hall – Friday afternoon; 1.30-5.00pm

FREE Open Day at **PaintnGo!** 🎨



We're opening our doors for a FREE Open Day this Saturday 20th December 12 - 4pm at our Tunbridge Wells studio.

Come and experience Paint'n'Go in action as we:
Complete a brand new community mural live
Reveal our UV Neon Art wall (trust us, it's dramatic)
Try mini painting tasters - no booking, no experience needed
Watch creative demos, tour the studio & meet the team

This is your chance to see what collaborative, messy, joyful painting is all about - whether you're curious, creative, or just fancy something different to do locally.

📍 53B Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday 20th December | 12-4pm
Free entry | All welcome

Pop in, pick up a brush and witness the magic ✨

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:

Our Stars this week are: Jamshed, Isabella, Grayson, Gianluca, Lucy, Khloe, Catherine, Fred, Asu, Darius, Evie, Saanvi, Layla and Lovinia.

Special mention to Edward (and Henry) who helped distribute St Barnabas Church Cards.

Well done to our Chess competitors: Trophies—Billy and Taisiia, Silver medals for Elijah, Debbie and Dexter, Bronze medals for Brijesh, Francesco and Luca. Lucky dip prizes were chosen by Dylan, Aaron, Fred, Daniel, Rayaansh, Spencer and Christian. A bonus prize went to Fred for being the very helpful and for beating Mr Fagg the chess teacher in a game!

This week our team point winners are Angels!

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, Mrs Pring and Miss Burkinshaw.

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...

Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 5th January 2026!

With best wishes,
Moirra Duncombe