

# St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

**Newsletter Friday 16th January 2026**

*Each child is uniquely created and loved by God.*

[www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)



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

We found out about Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple.

## 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: 96%



## This Week...

Water still seems to be a main focus of Tunbridge Wells life at the moment! If it is not shortage of water (or none) it is the amount of rain! Some of our other school colleagues have had a really tough time this week with extremely limited information being shared with them or changing at the very last minute. They and we are all hopeful that the situation is solved quickly and effectively.

During curriculum time and at playtimes we try and make sure the children have the opportunity to have some fresh air, which is why it is so important that they wear a coat to school every day and we remind them to wear it at break and lunch times. Throughout their time outside we carefully monitor the conditions and if it is too wet, children will go back inside. They are also able to change clothes if necessary when they are back in class.

Our clubs have started again this week and the children are very enthusiastic. Mrs Pring and I had a lovely Lego club with the children building amazing models. Our Football club played well even if they had to change their venue to the hall rather than the field! Please can we ask that if your child is unable to attend their club one week to let the office know.

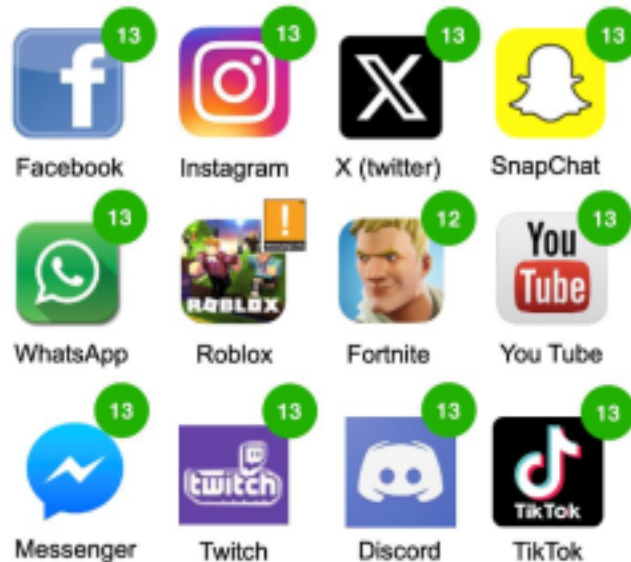
Next week our Young Voices group will be going to sing at the O2 and we look forward to singing and dancing with many, many other schools. They will share with you their experiences next week.

Acorn class are looking for volunteers to read with their children. If you are available, please do let the school office know. The children are very keen and would love to read with others.

The annual **Winter Lantern Parade** will be taking place in Tunbridge Wells on 7th February 2026—please see the last page.

I saw this on another school website and thought it might be interesting to see:

**Age ratings exist to help protect your child**, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing.



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online or using social media – make sure you check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI (Pan European Game Information) provide further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence or bad language.

### What else should I review?

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls. For example, does it include the ability to communicate with others and are in game/app purchases available?

### What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child and how they protect them.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

### Further information

You can find out more here:

<https://eegamesmart.co.uk/articles/how-age-ratings-help-families/>

## 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: Bryan, Oscar F, Jewel, Leo, Lucy, Aiden, Bella, Jewel, Atiyyah, Francesco, Benedita, Teddy and Victor.

Well done to Lily, Juan and Adam for achieving their handwriting awards.

This week our team point winners are Saints.

*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](mailto:acorn@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)

Willow: [willow@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](mailto:willow@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)

Beech: [beech@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](mailto:beech@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)

Maple: [maple@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](mailto:maple@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)

Chestnut: [chestnut@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](mailto:chestnut@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)

Lilac: [lilac@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](mailto:lilac@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)

Oak: [oak@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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

7th February 5:30 pm  
From Calverley Precinct  
Tunbridge Wells

winter  
Lanterns  
A CREATE PRODUCTION

# WINTER LANTERN PARADE 2026

**Join the parade!**

**This year's theme is  
'Monsters' and you can  
make your own lantern  
at one of our workshops**

Book a workshop:  
[bit.ly/3qMkj6m](https://bit.ly/3qMkj6m)



WinterLanternParade



createtwells



WinterLanterns.org



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