THE FEDERATION OF BARNEHURST SCHOOLS

Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

At this time of year, we know that some of our families are finding out the results of the 11+ tests. Whatever the outcome, we want to remind everyone that a test result does not determine your child's future.

At Barnhurst, we see every day that our children have so many different skills, strengths and talents. Every child has something to be proud of, and no single test can capture all that they are capable of. We are incredibly proud of our children and all that they achieve in so many different ways.

A reminder that this half term finishes on Friday 23rd October, and we will finish at our normal school time.

For families who are new to Barnehurst, at the end of each full term (Christmas, Easter and Summer) we finish slightly earlier. More information about this will be shared next term.

From Mrs Hunter and The Federation of Barnehurst team

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Admissions and transition

This is a reminder to our Nursery, Year 3 and Year 6 parents that this is the time of the year that you will be completing your admissions for reception class, year 3 or year 7. Please make sure you do not miss the deadlines for the local authority you live in.

Up coming events

Monday 12th
- Wonder Forest School (am)
- Earhart- Hall Place trip
- Young Voices Rehearsals

Tuesday 13th
- Armstrong- Hall Place trip

Wednesday 14th
- Year 5 Tate Modern trip
- Forest School -Armstrong (am), Attenborough (pm), Hawking (am)

Thursday 15th
- Turing Forest School (pm)
- Work alongside Year 6 at 9am
- Assembly for World Food Day

Friday 16th
- Hawking Forest School (am)
- World Food Day

Monday 19th
- Flu Immunisation
- Lost Property will be out this week
- Kahlo Forest School (am)
- Young Voices Rehearsals
- Halloween Disco - PTA to send out info soon

Wednesday 21st
- Floss visits Armstrong class
- Forest School - Curie (am), Earhart (am), Maathai (pm)
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Thursday 22nd
- Work alongside Year 5 at 9am
- Gandhi Forest School day

Friday 23rd
- Attendance winners
- Newsletter 4
- End of term

ClassDojo - celebrating and connecting our school community

ClassDojo will now be our main platform for sharing highlights from our classrooms and across the school. It gives families a regular window into school life and a place to celebrate the children's learning, achievements and experiences.

On Class Stories, you will see:
- Highlights of classroom learning and activities.
- Celebrations of children's effort, progress and achievements.
- Class updates and reminders about upcoming activities.

On School Stories, you will see:
- Whole-school news, announcements and reminders.
- Highlights from assemblies, events and special occasions.
- Celebrations of achievements across our school community.

You can manage alerts through your phone or tablet's **Settings → Notifications → ClassDojo**; the exact wording may vary by device. You can also unsubscribe from email alerts using the link at the bottom of a ClassDojo notification email. If you switch off notifications, you must check both Class Stories and School Stories regularly so that you do not miss important updates.

We are moving away from showing children's faces on public platforms such as Facebook due to the increasing risk of Artificial Intelligence (AI). We still want to celebrate our children, so, where the appropriate parental consent is in place, we will share photographs showing children's faces on ClassDojo. Its restricted class and school audiences provide a more private setting for sharing these moments than public social media.

To protect everyone's privacy, parents, carers and children must not repost or share Class Stories or School Stories on other platforms, or take screenshots to share more widely.

Please help us keep these celebrations within our school community.

WE'VE CHANGED THE ANGLE, NOT THE STORY

Celebrating *every* moment. Protecting *every* child.

Dear parents and carers,

We will be changing the way in which we share images of our children online.

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we're adapting how we showcase school life in response to growing concerns around the use and manipulation of children's images, including through AI.

This doesn't mean we will stop sharing the wonderful moments happening in school. It simply means we've changed the angle.

Moving forward, you'll see more:

BACKS OF HEADS
We can still show the moments that matter.

HANDS ON CONTENT
Learning, exploring and creating without showing faces.

SIDE FACING PHOTOS (WITH PERMISSION)
Only when we have consent from parents/carers.

Our aim is simple: to celebrate the learning, creativity, friendships and special moments that make our school such a wonderful place, while taking every step we can to protect our children's privacy and safety.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we make this important change.

Classroom Dojo will be the only place we will continue to share front facing photos of children (who have permission).

Autumn term survey

CLICK HERE

Your thoughts and opinions are important to us and help ensure we continue to provide the very best education and support for our pupils.
The survey only takes a few minutes to complete, and every response is valued. Thank you for your continued support.

PTA donation request

The PTA are wanting to set up a Christmas jumper swap later this term but would like to ask for any donations of unwanted preloved washed Christmas jumpers in preparations for the swap. If you are wanting to rather wait for the swap day that is also an option, but if anyone has a few laying around at home we would love to have them.
They are also asking for any soft toys to be donated

These can be brought down to the school bunker on a Friday behind the Den.

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Yellow Day

Thank You 💛

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Hello Yellow Day. By wearing yellow, joining in activities and talking about mental health and wellbeing, you helped raise awareness and showed the importance of being kind, supportive and looking after one another.
We are incredibly proud of how enthusiastically you got involved and helped spread such an important message across our school community.
Together, we can help make talking about mental health normal and ensure everyone knows it's okay to ask for help. 💛

Attendance this week

Hoy	90.16%
Simmonds	97.50%
Farrah	98.53%
Kahlo	97.32%
Wonder	95.86%
Armstrong	98.28%
Earhart	96.45%
Attenborough	96.67%
Maathai	93.79%
Hawking	91.67%
Curie	97.33%
Rashford	98.00%
Pankhurst	99.00%
Gandhi	100.00%
Parks	95.33%
Turing	99.00%
Malala	95.67%

Little Wandle Phonics

Little Wandle Reading at Barnehurst

Over the autumn term we have introduced Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, our new phonics and early reading programme. Little Wandle provides a clear, structured approach to teaching phonics, helping children build confidence and fluency by reading books that closely match the sounds they have learned in school.

Reading at Home

We recognise that many parents have expressed reservations about using digital reading books. We value all your feedback and have listened carefully to the views shared with us. As a result, we will be introducing physical Little Wandle reading books, beginning with our Foundation Stage children and Reception. Building a full collection of decodable books is a significant investment, so this will be phased in gradually to ensure that books accurately match the phonics sounds and knowledge being taught at each stage and we appreciate your patience as we develop this resource.

In the meantime, digital books will continue to provide valuable reading practice at home, helping children develop confidence, fluency and accuracy while our collection of physical books grows.

Children may read the same book more than once. Re-reading helps improve accuracy, fluency, confidence and expression.

How You Can Help

- Read with your child regularly.
- Listen to them read and celebrate success.
- Talk about stories, characters and new vocabulary.
- Continue reading books to your child, even when they can read independently.
- Look out for messages on our class Dojo for top tips.

ClassDojo

Find Out More

Visit the Little Wandle Parents' Page for videos, guidance and resources:

Click here.

How does it work?

Below are instructions of how to log onto the online book your child will be allocated. This will be linked to their phonics. They will have this book as well as a book to take home as part of the love of reading.

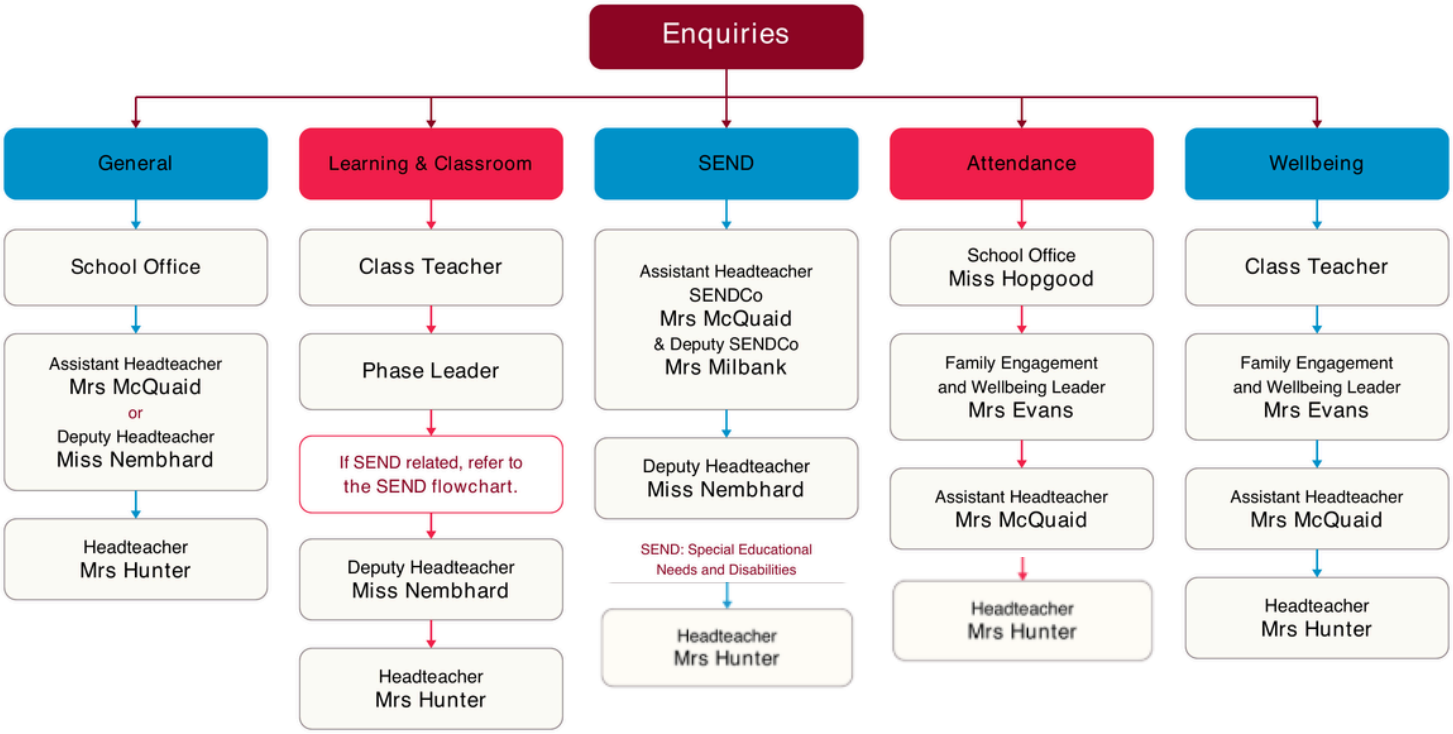
Click here for the Collins Big Cat Ebook Libraries Parent Guide

Most importantly, enjoy reading together!

THE FEDERATION OF BARNEHURST SCHOOLS

Communication is important to us!

We value open, respectful communication and believe a face-to-face conversation is often the best way to discuss questions or concerns. Please use our flowchart and platform guide to find the right person or channel, keep emails brief (ideally no more than eight lines), and request a meeting if a matter needs fuller discussion. Please follow our parent email guidelines, allow up to 48 working hours for an acknowledgement or initial response, and contact the school office first for urgent matters.



Platform		What it's for
	Arbor (App or webpage)	Our main app for formal communication. Letters, trips, consent, payments, clubs, parents' evening bookings and absence procedures. Check your child's details and tell the office about any changes.
	ClassDojo (App or webpage)	Class learning, celebrations, reminders, timetable changes and trips. School updates, parent newsletters and half-termly curriculum newsletters.
	Facebook & Instagram (App or webpage)	School news, achievements, admissions information and community updates. Individual pupil matters are not discussed on social media.
	Youtube (App or webpage)	School information videos, recordings of meetings and workshops, and practical guidance.
	School website	Policies, SEND information, curriculum plans, admissions and contact details. You can also find past parent and curriculum newsletters. Visit - barnehurstfederation.co.uk

Proud to be part of