THE FEDERATION OF BARNEHURST SCHOOLS



Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first term, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone for such a busy but incredibly rewarding few weeks. It has been wonderful to see how settled, happy and confident our children have become.

I am especially proud of our fantastic pupil leaders, who have embraced their responsibilities with such enthusiasm, carrying out a wide range of jobs around the school and making a real difference to our school community.

I would like to wish all our families, teachers and wonderful support staff a very restful and well-deserved break. Thank you for all that you do, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back next term!

From Mrs Hunter and The Federation of Barnehurst team.

Parent Survey

Our Parent Survey is now open!

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.

Complete the survey **CLICK HERE.**

Thank you for your continued support.

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Up coming events

Monday 2nd November
- INSET DAY

Tuesday 3rd November
- Children return to school
- Individual and Sibling photos

Wednesday 4th November
- Floss visits Rashford class
- Poppy sale starts
- Forest School AM- Armstrong and Hawking
- Forest School PM- Attenborough
- Year 2 local walk

Thursday 5th November
- Work alongside Year 4 at 9am
- Year 6 visits Erith Fire Station
- Forest School PM- Turing

Friday 6th November
- Year 2 in school visit -Mary Seacole

Monday 9th November
- Bikability Mornings this week
- Forest School AM - Kahlo
- Assembly - What is Remembrance day
- Young Voices Rehearsals

Tuesday 10th November
-

Wednesday 11th November
- Forest School AM - Curie and Earhart
- Forest School PM - Maathai
- Remembrance Assembly

Thursday 12th November
- Work alongside Year 2 at 9am
- Forest School PM- Malala
- Anti Bullying week assembly

Friday 13th November
-

Growing our community

We currently have a a few spaces in our afternoon Nursery.

If you are considering a place for your child, or know of any families who may be interested, please do spread the word!

We would love to welcome new children and families into our school community.

For further information or to enquire about a place, please contact our school office.

Thank you for helping us spread the word!





Governor spotlight

This term we would like to introduce each of our school governors. Starting with **Tom Ryan,** Chair of Governance

- **A little about me –** I've worked in education on and off for almost 30 years, starting my career as an environmental educator in Yorkshire. I'm particularly interested in early years education and inclusion, and my day job is working for a charity that supports teachers in about 5000 schools in the UK.
- **Why I became a governor –** I joined the Barnehurst governors through a great charity called Governors for Schools, who I used to share an office with. I wanted to use my experience of the education world to help a local school. I particularly enjoy supporting and challenging the leadership team to make sure every child at the school makes good progress.
- **Their particular area of responsibility** – as chair, I lead our governor meetings where we look at how the school is progressing and developing, and I also lead on making sure the school is improving its excellent teaching.
- I'm always touched by the genuine care that the Barnehurst staff team have for all the children at the school, and impressed by their commitment to always improve.
- **A fun fact** – I'm a busy parent, but spend some of my free time making music nobody really wants to listen to.
- **How parents can engage with governors** –If you'd like to get in touch, you can contact admin who will forward any emails. As governors, we don't get involved with the everyday running of the school or anything specific about individual pupils or team members, but we're always interested to hear about the school's priorities, the standard of education, how inclusive and welcoming it feels, and how the school team works with parents.

Inset days

The school will be closed to children on the following days this year:

Monday 2nd November
Monday 4 January
Monday 22 February

We would also like to inform you that the school has been asked to be a polling station again this year. This has not yet been 100% confirmed yet. If we are will then also be closed to pupils on **4th May 2028.**

Staff updates

For the first two weeks of next term Mr Palmer will be on paternity leave. We wish him all the best and can't wait to meet his little boy! Mr Cecil will be picking up PE sessions and afterschool clubs during this time.

Shane Isham had his last day as site assistant yesterday and we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Lord next term supporting Mr Shields.

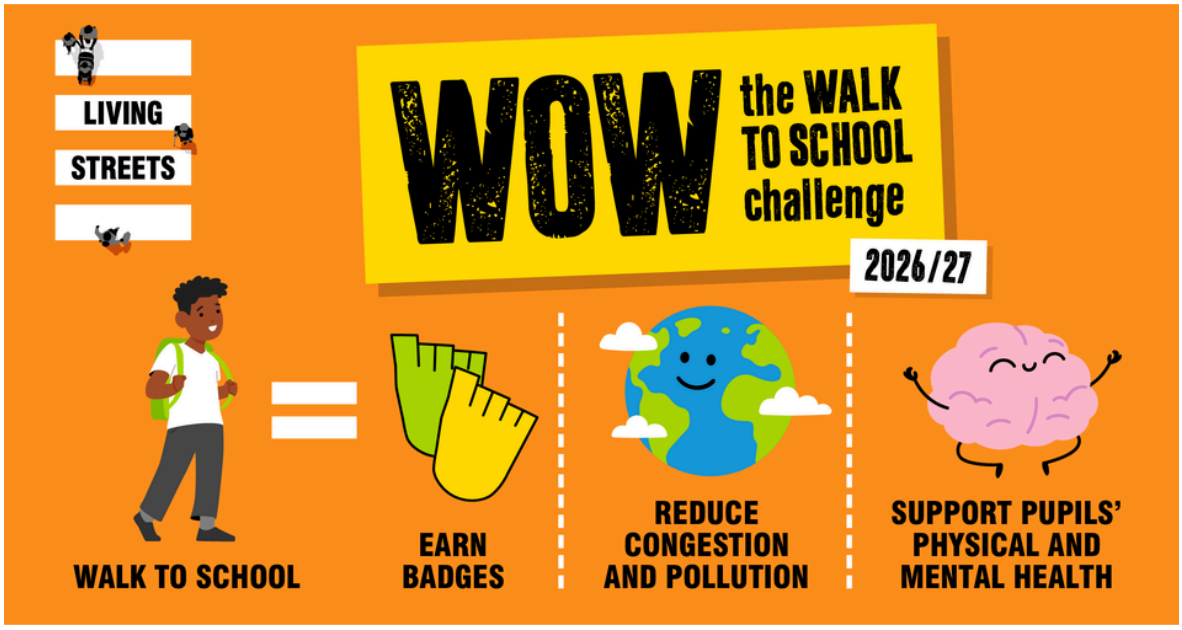
Attendance this week

Hoy	93.08%
Simmonds	90.00%
Farrah	95.00%
Kahlo	97.33%
Wonder	97.93%
Armstrong	95.86%
Earhart	98.06%
Attenborough	98.67%
Maathai	97.24%
Hawking	91.33%
Curie	95.00%
Rashford	95.00%
Pankhurst	99.33%
Gandhi	93.67%
Parks	96.00%
Turing	95.33%
Malala	91.67%

Community

WOW Walk to School Challenge - Week 1 Update

It has been a fantastic first week of our WOW Walk to School Challenge! Children from Reception to Year 6 have been getting involved by choosing more active journeys to school, helping to support their health and wellbeing while reducing traffic and pollution around our school. This initiative links closely with our Power of WE work, showing children how small everyday actions can contribute to a healthier, safer, and more sustainable community. Thank you to all families for supporting this exciting start!



Supporting our community and keeping our children safe

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of parking safely and considerately when dropping off and collecting children from school.

Please ensure that you respect all parking restrictions, including yellow lines and school keep-clear markings. These restrictions are in place for a very important reason – to keep our children and families safe by maintaining clear visibility and safe access around the school.

We also ask that you are mindful of our neighbours and do not block driveways or access to residents' properties, even for a short period of time. We have recently received concerns from local residents whose driveways have been blocked during collection time.

We appreciate that drop-off and pick-up times can be busy, but the safety of our children and consideration for our local community must always come first

Follow us on Facebook

click here

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Inclusion

Vacancies

We currently have a number of SEN Teaching Assistant vacancies available on fixed-term contracts, which will be reviewed later in the year.
If you have experience of working with children with additional needs and are passionate about making a difference, we would strongly encourage you to apply. This is a rewarding opportunity to work with some of our most wonderful children and play a key role in supporting their learning, development and wellbeing. We would be delighted to hear from you. **CLICK HERE** to see the advert.



EduKey

This year, we require **ALL** families to link to Edukey.

Once connected, the account then belongs to you and we cannot regenerate new codes. Instead, you will request a new password directly with the website if you've forgotten it.

As outlined in your letter, your child may have a blank profile and continue to do so. However, it is imperative that you ensure you have registered the account incase any provisions change in the future.

We have been informed that Edukey as a platform is down at the moment so please check again after the holiday if you have not yet liked your account.



Attendance this year



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We're thrilled to share that this half term, our attendance rates have remained well above the national average for both infants and juniors, reaching an impressive 96.66% for infants and 96.60% for juniors. This is a testament to our wonderful community's dedication and support.

As we continue to prioritise learning, we kindly remind families to plan holidays outside of term time to ensure our pupils don't miss out on valuable classroom experiences. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to your child's education.

Reminders

Dates in our calendar for the year

Monday 14th December	Nursery Xmas singalong	11am and 2.45pm performance
Thursday 17th December	9.30am Reception Xmas Singalong	**Adults only please – no younger children**
Tuesday 15th December	9.30am and 2pm Year 1 and 2 Nativity	**AM Younger siblings can attend** **PM Adults only please – no younger children**
Wednesday 16th December	9.30am and 2pm Year 4 and 5 Christmas play	**AM Younger siblings can attend** **PM Adults only please – no younger children**
Tuesday 25th May	Sports day – Actual Reception – Year 6	Infants 9:15 – 11:15 Juniors 1:30 – 3:30
Tuesday 29th June	Sports day – Back up day in case of cancellation	Infants 9:15 – 11:15 Juniors 1:30 – 3:30
Tuesday 22nd June	Nursery picnic- actual	10.30am Farrah Class 2.30pm Simmonds Class Hoy – either
Tuesday 6th July	Nursery picnic back up in case of cancellation	10.30am Farrah Class 2.30pm Simmonds Class Hoy – either
Wednesday 14th July	Year 6 End of Year production	**2 PM Younger siblings can attend**
Thursday 15th July	Year 6 End of Year production	**4:30 Evening Adults only please – no younger children**
Wednesday 21st July	Year 6 leavers assembly	9am (could run up to 2 hours)

Parent Consultations/Evening

Information will be sent via Arbor closer to the time to book.

	Day 1 3.30-6pm	**Day 2 3.30-6pm**
Autumn Term	Tuesday 24th November	Thursday 26th November
Spring Term	Tuesday 16th March	Thursday 18th March

Reminders

Dates for the year

Work Alongside Your Child

We are also going to be offering sessions to parents and carer to come into class and work alongside your child in their classroom. For Years 1-6 the morning will start with a brief session with a member of the Leadership Team in the infant hall, followed by a session completing at activity with your child in their classroom. The sessions will be from 9am-10am, unless otherwise stated.

Year group	Date
Nursery	Stay and play Wednesday 13th January 8.45am and 12.30pm
Reception	Stay and play Kahlo class 7th January 9.15am Wonder class 6th January 9.15am
Year 1 – Year 6 9 am – 10 am (starting in the infant hall)	
Year 1	12th January
Year 2	12th November
Year 3	3rd December
Year 4	5th November
Year 5	22nd October
Year 6	15th October

Class Assemblies

This year, as part the Power of Me, the children in Year 1 to Year 6 will be presenting an assembly for parents and carers about their Global Citizenship learning this year. Parents and carers are welcome to come along and watch their child perform. All performances will start at 14:45pm - Please note that if this finish early and children are packed up we can dismiss performing classes but unfortunately, we are not able to dismiss siblings until usual time.

Armstrong	18th January
Earhart	8th February
Attenborough	8th March
Maathai	1st February
Curie	22nd March
Hawking	17th May
Rashford	19th April
Pankhurst	24th May
Parks	26th April
Gandhi	15th March
Malala	25th January
Turing	1st March


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KEY INFO:
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• COMPETITIONS
• TOURNAMENTS
• 9AM - 3PM DAILY
• BRING OWN LUNCH
• AGES 4 - 12
(Reception - Year 7)
Barnehurst Primary School
Northumberland Heath
Kent, DA8 3NL
@coached.by.jp
WhatsApp
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Early Words Together

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FREE! for children aged 3-4

Join a FREE 7 week programme of fun sessions for children ages 3-4.

Includes free books!

Being held at Family Hubs and Network Sites across Bexley from November 2026.

Location:
Erith Best Start Family Hub
105 West Street, DA8 1AW

First session:
Tuesday 3rd November 2026
10 – 11am (Cuppa and Chat)

Following sessions:
Mondays
1 – 2pm

To book a place please email: childrenscentres@bexley.gov.uk

National Literacy Trust
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