THE FEDERATION OF BARNEHURST SCHOOLS



Friday 20 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, kindness and feedback. We truly value our wonderful school community and the relationships we share.

A gentle reminder that there are many ways to communicate with school, including our admin team, face-to-face conversations and year group emails. Please do respect the agreed line limit for emails, which helps protect our teachers' workload and wellbeing.

Alongside teaching our beautiful children, our teachers spend many hours planning, creating and preparing exciting learning experiences. If something needs a longer conversation, please arrange a meeting or request a phone call. We are always happy to talk things through. Thank you to everyone who supports these guidelines.

Thank you also for your patience during last week's Microsoft issues. We are catching up on emails and have noticed that some school messages are going into parents' spam folders. We haven't gone quiet, I promise! Please check your junk folders so you don't miss important updates.

As December approaches, so does the wonderful magic of Christmas! Alongside the excitement and sparkle, it is also a time to remember the importance of giving — not just gifts, but our time, love and kindness. These are the things that matter most.
Thank you for all you do to make our school community so special.

From Mrs Hunter and The Federation of Barnehurst team.

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Up coming events

Monday 23rd November
- Young Voices Rehearsals
- Forest School AM- Kahlo
- Nursery Parents Evening 8:30-10am

Tuesday 24th November
- Parent consultation meetings

Wednesday 25th November
- Forest School AM- Curie & Earhart
- Forest School PM- Maathai

Thursday 26th November
- Forest School PM- Malala
- Parent consultation meetings

Friday 27th Novemeber

Monday 30th November
- Forest School AM- Wonder
- Young Voices Rehearsals
- Bexley Voice coffee morning

Tuesday 1st December
-

Wednesday 2nd December
- Floss visits Curie
- Forest School AM- Armstrong & Hawking
- Forest School PM- Attenborough

Thursday 3rd December
- Reception trip to St Pauls church
- Forest School PM- Turing
- Work alongside Year 3 at 9-10am
- Flu Immunisation catch up

Friday 4th December
- Newsletter

Foodbank

As we approach the Christmas holidays, we would like to support families within our Barnehurst community who may need a little extra help this festive season. We are also collecting donations for our local food bank.
If you are able to contribute, we would be very grateful for **donations** of non-perishable food items such as tinned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, biscuits, long-life milk, tea, coffee, and festive treats.

To allow us time to sort and prepare our Christmas hampers before the end of term, please send any donations into school with your child before we break up for Christmas. The final date for donations is **Friday 8th January**, although earlier donations would be greatly appreciated to help us create and distribute the hampers in time for the festive period.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your support can make a real difference to families in our community during the Christmas season.



School developments

We are excited to share that the junior school toilet projects have come to an end and we are now at full capacity going forward. Staff are excited to have their staff toilets back as the queue at lunch and playtimes for the one adult toilet has been fun. Thank you everyone!

In addition to this we are currently in communication with a lighting company and we will be upgrading all lights across the school to more energy efficient LEDs.

This project will start soon and the workers will be in over the evenings to not impact the running of the school day.

Parent Consultations

We are looking forward to welcoming all parents and carers to our Parent Consultation Meetings next week.

As each appointment is 10 minutes long, we have provided an outline of the agenda below so that you know what will be discussed. To ensure that all meetings run on time and out of respect for families waiting for their appointments, teachers may need to bring discussions to a close if time is running short. If there are any matters that require a longer conversation, a separate meeting can be arranged.

During the autumn term, the focus is on how your child has settled into their new year group, their wellbeing, and their progress so far. Please note that we will not be looking through children's books during these meetings

1. Welcome and opening questions
2. How your child is settling
3. Wellbeing and Friendships
4. Attitude to learning
5. Academic progress
6. Targets and next steps (including assessments where completed)

Oh no they didn't! Oh yes they did!

A massive thank you to our PTA who have paid for the fantastic M&M theatrical productions to perform the much love yearly pantomime to our Reception to Year 6 pupils later this month.

It is always a fantastic time - they come with fantastic acting, props and lots of laughter when the teachers get up on stage and make a fool out of themselves.

They have also bought for us some new bike racks and also a shed for the junior playground resources which the children use for outdoor junk modeling play.

Thank you Friends of Barnehurst for all the time and effort into both making sure fun enrichments are available to all our children and also all the time you give up planning and running so many school events.
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



Attendance this week

Hoy	96.92%
Simmonds	87.50%
Farrah	96.92%
Kahlo	94.67%
Wonder	93.62%
Armstrong	97.24%
Earhart	99.68%
Attenborough	92.33%
Maathai	94.14%
Hawking	98.33%
Curie	97.33%
Rashford	99.33%
Pankhurst	99.31%
Gandhi	95.67%
Parks	93.67%
Turing	94.67%
Malala	95.86%

Governor Spotlight

Dean Gardiner - Trust appointed Governor - Safeguarding Governor

Dean has been a member of HM Prison Service since 1991 and is the Network Lead for St John Ambulance in Bexley and Greenwich. Originally he became a Governor as his son was a pupil back until 2006. He has remained a Governor after his son left. He has seen the two schools merge and the massive developments around the school in all areas.

Dean is the Governor responsible for Safeguarding, Prevent lead and he is the link with the RSHE syllabus.

“I am proud of the massive improvements in activity areas in the grounds and the feeling of being one school despite separate buildings.”

“A fun fact – St John has almost 300 members in Bexley and Greenwich and always looks for more!”

Tom (Chair of Governors) received an award at our trust Governors day for modeling PFT values!



Dean received a special award for 30 years of governance service!

Staffing update

Karma, our wrap around care supervisor will be taking on a new role in the base to give her further time to spend with her grandson. This means we have an opportunity for a new wrap around care supervisor.

For many of our families, breakfast and after-school club mark the start and end of the school day. We are looking for a warm, organized and dependable wrap-around Care Supervisor to lead that provision for children aged 4 to 11 across our infant and junior schools.

They will run the club day to day, lead a small team of wrap-around care assistants, and make sure every child feels safe, settled and happy, whether that means a calm breakfast, a game outside or a quiet corner to read.

If you are interested or know of anyone who would be please ask them to apply here. Closing date for aplications is this weekend!
See the advert **HERE**

SAFEGUARDING

Who do I speak to or contact if I have a Safeguarding concern about a child or an adult?



Designated Safeguarding Lead
Tamara Hunter
Head Teacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Nicki Evans
Family Engagement and Wellbeing Leader





Designated Safeguarding Officer
Candice Nembhard
Deputy Head



Designated Safeguarding Officer
Claire McQuaiud
Assistant Head



Designated Safeguarding Officer
Nicola Millbank
Deputy SENCO

If any member of staff or the school community has any concerns about a child they must report their concerns immediately to the Head Teacher or any other Designated Officer who will report it to the Headteacher.

If your cocnern is related to a memeber of staff, please report to **Mrs Hunter**.

If your concern is related to the Safeguarding Lead (**Mrs Hunter**) please contact our **Trust DSL** -

John Bryant

The Local Authroty Designated Officer (**LADO**) can be contacted on -

0203 045 3436/0203 045 4645 LADO@bexley.gov.uk

Remember - Safeguarding is everyone's responsabilty.
However big or small your cocnern is
REPORT IT!

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Believing, Achieving and Succeeding Together

At the Federation of Barnehurst Schools, we believe that looking after our emotional wellbeing and mental health is just as important as looking after our physical health.
We want every child to feel happy, safe, valued and supported. We know that when children feel secure, develop positive relationships and have a sense of belonging, they are better able to learn, grow and achieve their potential.

Our commitment to wellbeing is at the heart of everyday school life. From the moment children arrive at school, through their lessons, playtimes, friendships and wider experiences, we aim to create an environment where everyone feels they belong.

We recognise that everyone experiences challenges and difficult emotions from time to time. Our role is to help children understand their feelings, develop strategies to manage them and know that there is always someone they can turn to for support.

We have updated our strategy this year both inline with updated research, our school priorities and also the futher development of our schools curriculum.

It focuses on six key areas:

- Belonging and positive relationships
- Understanding emotions and building resilience
- Early help and additional support
- Staff wellbeing
- Working together with families
- Listening, learning and improving

At Barnehurst, we believe that every child has strengths, talents and the potential to achieve great things.
Through our Power of ME approach, we help children develop confidence, independence, resilience and a positive understanding of themselves.



Children are encouraged to:

- Believe in themselves and recognise their strengths.
- Understand and express their thoughts and feelings.
- Keep trying when things feel challenging.
- Develop independence and make positive choices.
- Reflect on their experiences and celebrate their progress.
- Show kindness, respect and understanding towards others.
- Use their voice and know that their opinions matter.
- We also celebrate the Power of WE, recognising that working together, supporting one another and building positive relationships makes our school community stronger.

These along with our values are woven throughout our curriculum, assemblies, relationships and everyday school experiences.

CARING ME SAFE ME RESPONSIBLE ME

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Supporting Wellbeing Every Day

Wellbeing at Barnehurst is not something that happens only during a special lesson or event. It is part of our everyday approach to teaching, learning and caring for children.
We support children's emotional development through positive relationships, welcoming classrooms, opportunities to talk about feelings, supportive routines and activities that promote confidence and resilience.
Children are encouraged to develop friendships, recognise when they need support and learn strategies to help them manage their emotions.
Our approach also includes developing children's communication skills, independence, self-regulation and ability to work positively with others.

Extra Support When Children Need It
Every child is different, and we understand that some children may need additional emotional support at different times.
Our school has an established approach to identifying and supporting children's individual wellbeing needs.
Alongside everyday classroom support, we offer a range of targeted approaches and interventions to help children who may be experiencing emotional, social or behavioural difficulties.
Our Inclusion and Wellbeing Teams work closely with teachers, children and families to identify appropriate support.
We also work with external professionals and services when further guidance or specialist input is needed.

When Coming to School Feels Difficult
We recognise that some children may experience worries or anxiety about attending school.
There may be many reasons why a child finds school difficult, and we understand the importance of listening carefully to children and their families.
Our approach to emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA) focuses on understanding each child's experience, building trust and working together to find supportive ways forward.
We work in partnership with families and, where appropriate, other professionals to help children feel safe, connected and confident in school.
If your child is finding school difficult or becoming increasingly worried about attending, please talk to us as early as possible so we can work together.

Supporting Our Staff
The wellbeing of our staff is an important part of our whole-school approach.
We know that children benefit from being surrounded by adults who feel supported, valued and confident in their roles.
We are committed to promoting a positive working environment through supportive relationships, professional development, staff voice and a continued focus on wellbeing and work-life balance.
By supporting the adults in our school community, we help create the best possible environment for our children.

Working Together with Families
We believe that positive relationships between home and school are essential to children's wellbeing.
Parents and carers know their children best, and we value the opportunity to work together to support their emotional development.
We encourage families to share concerns, ask questions and talk openly with us when their child needs support.
Whether your child is experiencing worries, friendship difficulties, changes at home or challenges with confidence, we are here to listen and help.

Inclusion

A reminder of our Bexley Voice Coffee Morning taking place at Barnehurst Federation on **Tuesday 30th November 2026 at 9:10am .**

This is a valuable opportunity for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to meet with representatives from Bexley Voice, ask questions, and learn more about the support available both locally and nationally.

During the session, Bexley Voice will provide information on:

· What Bexley Voice is and how they support families
· SEN Support and Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans
· Local and national organisations that can offer guidance and support
· The Bexley Local Offer and services available to families

Bexley Voice Coffee Morning - 30th November 9.10am start – Fill in form





We encourage all parents and carers of children with SEND to attend, including:

· Children currently receiving SEN Support
· Children with an EHC Plan
· Children awaiting assessment or diagnosis
· Children with additional needs who are not currently on the school's SEN Register

Tea and coffee will be available, providing an informal opportunity to meet other parents and carers and speak with the Bexley Voice team.

Friends of Barnehurst PTA need you!

PTA is made up of only a few members and we are actively seeking other members to join to keep the tradition going.

Some events that PTA have put on in recent years

- Summer Inflatable Day
- School Discos
- Easter Bunny
- Christmas Fun Day
- Someone Special Days
- Charity Fun Run
- Year 6 Prom

Without the PTA these events cannot run.
Please if you wish to be involved get in contact.

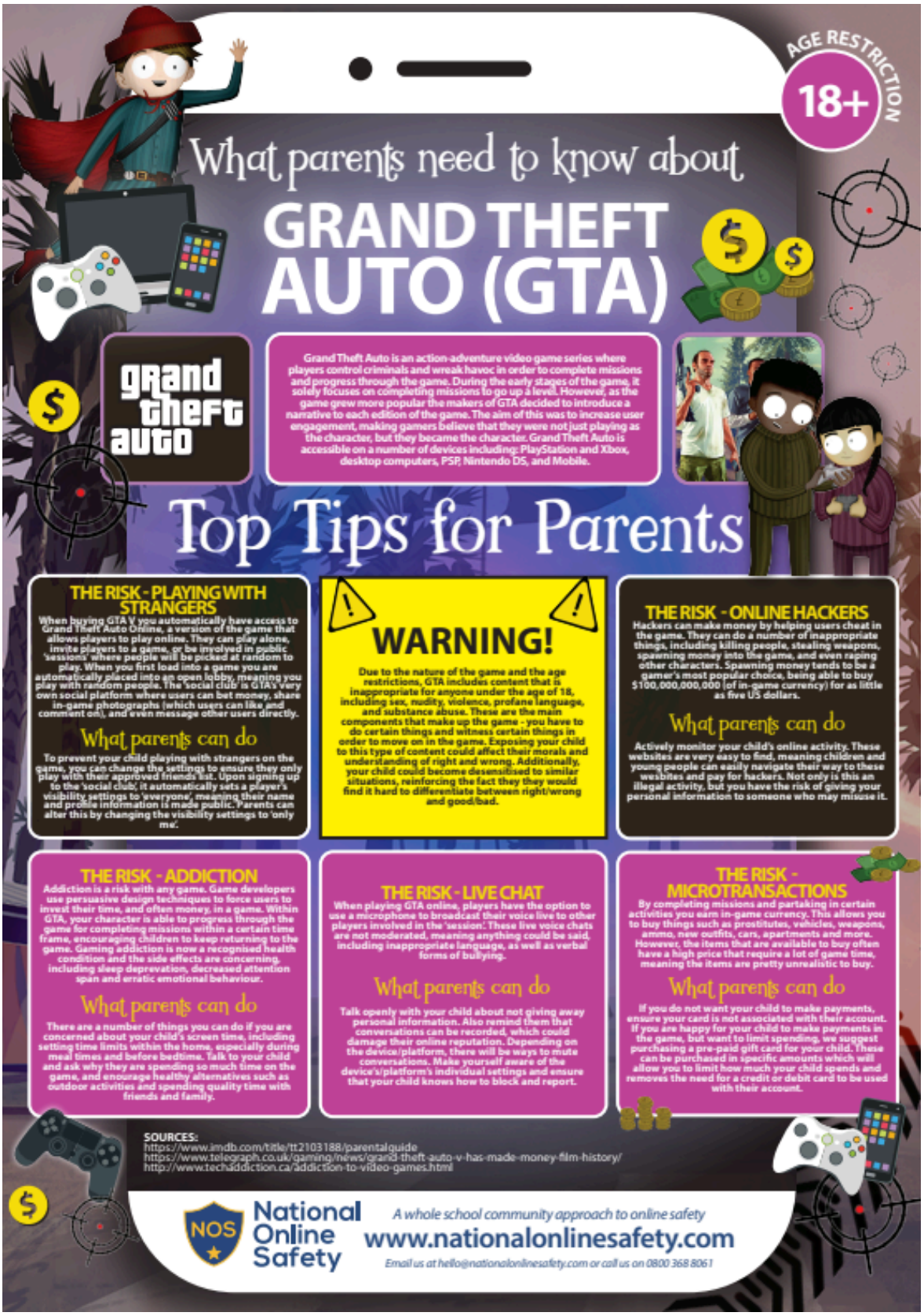
If you cannot commit to joining the PTA as a member, we also seek volunteers for the events that we run.

Please email
Friendsofbarnehurst@gmail.com
if you would like to know more

Follow us on Facebook

CLICK HERE

With the release of the new Grand Theft Auto game, we wanted to share some advice and guidance around the game.
If you have any questions or need further advice, please do get in touch.



DATES

For any events starting at 9:30am - please exit the school playground and line up at the school gates. This allows us time to register the children and get them to the hall safely.
Thank you

Important Dates and events this term!

Thursday 3rd December	Year 3 work alongside	See separate letter. 9am - 10am.
Monday 14th December	Nursery Xmas Singalong	In Nursery : 11am and 2:45pm
Thursday 15th December	9:30 am and 2pm Year 1 and 2 Nativity	AM younger siblings can attend. PM adults only please - no younger children
Thursday 17th December	Reception Xmas Singalong	9:30am start. Adults only please - no younger children.
Friday 11th December	Christmas Fun day	PTA letter to come out soon. Children may wear Christmas jumpers and accessories with their school uniform.
Friday 11th December	Christmas cards	If your child choosing to send cards to their friends please bring all cards in on this day
Friday 11th December	Panto	Reception - Year 6 to watch Sleeping Beauty pantomime
Thursday 17th December	Christmas cards	All Christmas cards will come home on this day
Thursday 17th December	Xmas lunch!	Christmas jumpers may be worn along with uniform and Christmas accessories.
Friday 18th December	Christmas church service	Year 3 - 6 are invited - Separate letter will come out soon
Friday 18th December	Break up day	Early finish end of FULL term. Infants Reception - Year 2 : 2pm Juniors and Nursery: 2:10pm