



Barnsole Bulletin



TERM 1 | WEEK 2 | Friday 19th September

Content

- Message from Mr Smales
- House Points
- Safeguarding
- Nursery
- Year R
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6
- Phonics Workshop
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- MCAS Reminder
- Primary and Secondary Applications
- Attendance
- Dates for the Diary
- Maritime Skills Academy
- Safeguarding Tips

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been great welcoming everyone back to Barnsole for the start of the new school year. There's always something special about September – fresh starts, new routines and that sense of possibility that comes with the year ahead. I'm delighted to say that the children have settled back into school life really positively, showing us already that they are ready to learn and eager to do their best. One of the key messages we've been talking about as a school is the importance of setting good routines and expectations early on. Whether it's arriving at school on time, being ready to learn, or showing kindness and respect to others, these small habits make a big difference to how successful the year will be. Thank you for supporting us with this at home – it really does help the children to feel secure, confident and ready for the challenges of the term. You may also have noticed some changes around the school site. Over the summer, a little decorating has gone a long way! Fresh white paint and new carpets have really lifted the atmosphere in some corridors and classrooms, and it has been lovely to hear children comment on how bright and welcoming thing feels. We are also especially pleased with our new Satellite Rooms, now available in both the Infants and Juniors. These spaces provide a more bespoke learning environment for some of our pupils, allowing them to thrive in a setting that truly meets their needs. The feedback we've had from parents has been fantastic – many have told us how much happier their children are since joining the Satellite Rooms, which is exactly what we hoped for.

All in all, it's been a brilliant start to the year – here's to the term ahead!

Best wishes,
Mr J Smales



House Points (Overall Total for the Academic Year)



Invicta



Medway



Gordon



Adams





If you have concerns about a child in school, please contact one of the Safeguarding team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Jonathan Smales (Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Liz Kramer (Deputy Headteacher)

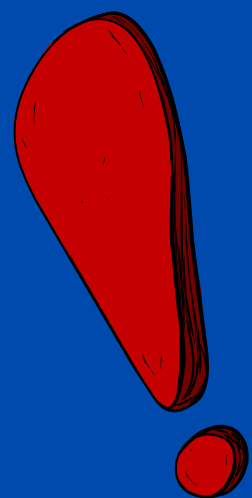
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Nicole Barber (Assistant Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Stephanie Tollervey (Assistant Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Michelle Kagan (FLO)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Helen Rixon (Office Manager)

If you are concerned about a child outside of school, either after school, at the weekends or during a school holiday, you can contact the following to report your concerns:



Helpful Contact Numbers

Medway Children Services – 01634 334466

Out of Hours Duty Team Medway – 03000 414141

NSPC – 0800 800 500

Police – 101

[Medway.gov.uk/mscb/](https://www.medway.gov.uk/mscb/)

Nursery

Nursery have been engaging in carpet time activities to increase their attention and listening skills, as well as practising taking turns whilst waiting for our turn on the trampoline.



Year R

Reception have had a fantastic start to their school year. We have had lots of fun getting to know each other and getting very messy in the process!



Year 1

Last week our Year One classes had a special visit from Jeremy from the museum. He brought along some of his fascinating toys to share with us, and the children loved exploring how different they were from the toys we play with today. It was a fun and engaging way to learn about the past, and everyone enjoyed asking questions and hearing Jeremy's stories.



Year 2

We have some marvellous mathematicians in Year 2. They have been working hard exploring the number system up to 100 and have impressed us with their partitioning skills. The use of Dienes blocks has really helped them visualise numbers and understand concepts more deeply. We have also seen fantastic collaboration as they work together, supporting one another beautifully.



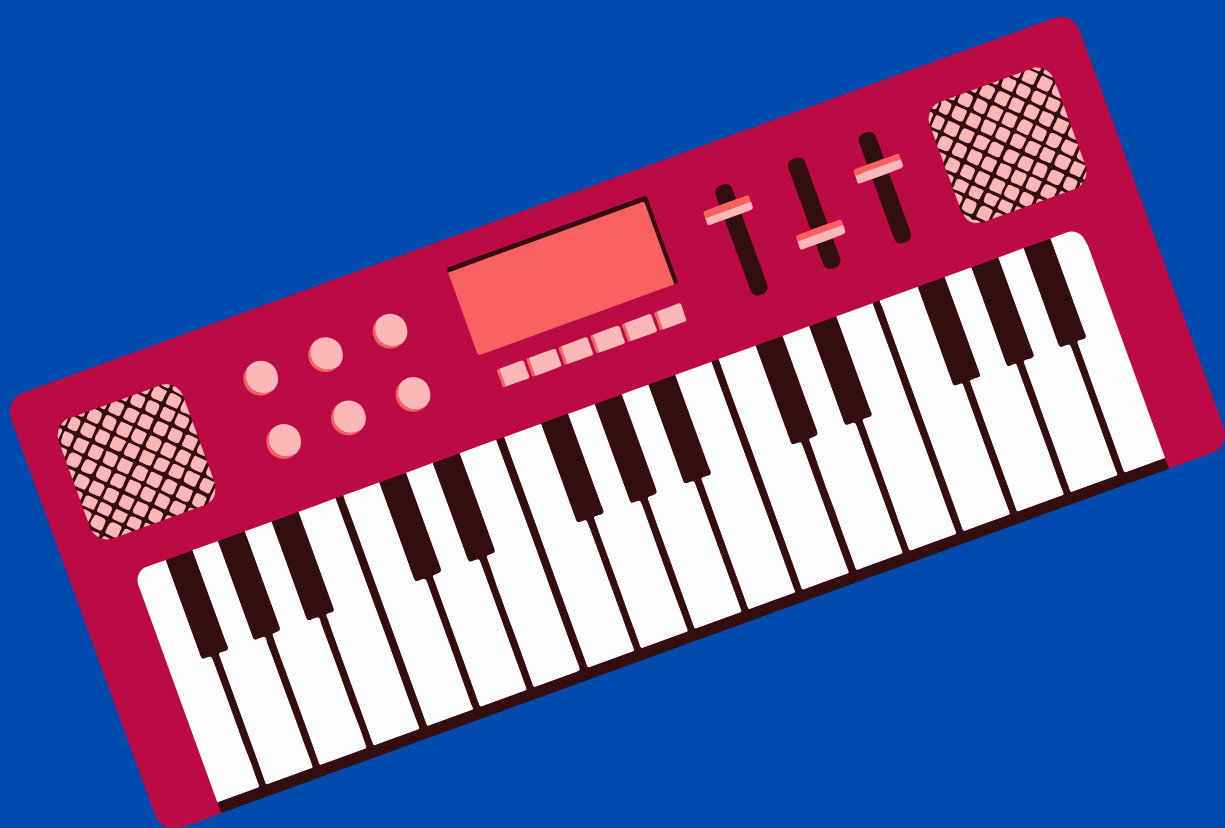
Year 3

In Year 3, we have been getting used to being in the Juniors and immersing ourselves in our new topic called Through the Ages. We have enjoyed being hunters on the playground using foam darts and hoops, created cave art whilst sitting under tables and built tools in the style of those that Stone Age people might have used. This gave us an insight into what life could have been like in those times. We are looking forward to finding out more!



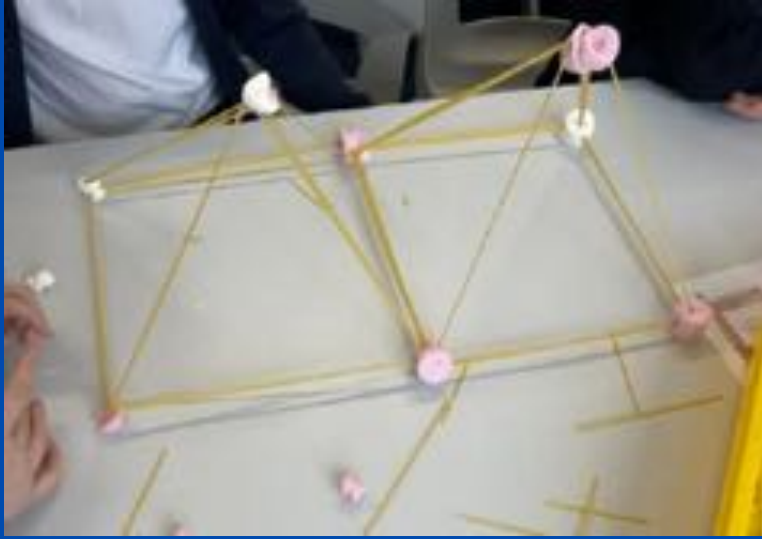
Year 4

Year 4 have made a fantastic start to the new school year and have settled into their classes exceptionally well, quickly becoming familiar with new routines and expectations. This week, the children have begun learning to play the keyboard with Mrs Tutty, exploring the different keys and practising correct finger positioning like true pianists. In history, they have been discovering why the Anglo-Saxons invaded Britain and learning about the complications and battles that followed. Out on the field, they have been developing their skills in tag rugby, focusing on attacking play and teamwork. We are so proud of their enthusiasm and hard work—well done, Year 4!



Year 5

Year 5 have kicked off the term brilliantly with a fantastic Egyptian Day! The children threw themselves into a range of exciting, hands-on activities – from mummifying fish and trying out hieroglyphic writing to constructing pyramids with spaghetti and marshmallows. It was a joy to see so much imagination, teamwork, and enthusiasm shining through. A huge well done to Year 5!



Year 6

Year 6 have been exploring the difference between homemade and shop-bought bread. First, we became food critics – tasting supermarket bread and describing its flavour, smell, and texture. Then it was time to get our hands messy! We weighed ingredients carefully, mixed and kneaded dough, and learnt some new baking vocabulary, including the word “prove”. After baking our loaves, we compared the results with the shop version.

Opinions were divided – some preferred the soft and uniform slices from the supermarket, while others loved the smell and texture of our homemade bread. Either way, we all agreed it was a fun (and tasty) lesson!





PHONICS WORKSHOPS

We would like to let you know that Phonics workshops are on the way. As a result of last year's successful workshops and listening to your comments and suggestions, we have been working hard to plan some dates for two phonics workshops before the end of this term. The workshops are a great opportunity to come into school and meet other parents and share how children learn phonics, in order to help them read. You will also be offered an opportunity to join your children during a phonics lesson. We would love to see as many parents as possible, please look out for the dates coming soon!



Macmillan Coffee Morning



We are very pleased to let you know that our school will once again be taking part in the national Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 26th September in the Infant Hall. This is always a wonderful event and a lovely way to come together as a school community while raising money for a fantastic cause.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us in the hall for tea, coffee and cake during their child's year group time slot. If you are interested in attending, please complete this google form. Please bring your own mug with you to help the environment.

Please note we will be limited for space so we ask that only one adult attends per child.

Please let the office know if you are able to help on the day.

Nursery – Yr R will be 9.00am to 9.30am

Yr 1 & Yr 2 will be 9.35am to 10.05am

Yr 3 & Yr 4 will be 10.10am to 10.40am

Yr 5 & Yr 6 will be 10.45am to 11.15am

If you would like to join us, please complete this google form:

<https://forms.gle/4Es7R4hRKcTaSxyq8>



Please can you check your child's MCAS profile to make sure all your contact details and permissions are up to date. If you have any changes, please email office@barnsole-maritime.org



Our school and Trust operates a zero-debt policy. Therefore, all wraparound care sessions must be booked and paid for at least 24 hours in advance.

Please check your child's MCAS account and pay any outstanding debt. Moving forward if your child's account is in debt, we will not be able to admit them to any wraparound care sessions until the debt is cleared. The school office will be contacting you either to assist with making payment or ask you to collect your child.

Wraparound care is an additional, non-compulsory service. Continued booking without payment may result in a review of the offer of these provisions to you in the future.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



Apply for a Primary and Secondary School place for September 2026



Primary School applications

The deadline for applications to be submitted for national offer day for primary school is 15th January 2026. Please be advised that if your child attends Barnsole Nursery it is NOT an automatic admission into Yr R.

To apply, visit this link:

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools_and_learning/1059/applying_for_a_primary_school_place/3

Secondary School applications

Wednesday 15 October 2025	Results of the Medway Test.
Friday 31 October 2025	Secondary school applications close.
Monday 2 March 2026	Offers sent to parents and carers.
Friday 27 March 2026	Deadline for accepting/refusing offers, waiting requests and appeal requests.
Monday 20 April 2026	Re-allocation of school places and processing of late applications.
Monday 31 August 2026	End of admissions process and waiting lists close.

To apply, visit this link:

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools_and_learning/1061/applying_for_a_secondary_school_place



Class Attendance for the year so far ...

Infants

Neptune 97%
Saturn - 96%
Mercury - 96%
Jupiter - 94%
Comet - 94%
Venus - 92%
Mars - 91%
Stars - 91%
Moonbeams - 89%



Juniors

Icarus - 98%
Phoenix - 98%
Oberon - 98%
Titan - 97%
Apollo - 97%
Capricorn - 96%
Juno - 95%
Orion - 93%
Aquila - 93%
Aquarius - 93%
Dragon - 92%
Pegasus - 88%
Polaris - 86%

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 24th September	Individual Pupil Photos
Friday 26 th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning
Monday 29 th September	Yr R-6 Flu Immunisations
Thursday 2 nd October	School Census (Special Menu)
Monday 13 th October	Phonics Workshops for parents (Yr 1 & 2 Parents) (9am-10am) <i>Further information to follow</i>
Wednesday 15th October	Phonics Workshops for parents (Yr 1 & 2 Parents) (9am-10am) <i>Further information to follow</i>
Thursday 16th October	Autumn Term 1 Ends
HALF TERM	Friday 17th October - 31st October
Monday 3rd November	SCHOOL RETURNS
Wednesday 5 th November	Parents Consultation Meetings (3.30pm-5.30pm) <i>Further information to follow</i>
Wednesday 12 th November	Parents Consultation Meetings (3.30pm-5.30pm) Further information to follow
Friday 14th November	Children in Need <i>Further information to follow</i>
Friday 12 th December	Non-Uniform Day <i>Donations to the Christmas Fayre - further information to follow</i>
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 19th December	Autumn Term 2 Ends
CHRISTMAS BREAK	Monday 22nd December-Friday 2nd January 2026
Monday 5th January	SCHOOL RETURNS
Thursday 15 th January	School Census (Special Menu)
Tuesday 10 th February	Yr R and Yr 6 Height, Weight and Measure
Friday 13th February	Spring Term 1 ends
HALF TERM	Monday 16th February-Friday 20th February
Monday 23rd February	SCHOOL RETURNS
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day <i>Further information to follow</i>
Thursday 11 th March-Wednesday 18 th March	Scholastic Book Fair <i>Further information to follow</i>
Friday 13 th March	Red Nose Day <i>Further information to follow</i>
Friday 20th March	INSET DAY
Wednesday 25 th March	Parents Consultation Meetings 3.30pm-5.30pm <i>Further details to follow</i>

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 1 st April	Parents Consultation Meetings 3.30pm-5.30pm <i>Further details to follow</i>
Thursday 2nd April	Spring Term 2 ends
Friday 3 rd April-Friday 17 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 20 th April	SCHOOL RETURNS
Monday 4 th May	May Bank Holiday
Monday 11 th May-Thursday 14 th May	Yr 6 SATs Week
Monday 25 th May-Friday 29 th May	May Half Term
Monday 1 st June	School Returns
Wednesday 8 th July	Summer Fayre
Tuesday 21 st July	End of School Year
HALF TERM	Friday 17 th October - 31st October
Monday 3 rd November	SCHOOL RETURNS
Wednesday 5 th November	Parents Consultation Meetings (3.30pm-5..30pm)



The Medway Skills Academy is BACK!

We had so much fun in our first year, we just can't wait to do it all over again - and we would love you to come and join us!

It's a 10 week course of fun activities for children aged 7-11, every Saturday morning, from 10am-1pm, at Featherby in Gillingham.



We're talking sports, robotics, art, cooking and drama - oh, and we haven't told you the best bit yet...



It's completely **FREE!**



Look out for more details and information on how to sign up in September. We're so excited to get started!...

Engineering
Minds



SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.



SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.



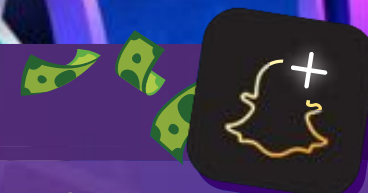
SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.



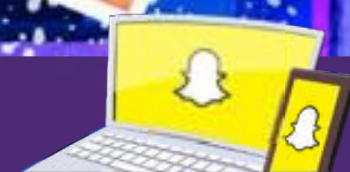
SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.



ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.09.2025