



Barnsole Bulletin

TERM 6 | WEEK 4 | Friday 26th June 2026



Dear Parents & Carers,

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As we approach our Meet the Teacher Day next Thursday, I know that many children will be feeling a mixture of excitement, curiosity and, quite naturally, a few nerves. Change can feel unsettling at first, whether we are children or adults. However, at Barnsole, we believe that change also brings opportunity. Each year, we mix our children into different classes. This has been part of Barnsole life for several years and is something we do with great care and thought. The purpose is simple: to help our children grow in confidence, build resilience and develop the skills they need to work alongside different people. These are important life skills, not just school skills. We know that friendships matter deeply to children. Mixing classes does not mean friendships are forgotten or lost. Children still have time with their friendship groups on the playground, at lunchtime and across the wider school day. What mixing does offer is the chance to get to know other children better, to work with new peers and, very often, to form new friendships too. As adults, we play a very important role in how children respond to change. A positive word, a reassuring smile and a "glass half full" approach can make all the difference. Children often take their lead from us, so when we show confidence in the opportunities ahead, they are more likely to feel confident too. At Barnsole, we want every child to see change as something they can manage and learn from. Meet the Teacher Day is a key step in that journey.

Best wishes,

Mr J Smales

Headteacher



House Points (Overall Total for the Academic Year)



2270

Invicta

2182

Medway

1429

Gordon

1623

Adams





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

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Smales (Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Kramer (Deputy Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Barber (Assistant Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms Tollervey (Assistant Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Kagan (FLO)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms 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

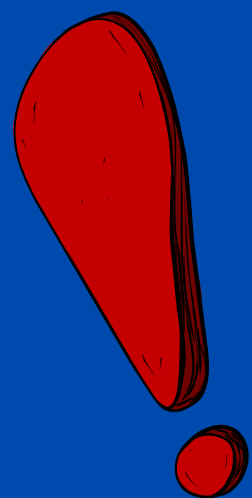
Medway Children Services – 01634 334466

Out of Hours Duty Team Medway – 03000 419191

NSPC – 0800 800 500

Police – 101

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



Nursery

In an attempt to keep cool we have built a blanket fort in the nursery where the children can engage in water play out of direct sunshine.



Reception

Reception have enjoyed exploring some of our treasures from our beach trip. We have been using shells and pebbles to make art and have also used some of our swirly shells as "Mermaid Phones" to contact Marina the Mermaid!



Year 1

Year 1 had a fantastic Sports Day and we were incredibly proud of all the children for taking part with such enthusiasm and determination. They showed excellent teamwork throughout the afternoon, cheering each other on and celebrating each other's successes. In Science this week, the children have been learning to identify and classify different types of animals into groups. They have enjoyed exploring this topic through a range of practical games and hands-on activities, helping them to develop their understanding in a fun and engaging way.



Year 2

Year 2 had a great afternoon at Sports Day last week. The children enthusiastically took part in the carousel activities and impressed everyone in the flat races. Their effort, enthusiasm and excellent sportsmanship were wonderful to see. The Dads', Mums' and Teachers' Races added lots of fun and laughter. The children loved cheering everyone on throughout the afternoon. It was a fantastic event and a wonderful celebration of teamwork and achievement.



Year 3

Year 3 have been exploring the art of mosaics. They have taken inspiration from Mosaics found in the Roman times and created their own inspired mosaics. This week, the children have also created brochures about Roman sites in Kent which tell you fun and interesting facts why they were built and when they were discovered.



Year 4

This week, the children had the opportunity to take part in a Marine Workshop, which linked perfectly to our current topic, The Blue Abyss. Throughout the workshop, they explored the evolution of marine creatures and learned fascinating facts about their habitats, diets and physical features.

The workshop leader was incredibly impressed by the children's enthusiasm and excellent topic knowledge, with many pupils confidently sharing facts they had already learned in class.

A particular highlight was exploring a makeshift rock pool, where the children enjoyed a hands-on experience discovering some of the fascinating creatures that live in this unique habitat.

It was a fantastic learning experience that brought our topic to life and inspired the children to learn even more about the wonders of our oceans.



Year 5

Year 5 have been busy travelling back in time to Ancient Greece, discovering how the incredible buildings we still admire today were designed to stand the test of time! Taking on the role of architects and engineers, the children investigated what makes structures strong, stable and supportive through a series of exciting hands-on challenges. From testing why triangles are stronger than squares, to exploring how different 3D shapes and brick patterns affect the strength of a structure, every investigation helped develop their understanding of real-world engineering.

Inspired by iconic Greek architecture, pupils then designed and built their own impressive structures, applying everything they had learnt along the way. It has been wonderful to see their creativity, teamwork and perseverance shine as they tested, refined and improved their ideas. We may even have a few future architects and engineers in our midst!

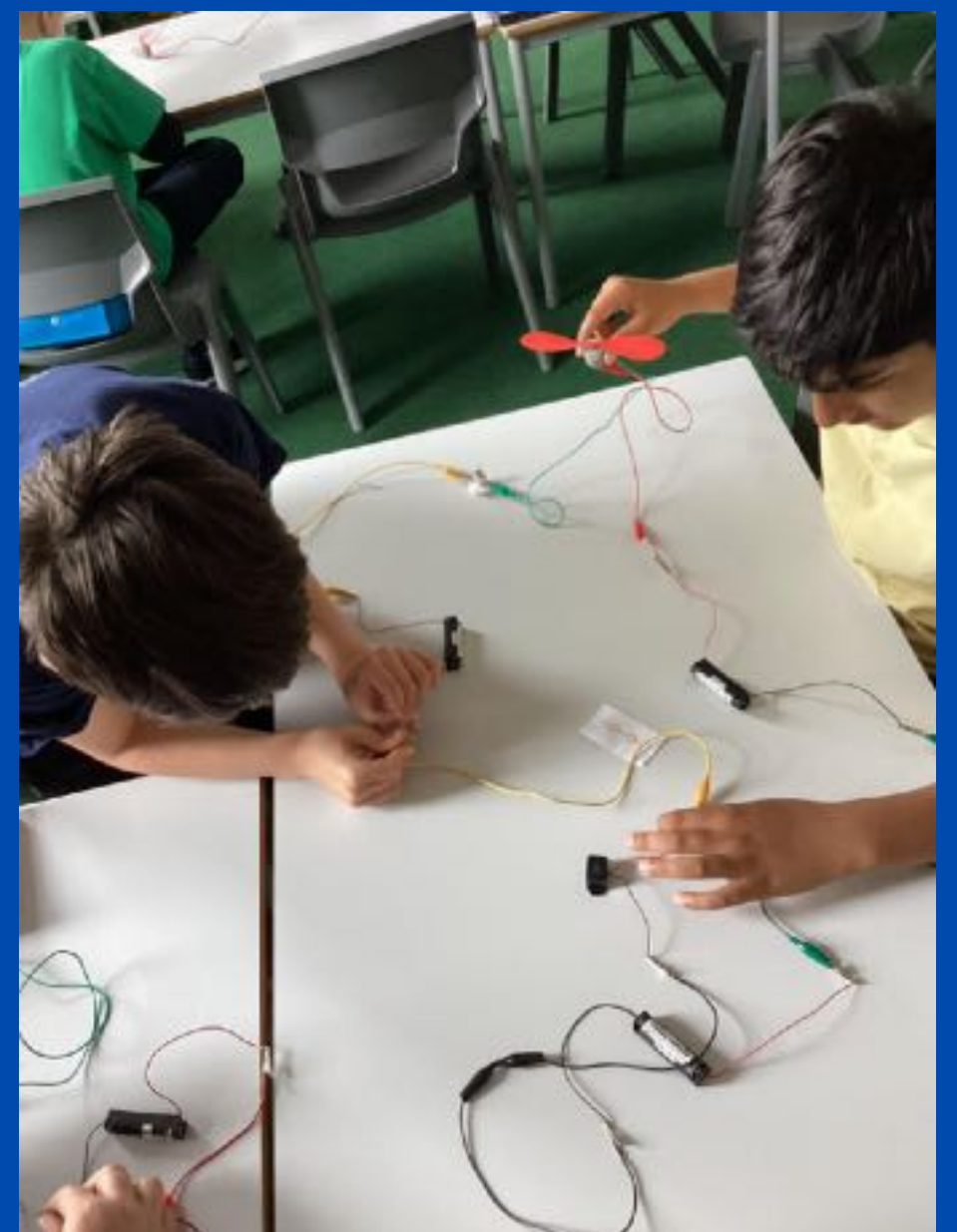


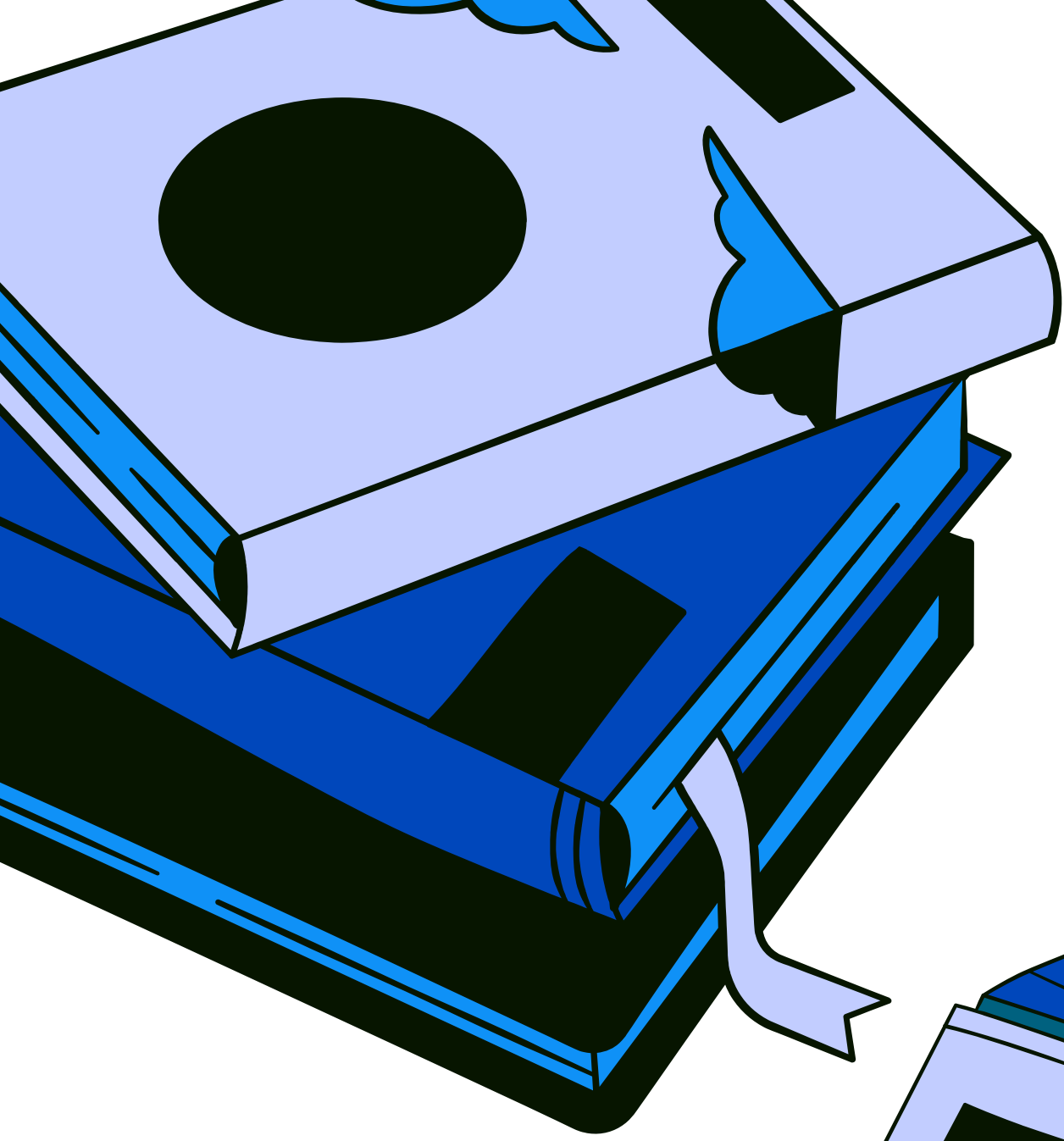
Year 6

Year 6 have continued their Friday carousel of topic learning with another fantastic morning of hands-on exploration and discovery.

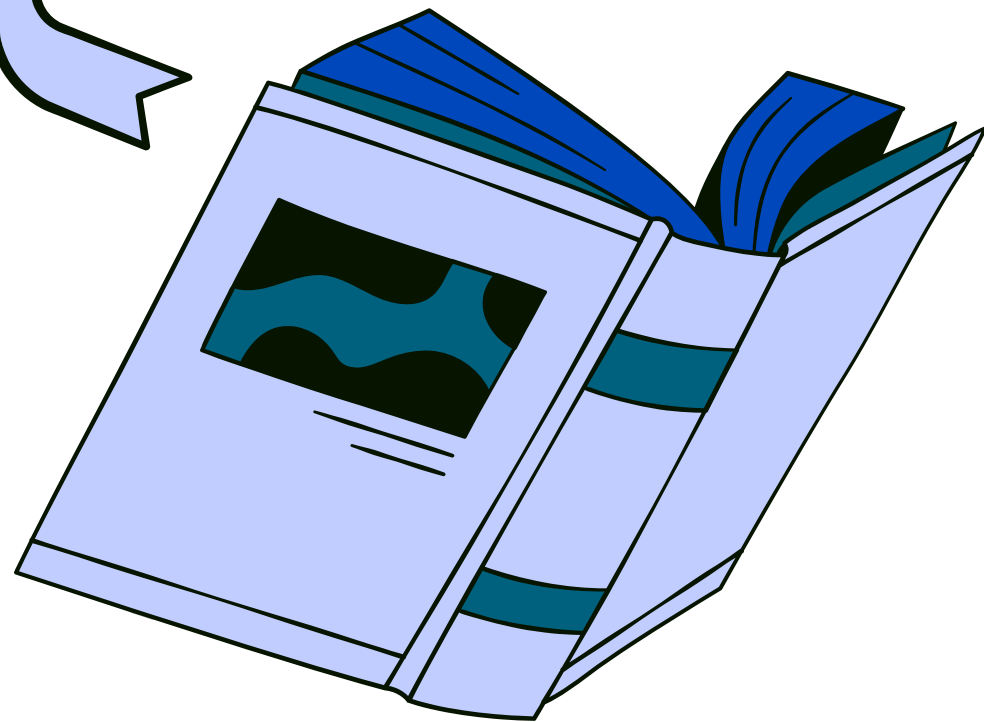
Some classes have been developing their understanding of Inuit art through soap carving. The children carefully considered the animals they wanted to represent in their designs and experimented with a range of tools and techniques to create impressive sculptures inspired by traditional Inuit carvings.

Meanwhile, other classes have been investigating electricity in Science. They explored what makes a complete circuit, how different components can be added to change a circuit and how circuit symbols are used to represent electrical components in diagrams. The children enjoyed testing their ideas, solving problems and making predictions through practical investigation.

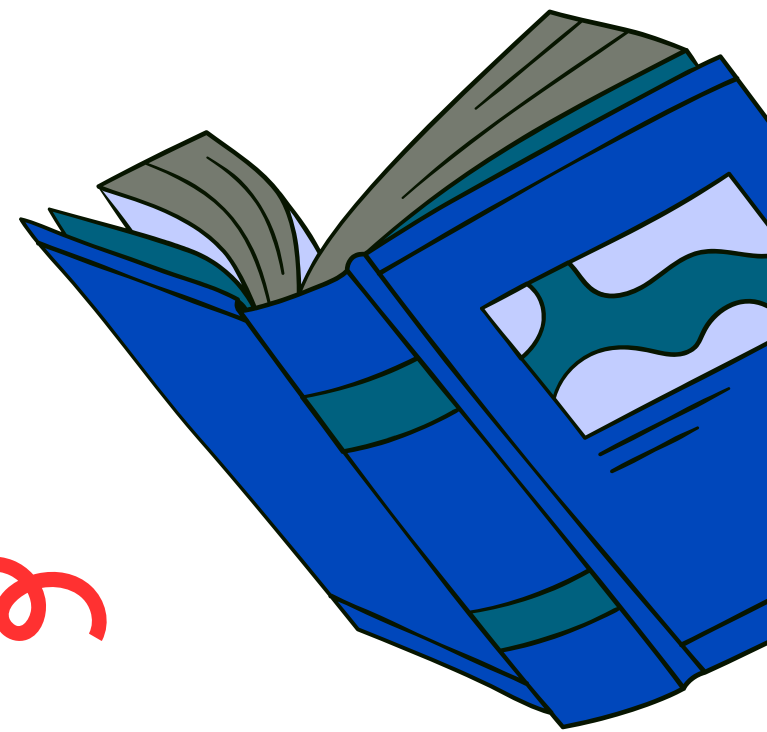
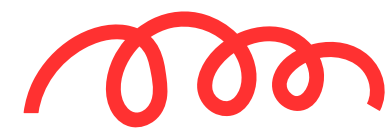




Book Swap



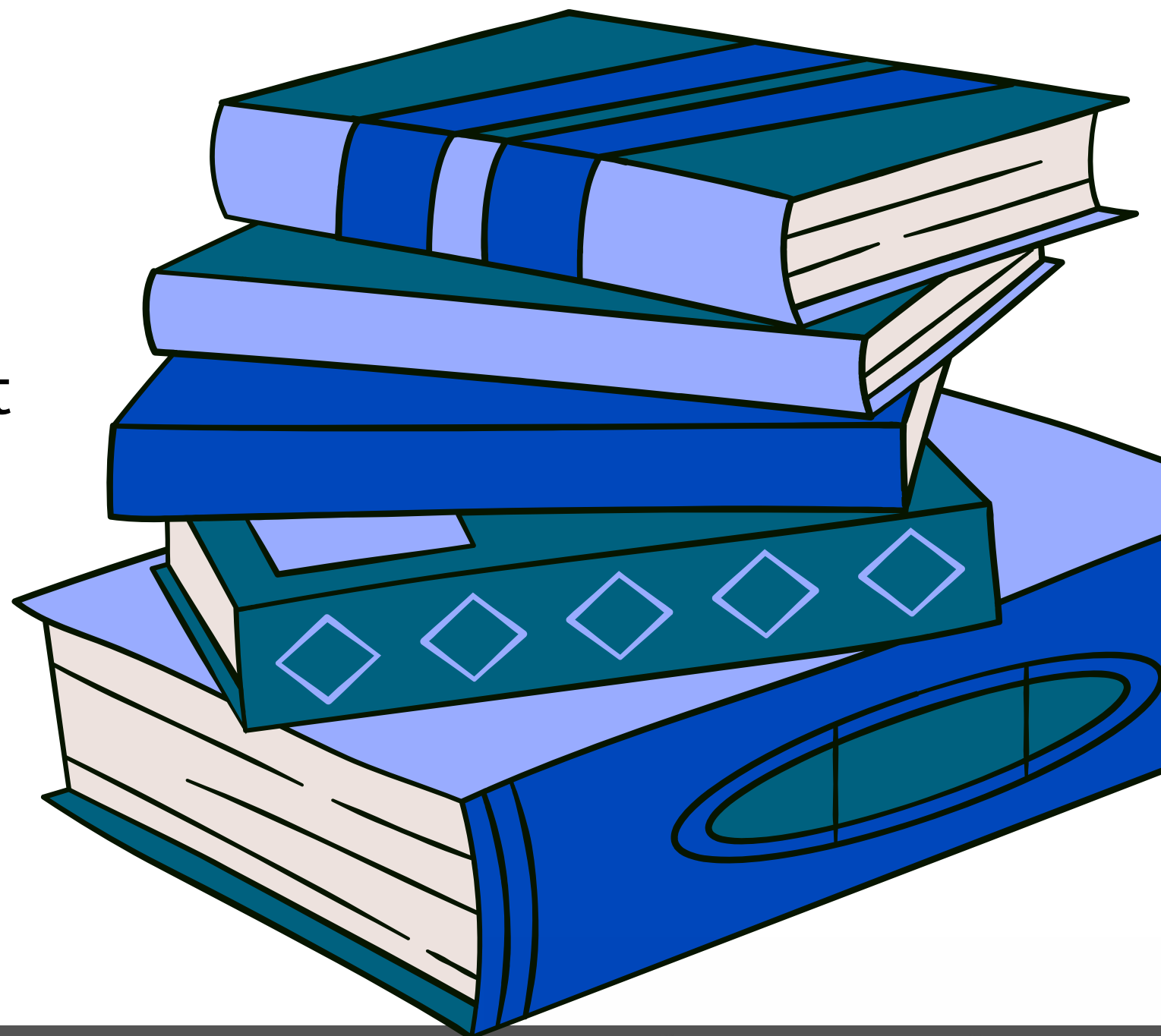
Bring a book, swap a book



Starting on **Tuesday 22nd September** the book swap will run **every week** during term time.

Bring a book you have read and swap it for one you have not!

Discover new stories and share the love of reading with others.



Taking place every Tuesday 3.00- 3.30pm in KS1 playground.



TIME TO PLAY!



Maritime
Strong
Foundations

Come and join in our
weekly stay and play session at
Barnsole Primary School!

Looking for something fun to do with your little one? Join us for a relaxed and engaging session of songs, rhymes and early learning activities for under 4s. Led by a qualified nursery teacher, these sessions are open to everyone in the community and are a lovely way to learn, play and connect.

Every Thursday
Morning
8.50am - 10am



Location:
Key Stage 1 Hall,
entrance by
Neptune Class

FREE



Barnsole Primary School
Barnsole Road
Gillingham
ME7 2JG
01634 333400



Barnsole Food Bank

Our foodbank is here to support members of our school community who may be finding things a little difficult. We know that a sudden drop in finances can happen to any of us, at any time, and for many different reasons. Our community looks after one another. Support is here whenever you need it.



Food Bank Q&As



Who is the food bank for?

Our food bank is for anyone in our school community who needs a little extra support.

Do I have to use it every week?

No. You can contact us whenever you need support. Some people may need help once, others may need it more than once, there is no judgement and no obligation.

Do you only provide food?

No, we also have hygiene items available, such as toiletries and other everyday essentials.

How do I access the food bank?

You can email the food bank directly or speak in confidence to Michelle, Mel or Frankie. All conversations will be handled sensitively and discreetly.

Contact



foodbank@barnsole-maritime.org



Michelle



Mel



Frankie

Barnsole Food Bank Donations

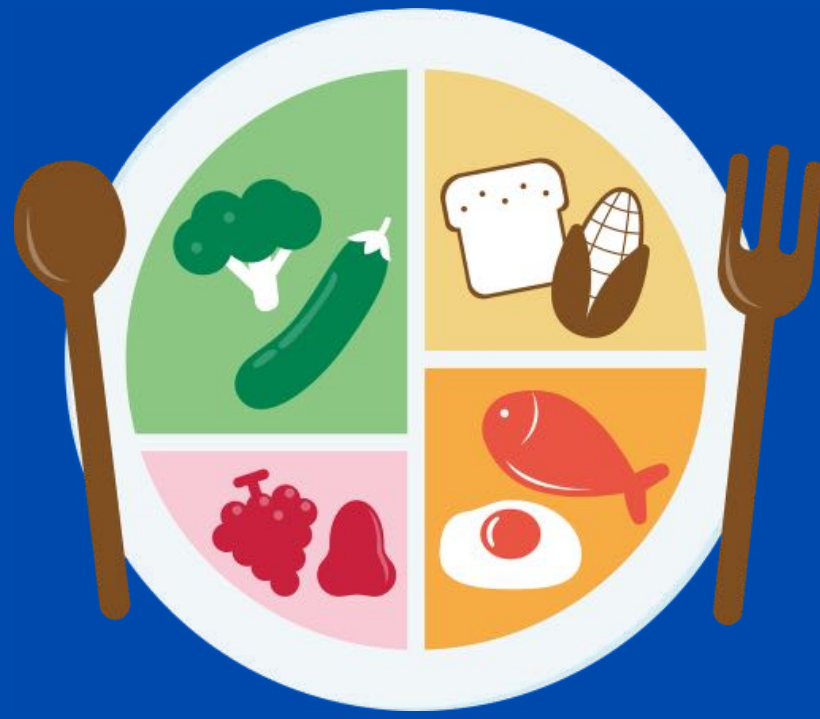
Just to remind you our Food Bank Donation baskets are located in both our Infant and Junior Offices, this is for anyone in our school community who needs a little extra support. Many parents ask us what items are needed the most or struggle knowing what to buy.

We thought it might be helpful to give you some examples:

- Garden peas
- Rice Pudding
- Tinned fruit
- Tins of spaghetti
- Sweetcorn
- Ketchup
- Baked Beans



HEALTHY LUNCHBOX TIPS FOR PARENTS



Providing a balanced lunch helps children stay focused, energetic, and ready to learn throughout the school day. When packing your child's lunchbox, try to aim to include a variety of foods from the main food groups to support their growth and wellbeing. There is also the option of ordering a free hot meal each day for your child in Reception and KS1 or a paid hot meal in KS2.

What a Balanced Lunchbox Looks Like:

- Starchy Foods

These give children the energy they need to learn and play. Good options include wholemeal bread or rolls, wraps, rice, pasta, or crackers.

- Protein

Protein supports growth and keeps children feeling full for longer. Try lean meats, eggs, hummus, tofu, beans, or cheese.

- Dairy or Dairy Alternatives

These foods help support strong bones and teeth. Include plain or low-sugar yoghurt, cheese, or plant-based alternatives where appropriate.

- Fruit and Vegetables

Aim for at least one portion of fruit and one portion of vegetables each day. Fresh, chopped options all count.

- A Healthy Drink

Water is the best choice for staying hydrated. Please avoid sugary drinks.

A lunchbox that includes a mix of these foods helps children get the nutrients they need to thrive at school. Thank you for supporting healthy eating habits at home and at school!

IMPORTANT UNIFORM REMINDER



PE Days

On allocated PE Days, children expected to wear the correct PE kit.

This consists of:

- House colour t-shirt
- Dark blue joggers or shorts
- School jumper or cardigan
- Plain white t-shirt if they do not yet have their house t-shirt.

Jewellery

Earrings must be small studs only. Hoops and larger decorative earrings (including character earrings) are not permitted. This is a health and safety requirement and school expectation.

School Uniform

School uniform footwear should be black shoes or all black trainers. White, pink or other coloured trainers are not in line with our uniform expectations.

NO SMOKING OR VAPING POLICY



Please note that there is a no smoking/vaping on the school site. This includes outside areas, such as the playground, car park and outside the school gates.





Class Attendance for the year so far ...

Infants

Saturn - 95%
Neptune - 94%
Mercury - 94%
Comet - 92%
Venus - 91%
Moonbeams - 91%
Jupiter - 90%
Mars - 86%



Juniors

Oberon - 96%
Icarus - 95%
Titan - 95%
Apollo - 95%
Polaris - 95%
Phoenix - 95%
Dragon - 94%
Juno - 93%
Pegasus - 93%
Aquarius - 93%
Orion - 92%
Capricorn - 91%
Aquila - 89%



FRIENDS OF BARNSOLE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026



JULY



01/07: Summer Fair -
Revised date
09/07 : CommuniTea
10/07: Inflatables
afternoon - Revised
date

CommuniTea

Join us for a relaxed tea & coffee morning once a month right after drop-off.

A chance to meet, chat and connect with other parents in our school community.

Babies and pre-school children are very welcome.

If you can bring a mug, that would be great!

We'd love to see you there!

Thursday 9th July

Free to attend!



STAY UP TO DATE WITH ALL EVENT DETAILS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



facebook.com/friendsbarnsole



friends@barnsole-maritime.org

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 1 st July	Summer Fair
Thursday 9 th July	CommuniTea - Join us to meet, chat and connect with other parents in our school community (younger children welcome) <i>(9am-10am) KS1 Hall</i>
Friday 10 th July	Inflatables afternoon - <i>more details to follow</i>
Friday 17 th July	Yr 6 Production (Third Avenue Church) 10am-11.30am
Tuesday 21 st July	Yr 6 Leavers Assembly (1.45-2.00pm) Junior Hall
Tuesday 21st July	End of School Year



July 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	6 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	6 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	13 July 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	13 July 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	14 July 7pm
FREE - Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 July 7-8pm
Autism-Improving Communication	20 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	20 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Understanding Anger	27 July 10am
School Anxiety	27 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am
Supporting Health Screen Use	28 July 7pm



Summer Music Courses



Courses available for anyone aged 5 - 18
No experience to the more advanced musicians



APPLY NOW

www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk

25-27

July 2026

3 Day Instrumental Course

Play in small instrumental groups and a large ensemble. Plus fun musicianship activities and a concert on day 3.

For Instrumentals Grade 2 - 8 standard

26

July 2026

KSI Music Course

Musical games, fun songs and the chance to perform together using a range of percussion instruments.

For anyone going into Y9 in Sept or currently in Y8 or 2.

28

July 2026

Beginner Music Course

A range of fun musical activities, such as bucket drumming, playing boomwhackers, singing, body percussion and being part of a band.

For those with no musical experience to the young instrumentalists up to Grade 1

29

July 2026

Beginner & Intermediate Music Tech Courses

Online Music Tech courses for complete beginners and those with experience using BandLab.

For complete beginners to the more advanced Music Techies

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Medway
Music Hub
Partner Organisation

Are you caring for someone else's child?

Financial
support
is available



Visit:

Medway.gov.uk/Kinship



Medway
COUNCIL
Serving You



STRIVE HOLIDAY CAMPS AT BARNSOLE PRIMARY SCHOOL



We are pleased to share that Strive PE and Sport will be running a Multi-Activity Summer Camp at Barnsole Primary School (Infant site) during the summer holidays.

Free places are available for children at Barnsole who receive Free School Meals. We would really like our families who are eligible for Free School Meals to make the most of this fantastic opportunity. The camp is completely free for eligible children through MedwayGo, and places can be booked from Monday 24th June at 12 noon.

Camp Dates and Times: Monday 10th August to Thursday 13th August (8:30am to 3:00pm) Monday 17th August to Thursday 20th August (8:30am to 3:00pm)

The camp is open to children aged 5-12 years. Activities may include: Laser Tag, Basketball, Dodgeball, Kent Cricket, Crazy Golf, Boxing and Kickboxing, Soft Archery and much more!

Children who receive Free School Meals can access a free place through MedwayGo (<https://go.medway.gov.uk/>)

Bookings open on Monday 24th June at 12 noon. For families who are not eligible for Free School Meals – paid places are also available at £25 per day.

To celebrate the launch of the Barnsole camp, Strive PE and Sport are offering 25% off all paid bookings. To claim the discount, please use the code: LAUNCH2026 This offer is available from 14th June to 26th June 2026 only.

A 10% sibling discount is also available.

You can book your child's place by clicking the link below
<https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/activity/strive-pe-and-sport-barnsole-primary-multi-activity-camp-gillingham-3cb78cda-2548-423b-8d52-1c8d50e71271>

To find out more about Strive PE and Sport, you can visit:
www.strivepeandsport.co.uk

GILLINGHAM FC
FOUNDATION

August SOCCER SCHOOLS

WEEK 1 AUG 4 | 5 | 6
WEEK 2 AUG 11 | 12 | 13
WEEK 3 AUG 18 | 19 | 20
WEEK 4 AUG 25 | 26 | 27

Football Fun and Games
 Official GFC First-Team Training Ground
 Win Tickets
 9:00am - 3:00pm
 5-14 Year-old Boys & Girls
 £25 per day | £66 for 3 days






GILLINGHAM FC
FOUNDATION

TURN UP & PLAY EVERY FRIDAY

FREE!

Football Fun & Games
 6-10 year-old Boys & Girls
 Every Friday 6-7:00pm
 Starts June 12th

The Strand Leslure Park
 (PlayZone located by tennis courts)
 Pier Road
 Gillingham
 ME7 1TT

SIGN UP TODAY





KEEP YOUR CHILD ACTIVE, SAFE & SMILING THIS SUMMER

SUMMER MULTI-ACTIVITY SPORTS CAMP

27TH JULY - 29TH AUGUST 2026

PRICES STARTING AT
£25 PER DAY

- TEACHER LED
- DBS CHECKED
- SEND SPECIALISTS

BOOK ONLINE TODAY VIA OUR WEBSITE

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- LASER TAG
- SOFT ARCHERY
- GLOW IN THE DARK DODGEBALL
- DIDI CARS
- TRAMPOLINING
- WATER FUN
- SELF DEFENCE BOXING
- RUGBY TAG
- CRAZY GOLF
- DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

AND SO MUCH MORE...

AGES 5-12

BROMPTON ACADEMY
 SWINGATE PRIMARY
 BARNSOLE PRIMARY
 FEATHERBY
 HEMPSTEAD
 TUNBURY PRIMARY*
 (*CURRENT STUDENTS ONLY)

DATES VARY AT SELECTED VENUES

BOOK HERE >

CONTACT US! 07378 951411 | www.strivepeandsport.co.uk
 @strivepeandsport





MEDWAY Mile 2026 GILLINGHAM

GET READY

FRIDAY, 17 JULY FROM 5PM
 MEDWAY PARK, GILLINGHAM




MEDWAY SPORT 

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

BUILDING SCHOOL-READY LANGUAGE SKILLS

Oral language is fundamental to children's learning, literacy, and social and emotional development, with long-term impacts. As language develops rapidly between the ages of three and six, early, evidence-based support is essential. This guide offers practical ways to help the children in your care become confident communicators, including through proven approaches such as the DfE-funded NELI programmes available to settings in England.

1 BUILD ORAL LANGUAGE

Support children to use language, not just hear it. Give them the time to talk, respond, ask questions, and share their ideas. Everyday conversations, shared activities, and reading together help children practise both speaking and listening. At nursery or school, programmes such as NELI can help build their vocabulary, storytelling, attention, and listening skills, helping children grow in confidence as communicators.

2 SUPPORT LISTENING SKILLS

Help children to listen and follow simple instructions during everyday routines. Break instructions down into short, manageable steps and check their understanding. For example, say, "Please put your coat on," rather than giving them several instructions at once. Strong listening skills support learning, attention, and participation at school.

3 GROW THEIR VOCABULARY

Talk with children about the world around them, naming objects, actions, and feelings. Use a wide range of words during everyday activities such as shopping, cooking, and playing. Repeating and explaining new words help children understand and use vocabulary more confidently, supporting their comprehension and communication.

4 SHARE STORIES TOGETHER

Read storybooks together regularly and talk about characters, events, and illustrations. Ask simple questions such as "What's happening here?" and validate children's responses with positive feedback. Acting out stories together, asking open questions, and giving children the chance to be the storyteller can all support their narrative skills and confidence.

5 NAME DIFFERENT FEELINGS

Help children learn to express themselves by talking about different feelings and naming them clearly, such as happy, sad, or angry. Visuals and role play can support their understanding of this. Being able to express their feelings verbally helps children build positive relationships with adults and peers, reduces frustration, and supports their social development as they prepare for school.

6 WORK WITH SETTINGS

Strong communication between home and the nursery, school, or early years setting can help children feel more confident and supported. Parents can visit the setting with their child before they start, helping them become familiar with the environment and key adults. Educators can share relevant information with families and colleagues, so each child's needs are understood. Newsletters can also help families continue language learning at home.

7 SPOT LANGUAGE NEEDS

Children develop their language and communication skills at different rates, so early conversations between home and settings are important. If parents have concerns, they should speak to their child's nursery, school, or early years setting. Educators can use tools such as LanguageScreen, included in the NELI programmes, to build a profile of a child's speaking and listening skills and help identify suitable support.

8 EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORT

Prioritise language and literacy approaches that are underpinned by robust research evidence. Evidence-based programmes help ensure children receive support that is more likely to make a meaningful difference. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) provides guidance on the strength of evidence behind different strategies, supporting informed decision-making and effective use of school time and resources.

9 MEET INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Settings can use evidence-based assessment tools to understand children's language skills and identify where support may be needed. These tools support SEND reforms, and strengthen whole-setting language development, helping children receive support that reflects their individual communication needs.

10 TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

Research trials can give schools, early years settings, and families a valuable opportunity to contribute to evidence construction and future policy. Parents may be asked to give consent, share feedback, or support activities at home, while educators help deliver and monitor approaches in practice. The EEF often has trials that settings can join, including whole-class oral language programmes designed to support children's communication development.

Meet Our Expert

OxEd is a University of Oxford spinout company specialising in early language and literacy assessment and intervention. They are the delivery team for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) programme in reception, funded by the Department for Education for schools in England, and for NELI Preschool, which supports nurseries to strengthen children's early language development through evidence-based practice.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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