



Barnsole Bulletin



TERM 2 | WEEK 4 | Friday 28th November 2025

Content

- Message from Mr Smales
- House Points
- Safeguarding
- Nursery
- Year R
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6
- Champions Club Lunches
- Share a love of reading
- Phonics Workshop
- MCAS Reminder
- Parent information
- Friends of Barnsole Events
- Attendance
- Dates for the Diary
- Maritime Skills Academy
- Safeguarding Tips

Dear Parents & Carers,

Attendance continues to be a key priority for us at Barnsole Primary School. Since COVID, we have seen a noticeable change in attendance patterns for some families, both here and nationally. While illness and unavoidable situations do happen, regular absence can build up quickly and have a real impact on children's learning, confidence, and friendships. Children take their lead from the adults around them. When parents speak positively about school and show that education is important, children are far more likely to feel settled, motivated, and ready to learn. Equally, when school is seen as optional or something that can be missed easily, children can begin to feel the same way. Your view of school shapes their view of school. At Barnsole, we want every child to experience success, build strong routines, and enjoy their time with us. Good attendance is one of the most powerful ways to support this. Even a few days missed each term can make it harder for children to keep up and stay confident in the classroom. Thank you for working with us to ensure your child attends regularly and arrives on time each day.



Best wishes,
Mr J Smales

House Points (Overall Total for the Academic Year)



1129

Invicta

1077

Medway

850

Gordon

1008

Adams

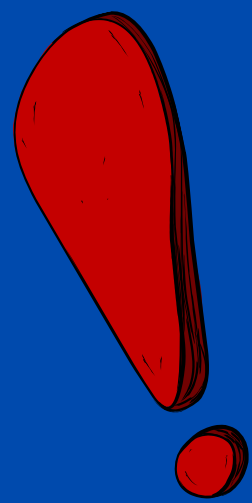




If you have concerns about a child in school, please contact one of the Safeguarding team:

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

In nursery we performed a rendition of Little Red Riding Hood at carpet time. When we had finished the props were added to the home corner and the children enjoyed acting out the parts in their own style during the session.



Year R

We have had a very exciting two weeks in Reception with the start of our Welly Wednesday sessions. Both classes have had a chance to explore the area and had lots of fun - it was lovely to hear the buzz of excitement amongst the children both before and after their session!



Year 1

Mr Smales needed a new shelter for the playground, and our Year One children were more than up to the challenge! They began by discussing what an effective shelter would need — it had to be waterproof, strong, and spacious enough to fit their “mini-mes” inside. The children then set to work designing and constructing their own shelters before evaluating how well they worked.



Year 2

We have been working really hard on our addition in Year 2. The children played a caterpillar game that effectively demonstrated the importance of exchanging when adding numbers. They are now proficient in using Dienes blocks and a place value chart to add two-digit numbers, and some are even able to express their calculations formally. As we progress, we are preparing to tackle the next challenge: subtraction.



Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about Bell Beaker pots in Art. Over the past few weeks, the children have sketched their own beaker designs using pencil and charcoal. This week, they began practising the patterns they will include on their Bell Beaker pots. They are very excited and can't wait to start creating their pots!



Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been learning all about food packaging in D&T. The children explored the importance of using recyclable materials, including ingredient lists, expiry dates, and how bright, eye-catching designs help to sell products. After conducting their own research, they applied their learning by creating their very own 3D packaging for a chosen food item.



Year 5

Last week, Year 5 learned about the taotie, a mysterious creature from ancient Chinese mythology that often appeared on Shang Dynasty bronze vessels. We explored how these bronzes were made using piece-mould casting, then took inspiration to create our own designs using clay and silicone casting. The children loved shaping their models and seeing their patterns come to life, just like the swirling horns, fangs and bold features of the traditional taotie.



Year 6

Year 6 have launched their new balanced argument unit through a lively courtroom debate inspired by their class book *Holes*. The big question: Was Stanley Yelnats truly guilty of stealing Clyde Livingstone's shoes?

Pupils took on the roles of judges, prosecution, defence, jury, and witnesses, presenting convincing arguments, asking thoughtful questions, and weighing up the evidence with great care. After much deliberation, the jury reached their final verdict... **GUILTY!** It was a fantastic start to the unit, showcasing excellent reasoning, teamwork, and dramatic flair from all involved.





Champions Club Launches at Barnsole!

You may have noticed that some children came home on Friday with delicious cakes and cookies that they had made in school, these treats were the result of our brand-new Champions Club, which launched on Friday 7th November.

Each week, one child from every class in Key Stage 2 will be invited to join the Champions Club as a special recognition of their hard work, positive attitude, and commitment to always doing the right thing. These children consistently demonstrate our school values, showing kindness, empathy, and respect towards others both in and out of the classroom.

During the session, the children take part in a fun, hands-on activity, this week it was baking, and enjoying time together celebrating their achievements.



Sharing a Love of Reading – Are you free on a Friday afternoon?

Following the success of our reading sessions last year, when parents were invited into school to share a love of reading with their children, we are delighted to announce that the initiative will be relaunching this term.

From Friday 21st November, we would like to invite all parents of children in Reception and Key Stage 1 to come into school at 2:45pm each Friday afternoon to spend time reading with their children.

Last year's sessions were a real highlight of the week, it was great to see so many parents and carers joining us. Some read one-to-one with their child, others read with small groups, and some even brought in favourite books from home to share. The atmosphere across the whole Infant school was filled with excitement, stories, and the fun of reading together.

Whether you are new to the school or joined us for these sessions last year, we would love to see you on Friday 21st November for the first session of the year. Continuing to develop our children's love of books and reading – together.



PHONICS WORKSHOP SUCCESS

We were pleased to host some well-attended Phonics Workshops recently, where parents joined their children in a fun and engaging phonics lesson. The children were excited to share their learning, and having their parents in the classroom meant a great deal to them. It was great to see so many families taking part and showing such enthusiasm for early reading.

During the sessions, parents had the opportunity to explore the specific language we use when teaching phonics – including key terms such as digraph and trigraph. The workshop also offered practical ideas for how parents can continue to support their children's phonics learning at home. If you missed the sessions and would like further information, please contact the office.

The sessions highlighted the high expectations we hold for all our pupils as they develop the essential skills for early reading. We would like to extend a big thank you to all the parents who attended, we really appreciate you giving up your time to support your children's learning.

Keep an eye out for future opportunities to come into school and share in your children's learning experiences – we always look forward to welcoming you!

Reminder!

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.

Parent Information – Uniform Reminder



School Uniform

Please can we remind parents of our school uniform policy. Please take the time to read this on our school website.

Jewellery & Hair Accessories

Earrings – plain Studs only

Hair bands or hair ties should be plain colours and small

No necklaces, bracelets or any other item of jewellery is allowed

Items of Religious Significance

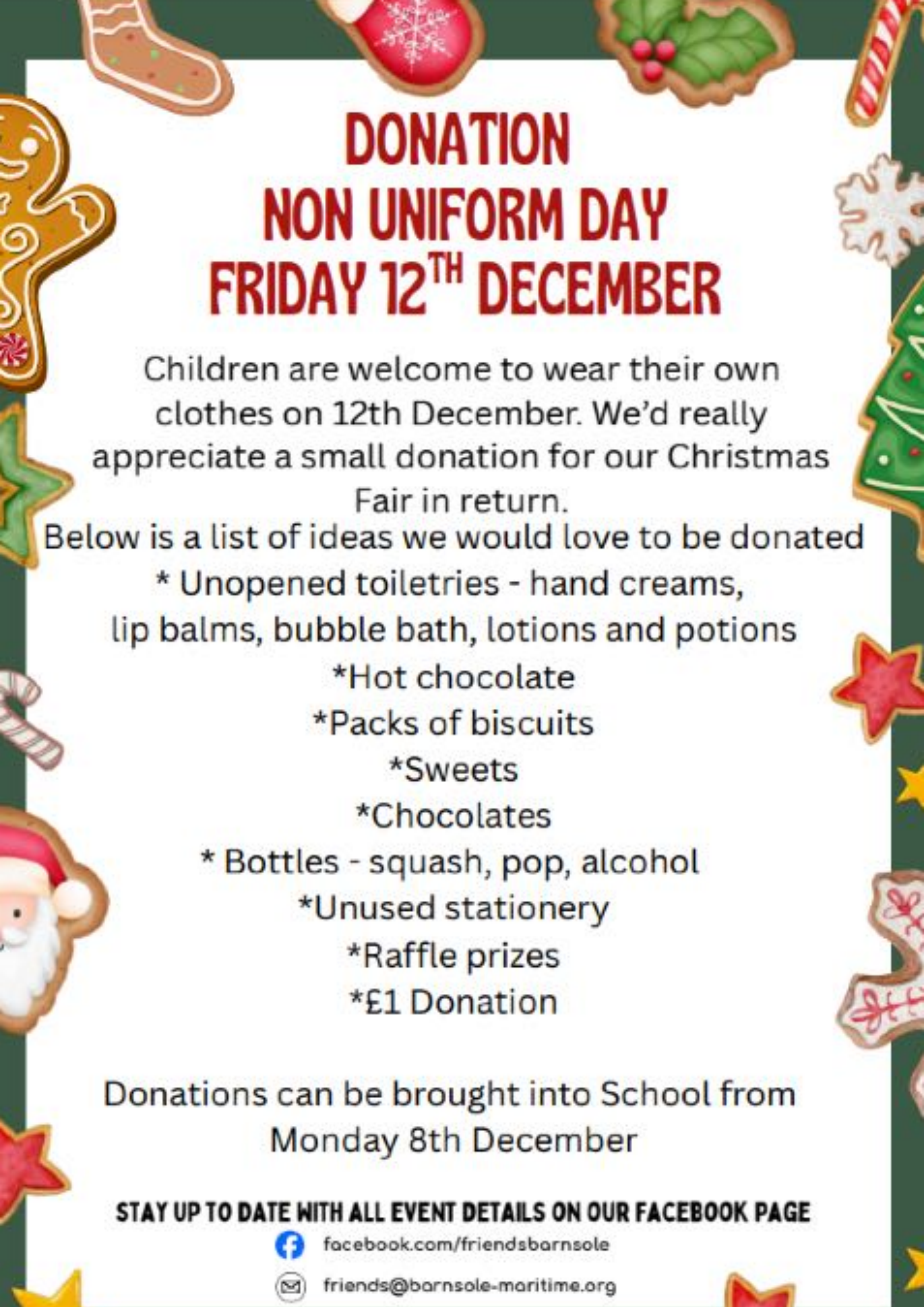
Children from the Sikh community are allowed to wear a kara, which is a steel or iron bracelet. As part of the Sikh faith, the kara must not be removed.

Head coverings (hijab) should be plain navy blue or black without any embellishments, patterns or additional decorations.

PE Days

For PE Days, children should be wearing black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms. T-shirt in the colour of your child's house team or a plain white t-shirt and Black trainers (no bright ones).

On the days that the children have PE they can come to school already their PE kit. It is essential that all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name, including coats and PE kit.



DONATION NON UNIFORM DAY FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

Children are welcome to wear their own clothes on 12th December. We'd really appreciate a small donation for our Christmas Fair in return.

Below is a list of ideas we would love to be donated

- * Unopened toiletries - hand creams, lip balms, bubble bath, lotions and potions
- * Hot chocolate
- * Packs of biscuits
- * Sweets
- * Chocolates
- * Bottles - squash, pop, alcohol
- * Unused stationery
- * Raffle prizes
- * £1 Donation

Donations can be brought into School from Monday 8th December

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



facebook.com/friendsbarnsole



friends@barnsole-maritime.org



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Wednesday 17th
December
3.30pm - 5pm
KS2 Hall

**TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, CHRISTMAS
CRAFTS, GAMES AND MORE**

Cash only, please
bring small change!

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



facebook.com/friendsbarnsole



friends@barnsole-maritime.org



WREATH Making Workshop
12th December
At 6 pm

£25 per person- Adults only
KS1 Hall - Entrance Via Neptune Class
[Book via pta-events.co.uk/friendsofbarnsole](http://pta-events.co.uk/friendsofbarnsole)

STAY UP TO DATE WITH ALL EVENT DETAILS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
facebook.com/friendsofbarnsole
friends@barnsole-maritime.org



CHRISTMAS JUMPER APPEAL

We're collecting Christmas Jumpers!

Got outgrown or unwanted Christmas jumpers? We'd love them!

We're holding a Christmas Jumper Sale at our Coffee Morning on 4th December and are collecting pre-loved jumpers.

Please drop donations to either school office by Wednesday 3rd December.



CommuniTea

Join us for a tea & coffee morning once a month right after drop-off. A chance to meet, chat and connect with other parents in our school community. If you can bring a mug that would be great!

We'd love to see you there!

KS1 Hall - Entrance next to Neptune class Until 10am

Thursday 4th December
Thursday 8th January
Thursday 12th February
Thursday 5th March
Thursday 2nd April
Thursday 7th May
Thursday 11th June
Thursday 9th July

There's something magical in the way that coffee can brighten our morning mood and give us the spark to seize the day

STAY UP TO DATE WITH ALL EVENT DETAILS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
facebook.com/friendsofbarnsole
friends@barnsole-maritime.org

FRIENDS OF BARNSOLE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2025-2026

SEPTEMBER 12/09 : Year R Welcome coffee morning 19/09 : Family Disco	OCTOBER 10/10 : AGM
NOVEMBER Christmas Card Designs	DECEMBER 04/12 : CommuniTea 12/12 : Fair Donation non uniform day 17/12 : Christmas Fair
JANUARY 08/01 : CommuniTea 16/01 : Year 6 Disco 23/01 : Year 5 Disco 30/01 : Year 4 Disco	
FEBRUARY 06/02 : Year 3 Disco 12/02 : CommuniTea 27/02 : Year 2 Disco	MARCH 05/03 : CommuniTea 06/03 : Year 1 Disco 11/03 & 12/03 : Mothers Day Event 27/03 : Family Bingo
APRIL 02/04 : CommuniTea 23/04 : Bake Sale	
MAY Class tea towel 07/05 : CommuniTea 15/05 : Inflatables afternoon	JUNE 11/06 : CommuniTea 18/06 : Fathers Day Event 19/06 : Fathers Day Event
JULY 09/07 : CommuniTea 10/07 : Donation tag day 15/07 : Summer Fair	

STAY UP TO DATE WITH ALL EVENT DETAILS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
facebook.com/friendsofbarnsole
friends@barnsole-maritime.org



Merry Christmas!

December Timetable

All 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 (excluding Free Talk)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm

EE Safer Sims



The EE network is offering Safer SIM plans come with pre-set parental control options, so you can rest assured your child is better protected against viewing inappropriate material.

Parental controls can't be switched off, so whenever they're connected to the EE Mobile network they'll be safer online. Parental controls block access to websites based on content categories but can't block all content in apps.

If you've got EE Broadband, you can set more parental controls so that devices connected to your Smart Hub router will have content filtered too.

<https://ee.co.uk/mobile/safer-sims#plans>



Class Attendance for the year so far ...

Infants

Saturn - 96%
Neptune - 95%
Mercury 95%
Comet - 93%
Moonbeams - 92%
Jupiter - 91%
Venus - 91%
Mars - 90%



Juniors

Oberon - 97%
Phoenix - 97%
Apollo - 96%
Titan - 96%
Icarus - 95%
Dragon - 94%
Juno - 94%
Aquarius - 94%
Pegasus - 93%
Capricorn - 93%
Aquila - 92%
Polaris - 91%
Orion - 89%

Dates for the Diary

Monday 1 st December	Yr 3 Stoneage workshop <i>(Payment to be made via the MCAS app)</i>
Tuesday 2 nd December	Yr 5 Egyptian workshop <i>(Payment to be made via the MCAS app)</i>
Friday 5 th December	Yr 6 African Dance Workshop <i>(Payment to be made via the MCAS app)</i>
Monday 8 th December	Yr 4 Christmas Carol Concert (10am-11a,) Yr 1 Christmas Carol Concert (1.30-2.30pm) <i>Third Avenue Church</i>
Tuesday 9 th December	Yr 5 Christmas Carol Concert (10am-11am) Yr 2 Christmas Carol Concert (1.30pm-2.30pm) <i>Third Avenue Church</i>
Wednesday 10 th December	Yr 6 Christmas Carol Concert (10am-11am) <i>Third Avenue Church</i>
Wednesday 10 th December	Yr 4 Anglo Saxon Workshop <i>(Payment to be made via MCAS app)</i>
Thursday 11 th December	Yr 3 Christmas Carol Concert (10am-11am) <i>Third Avenue Church</i>
Friday 12 th December	Year R Nativity (10am-11am) <i>Third Avenue Church</i>
Friday 12 th December	Non-Uniform Day <i>Donations to the Christmas Fayre - further information to follow</i>
Friday 12 th December at 6pm	Christmas Wreath Workshop (KS1 Hall) <i>Book via pta-events.co.uk/friendsofbarnsole</i>
Wednesday 17 th December	Barnsole Christmas Fayre (3.30-5.00pm) KS2 Hall
Friday 19th December	Autumn Term 2 Ends
CHRISTMAS BREAK	Monday 22nd December-Friday 2nd January 2026

Dates for the Diary

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>
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 3rd April-Friday 17th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 20th April	SCHOOL RETURNS
Monday 4th May	May Bank Holiday
Monday 11 th May-Thursday 14 th May	Yr 6 SATs Week
Monday 25th May-Friday 29th May	May Half Term
Monday 1 st June	School Returns
Wednesday 8 th July	Summer Fayre
Tuesday 21st July	End of School Year



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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

@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. Release date: 26.11.2025

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's AirTag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STALKING AND HARASSMENT



Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING



Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS



Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

INVASION OF PRIVACY



These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT



Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS



If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS



Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

USE DETECTION APPS



Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION



Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.



The National College