BARNHAM CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

17th July 2026
Newsletter 39

We **Inspire, Cherish** and **Believe**
in each person that they might flourish
and fulfil their potential

Goodbye and Good Luck Leavers

As we reach the end of another school year, we would like to take a moment to say a very special goodbye to all of the children who will be leaving Barnham and moving on to their next adventures. To our Year 6 children, we are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved during your time with us. You have grown in confidence, developed new skills, faced challenges and created so many wonderful memories. It has been a privilege to watch you grow from the children who first joined us into the amazing young people you are today.

We would also like to wish the very best of luck to other children across the school who are moving on to new schools or new chapters in their lives. Although we will be sad to see you leave, we are excited for all the opportunities ahead of you and know you will continue to shine.

A huge thank you goes to all of our families for your support, encouragement and partnership throughout your child's time at Barnham. We are so grateful for the role you play in helping our children thrive.

Remember, once a member of the Barnham family, always a member of the Barnham family. We hope you look back on your time here with happy memories and know that you will always be welcome.

We wish you all the very best!

Our Leavers Lunch and Special Service

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a very special leavers' lunch, with huge thanks to Charlotte for making it such a memorable occasion. The delicious meal set them up perfectly for their leavers' service on the back field, where we were blessed with beautiful sunshine.

The service had a fun I'm a Celebrity twist, with a range of challenges that kept everyone entertained and laughing together. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the friendships, memories, and achievements of our Year 6 children as they prepare for their next adventure.

As always, each child received a special Barnham log slice, a certificate featuring the Celtic blessing, and a holding cross to bring them peace and comfort whenever they need it. We would like to thank Vicar Lesley for helping to present these meaningful gifts and for sending our children forward with such a special blessing.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils and wish them every happiness and success as they take their next steps. They will always remain a very special part of the Barnham family.

Sports Day

After a few unexpected weather challenges, we were delighted to finally hold our Sports Day and what a fantastic event it was. It certainly was a memorable one, with our first date having to be cancelled due to the extreme heat, only for some children and adults to arrive on the rescheduled day feeling rather chilly! Despite the changeable weather, the atmosphere was brilliant and the day was filled with enthusiasm, teamwork and plenty of smiles.

It was wonderful to see the children taking part, supporting one another and showing such determination across all of the races. Events included the Pre-School Race, the Mums' and Dads' Races and the always competitive Teacher Race, with many fantastic performances and proud moments throughout the day.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Shepperson for all of her hard work in organising the event, along with our wonderful team of helpers and volunteers who helped everything run smoothly. We are also incredibly grateful to all of our families for joining us, cheering the children on and creating such a positive atmosphere.

A special thank you to FOBS for kindly gifting every child an ice pole, which they will be able to enjoy later in the week.

Congratulations to Green Family, who were crowned this year's Sports Day champions. The competition was incredibly close, with every race making a difference and every point counting right until the end. We are so proud of all of the children who took part. Sports Day is always a wonderful opportunity for them to shine, build confidence and celebrate being part of our school community.

A few more photos celebrating Sports Day!

Looking Ahead...

Next year, we're shaking things up! Our Sports Day will be moving to the end of September and will become part of our brand new Sports Week. The week will be jam-packed with a wide range of exciting sporting activities, giving every child the chance to try new sports, develop new skills and enjoy being active together.

By moving Sports Day to the end of September, we hope to avoid the extreme summer heat and ease the pressure of the busy summer term, which is always filled with transition activities and end-of-year events. We can't wait to share more about our exciting plans for Sports Week... watch this space!

Well done to all the adults too!

Barnham Dancers Showcase their talent!

One of the greatest joys of our school community is seeing our children flourish not only in school, but also in the many passions and activities they pursue outside of the classroom. We are always incredibly proud to celebrate their achievements, dedication, creativity, and commitment in all areas of their lives.

It was lovely to hear from several families this weekend who were celebrating their children's wonderful performances with ADC Dance School. What a fantastic achievement to take to the stage, share their talents, and showcase the confidence, discipline, and hard work they have developed through their dancing.

A huge well done to all of our dancers — we know the hours of practice, perseverance, and enthusiasm that go into preparing for performances like these. Moments such as these remind us how important it is to nurture every child's individual interests and celebrate the many ways they shine.

We are so proud of all our children and love hearing about the amazing things they are achieving beyond school. Please continue to share these special moments with us so that we can celebrate and champion their successes together.

Cinderella Rockerfella

Year 5 & 6 Pantomime

What a brilliant performance we enjoyed from our Year 5 and 6 children in this year's pantomime, Cinderella Rockerfella!

A huge well done to all of our performers for their enthusiasm, confidence and commitment. From learning lines and songs to performing in front of a live audience, every child played an important part in bringing the show to life. We were incredibly proud of the energy, teamwork and talent they shared on stage.

A special thank you also goes to all of our families for your support behind the scenes — from helping children learn their lines to creating and providing fantastic costumes. Your support makes such a difference and helps the children feel prepared and confident.

Putting together a whole-school production is always a real team effort, and we would like to give a huge shout-out to all of the staff involved. From rehearsals and directing to costumes, music, staging and everything in between, so much work happens behind the scenes to make the magic happen.

Congratulations to everyone involved — Cinderella Rockerfella was a fantastic celebration of our children's creativity, confidence and teamwork. We are so proud of you all!

Cinderella Rockerfella
A Few More Photos

Music Extravaganza – Summer Edition

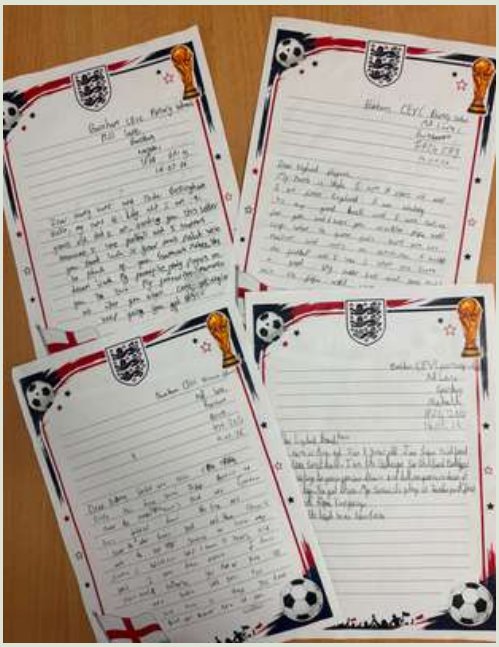
On Wednesday morning, we enjoyed our Summer Term Music Extravaganza, celebrating all of the fantastic music learning that has taken place across the school this half term.

As part of our regular half-termly celebrations, every class had the opportunity to share a performance, showcasing the skills and confidence they have developed in their music lessons. We also enjoyed some wonderful individual performances, giving children the chance to share their musical talents with the whole school.

This term's extravaganza was extra special as some of the children who have been working with Val performed on their new instruments for the very first time. They have only been learning for a few weeks, so it was incredibly brave of them to perform in front of everyone — and it was wonderful to see their confidence growing already.

It was a lovely celebration of the progress our children are making in music at Barnham, and we are so proud of all of our young musicians!

Cheering on England!



What a fantastic day of football fun we had in school on Wednesday as we celebrated England's journey to the World Cup semi-final.

The school was filled with red, white and blue as children and staff came dressed in England colours and football shirts. We started the day with a World Cup-themed Wake and Shake, followed by our Match Prediction Challenge, where children predicted the score, first goalscorer and Player of the Match.

The excitement continued throughout the day with a whole-school Mexican wave, the 'Hit the Crossbar Challenge' at break time, and our special England-themed tuck. It was wonderful to see the whole school come together to share in the excitement of such a special sporting occasion. Some of our children even wrote letters and posted these to the England team.

On Thursday morning, following England's World Cup journey coming to an end, Mrs Shepperson led a thoughtful assembly entitled 'Bouncing Back', reminding us of the importance of resilience, positivity and learning from challenges.

Although we were disappointed not to see England progress further, we look forward to watching their play-off match for third or fourth place on Saturday. A huge thank you to all of the staff for making this World Cup such a memorable experience for our children and for creating so many opportunities to celebrate, learn and come together as a school community.

Introducing Barnham Bear

We are delighted to introduce Barnham Bear, our special school bear and a comforting companion for every child at Barnham Primary School.

Created from Sofia's own Barnham Primary School uniform, Barnham Bear is a unique symbol of our school community and values. More than a cuddly toy, Barnham Bear reminds children that they are safe, valued and never alone.

Sofia wanted her bear to remain at Barnham when she moved on to secondary school, so that other children could experience the same comfort and reassurance she found during her time here.

Barnham Bear will be there to offer a cuddle, a listening ear, and a reminder that every child is valued and supported. Helping to promote kindness, compassion and belonging, Barnham Bear represents the message that everyone matters and that asking for help is a strength.

We hope Barnham Bear brings smiles, comfort and confidence to our pupils for many years to come, becoming a much-loved member of the Barnham family.

Thank you to Sofia and her family for this meaningful gift.

Barnham Appreciation Station

Although the school term has now come to an end, there's still time to leave a message in our Barnham Appreciation Station.

Over the past few weeks, our staff have been so touched by the wonderful messages of thanks that have been shared. Your kind words, encouragement and appreciation have meant the world to them, and it has been a lovely way to celebrate another busy and successful school year.

If you haven't had the chance yet, we'd still love to hear from you. Whether a member of staff offered a helping hand, showed kindness, went the extra mile or simply made a difference to your child's day, your message really will mean so much. Every message, big or small, helps our staff feel valued and recognised for the care, dedication and support they give to our children every day.

Messages can be sent anonymously, or if you're happy to share your name, we'd love to know who your message is from.

Please click the link below to leave your message - we'd love to add your words of appreciation to our collection.

Finally, thank you to every one of our Barnham families for your incredible kindness and generosity this year. Your thoughtful messages, beautiful cards and wonderful homemade gifts have been so gratefully received. Every single one has been truly appreciated by the entire staff team. Your support and encouragement mean more than you know, and we wish you all a happy, restful summer.

https://forms.gle/jD8fpxVZ2LPg8t8n7

School Reports, SATS Results and Learning Plans

Your ParentMail inbox may have been rather busy this week, as all annual reports have now been sent out for every child in school. We hope you enjoy reading about your child's achievements, progress and successes over the year. ***We are aware that there was a slight technical issue with the reception class reports that were sent out from insight and that the assessments may not have been visible for you. We have worked to address this issue and hopefully you will see that another e mail has arrived and this has the assessments in it as originally intended.***

For families of children in Year 6, you will also have received your child's SATs results. These results are reported using standardised scores, which allow children's performance to be compared against a national standard. The expected standard score is 100. A score of 100 or above means that a child has met the expected standard in that subject. Scores below or above this indicate whether a child is working below or above the expected standard. It is important to remember that these scores are only one part of the picture and should be considered alongside your child's wider achievements, progress and effort throughout the year.

Well done Year 6- we are very proud of you all.

If your child is on the SEND register, you will also have received a copy of their learning plan. This outlines their individual targets for the first half term in their new class and will help ensure that the right support and strategies are in place as they move into the next academic year.

If you have had any problems accessing these documents please do e mail us and we will do our best to help you.

Thrive Hive and Cub Club

We have also had lots of questions from parents about Cub Club and Thrive Hive provision for September. New groups and letters confirming places will be sent out in September. Please note that Thrive Hive and Cub Club will not begin again until the week beginning Monday 7th September. The first two days back will focus on carefully planned transition activities, soft starts and additional support to help all children settle confidently into their new classes and routines.

A reminder that these interventions are measured and reviewed regularly. They are not designed to be continuously offered to the same children, but places are allocated based on identified needs and reviewed every half term to ensure support is targeted where it is most beneficial.

Well done to our World Cup Readers

A huge well done to all of the children who took part in our World Cup Reading Bingo challenge! We were delighted to celebrate their fantastic efforts during our assembly on Friday.

The challenge encouraged children to enjoy reading in a variety of fun and exciting ways, and it was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic entries. Every child who completed the challenge received a special book prize to enjoy over the summer holidays – the perfect way to keep their love of reading growing!

Thank you to everyone who took part and to families for supporting our young readers. We hope you all enjoy your new books and have a wonderful summer filled with lots of reading adventures!

Well done to our Countryside Week Prize Winners

On Friday, we celebrated some very deserving children for their enthusiasm, effort, and achievements during our Countryside Week activities.

Awards were presented for a range of wonderful qualities, including asking thoughtful and curious questions, showing incredible focus during shooting activities, taking a genuine interest in their learning, and demonstrating the qualities of a future farmer. It was fantastic to recognise the children who embraced every opportunity and showed such enthusiasm throughout the week.

There was even a special moment for Mrs Heffer, who was awarded a prize for winning the staff shooting competition — a brilliant achievement!

A huge well done to everyone who took part, and a special thank you to Pecks, Soil Worx, and Buitelaar Agriculture for generously sponsoring our prizes this year. Your support helped make Countryside Week such a memorable experience for our children.

Coming soon...

The extremely hot weather has slowed our plans to bring our Bee and Butterfly Garden back to life. This September, we'll be transforming the area into an even richer haven of pollinator-friendly plants, bringing vibrant colour back to the space while creating an even more welcoming environment for bees, butterflies and other important wildlife.

We know our very own bee colony will benefit from an abundance of nectar-rich flowers as they continue to grow and thrive here at Barnham.

We are incredibly grateful to C & D Foods for their generous donation, which is helping us increase biodiversity and further enhance our wonderful school environment. The garden has been carefully designed with a beautiful selection of pollinator-friendly plants, including salvias, catmint, and many other fragrant and colourful varieties, alongside water butts and benches to create a peaceful space for both wildlife and our children to enjoy.

A huge thank you goes to Catriona and Caroline for leading the design of this exciting project and bringing the vision to life.

Planting will begin in September when we return to school and the weather is a little kinder for our new plants. We can't wait to share the transformation with you all—watch this space!

Read on over the summer!

Reading over the summer holidays is one of the most valuable things you can do to support your child's learning and confidence!

During the break, children can experience what is often called the 'summer slide', where they may lose some of the progress and skills they have worked so hard to develop during the school year. By continuing to read regularly, children can maintain their fluency, build their vocabulary, grow their imagination and return to school in September ready and confident to learn.

The most important thing is that reading feels enjoyable – it doesn't have to be a chore! Whether it's sharing a bedtime story, listening to an audiobook, reading a magazine, exploring books outside or visiting the library, every reading experience makes a difference.

We have put together some fun and simple ideas to help make reading a part of your summer adventures.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us nurture a lifelong love of reading.

Happy summer reading!

Miss Cross

Library Reading Challenge

What's on at Thetford Library

Summer Events

Sat 18th July	10:00 - 16:00	**Launch Event**
Wed 22nd July	16:30 - 17:30	**Pokemon Club**
Wed 19th Aug	16:30 - 17:30	**Pokemon Club**
Fri 21st Aug	10:30 - 11:30	**Silent Disco***
Sat 22nd Aug	10:30 - 15:00	**Brecks Outdoor Festival - 'Brecks Game'**
Wed 26th Aug	12:00 - 12:45	**Children's Storytime with LIVE Cello***
Sat 29th Aug	10.30 - 11.30	**Medal Ceremony***

Weekly Events

Mondays	10:30 - 11:00	**Bounce and Rhyme: Session 1**
Mondays	11:00 - 11:30	**Stay and Play**
Mondays	11:30 - 12:00	**Bounce and Rhyme: Session 2**
Mondays	14:00 - 15:00	**Read to the Beat Book Group (7-9 yrs)†**
Mondays	15:30 - 16:30	**Lego Club**
Wednesdays	10:30 - 11:00	**Bounce and Rhyme**
Wednesdays	11:00 - 11:30	**Stay and Play**
Fridays	15:30 - 17:00	**Lego Club**

*Booking required
† Running between 20th July - 24th August

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult

For more information on our events and to book visit
www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraryonline
Follow our Facebook page for regular updates @ThetfordLibrary

We would love to encourage as many children as possible to take part and keep their reading going throughout the summer holidays. Whether they enjoy stories, information books, comics or anything else they love to read, this is a fantastic way to keep imaginations growing and celebrate the joy of reading.

As always, we invite children to bring their Summer Reading Challenge certificates into school when we return in September, so that we can recognise and celebrate their achievements together as a school community.

Happy reading!

Summer Maths Challenges

As we approach the summer holidays, we'd like to encourage you to visit our school website, where you'll find a range of fun and engaging maths activities for your child to enjoy over the break.

The summer holidays are a wonderful opportunity to relax, spend quality time together, and make lasting memories. They also provide a great chance to keep maths skills fresh in a fun and pressure-free way. Spending just a little time on maths throughout the holidays can help children retain what they've learned, build confidence, and return to school ready for a successful start to the new academic year.

Many of the activities are designed for the whole family to enjoy, so why not solve a puzzle together, play a maths game, or spot the maths in everyday life? Even a few minutes of maths each week can make a real difference.

We wish you all a wonderful summer break and hope you enjoy exploring maths together!

Mrs Kennedy

Click here to find the challenges

News from FOBS

FOBS
FRIENDS OF BARNHAM CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

As another fantastic year comes to an end, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported our events and fundraising activities. Thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, FOBs raised an incredible £4,529.10 this year!

The money raised has helped fund a wide range of resources and experiences for the children, including:

Leavers' hoodies
Ice creams during the Hunstanton trip
White baseball caps
Contributions towards the Duxford trip, Shimpling Farm visit and other trips
Forest School equipment
Roller hire for the back field
Grass seed
Reading books - lots!
A toaster for the Thrive Hive
Children's Christmas decorations
Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts

We couldn't do any of this without the wonderful support of our school community, so thank you once again to everyone who has attended events, volunteered their time, donated, or supported us in any way.

We'll be back in September with another exciting year of fundraising events. If you'd like to get involved with FOBs, we'd love to welcome you—keep an eye out for the date of our September meeting. We hope to see you there!

A special thank you goes to Emily Rayment, our FOBs Chair, whose leadership, organisation and commitment have helped make another fantastic year of fundraising possible. We would also like to thank Beth Mleczek, our Treasurer, for all of her hard work behind the scenes, particularly in managing the finances and keeping track of all the fundraising totals.

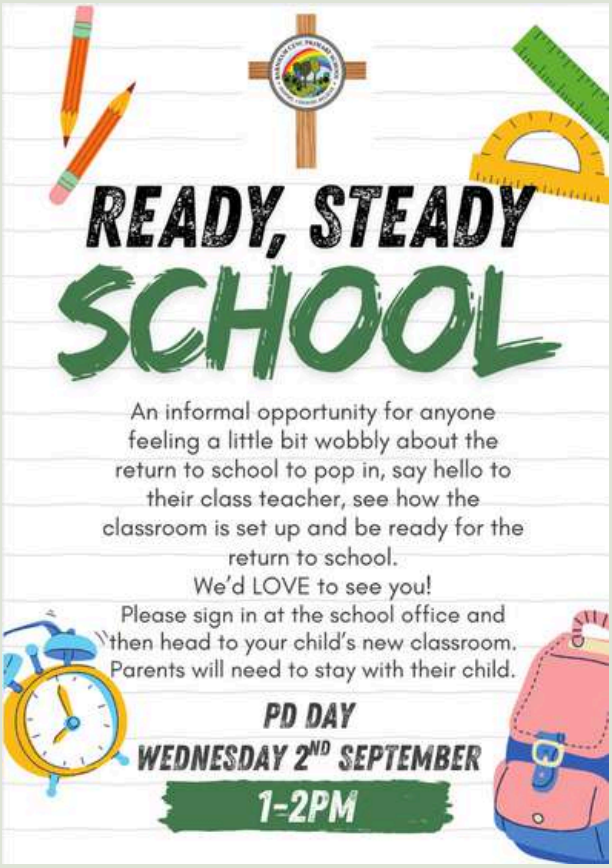
To every member of the FOBs team, as well as everyone who has volunteered their time, baked cakes, helped at events, donated prizes or simply came along to support, thank you. Your efforts have made a real difference to the opportunities and experiences we are able to provide for our children.

We are incredibly grateful for everything you do for our school community and look forward to another successful year together in September.

Something for the new reception starters at Barnham?

Saturday 8th August 11am-1pm @ The Nurture Hub

Transition News



Our second transition session on Wednesday was a huge success, and it was wonderful to see the children enjoying time with their new teachers and getting to know their new classrooms. The children were excited, confident and enthusiastic as they began building those important relationships ready for September.

Each child should have brought home a summer holiday scrapbook to complete over the holidays. We would love all children to take part and bring these back with them on their first day so they can share their memories and experiences with their new classmates. The scrapbook can be filled with anything that captures their summer – writing, photographs, drawings, tickets, leaflets, postcards, or any special memories you make together as a family.
These scrapbooks will provide a fantastic transition tool and a lovely talking point when children return, helping them to share their experiences and settle into their new classes. We will also be recognising children who make a special effort with their scrapbooks by awarding our Barnham VIP Badges for the first time in the new school year.

As with last year, we will also be holding our 'Ready, Steady School' event on Wednesday 2nd September, 1-2pm. This is an informal drop-in session designed for any children who may feel they need a little extra support with the transition back to school or who may be feeling a little unsure about returning after the summer break.
Parents and carers will need to stay with their child and simply pop in at any point during the hour to have a look around the classroom, meet familiar faces and help make the return to school feel a little easier. There is no need to book – just come along if you feel your child would benefit from the opportunity.
We can't wait to welcome everyone back and hear all about the wonderful summer memories the children have made.

Order your name labels ready for the new school year!

We are super excited to announce that we have teamed up with Stikins to offer parents the opportunity to purchase quality labels for your children's school uniform, whilst earning the school commission at the same time! This money can then be used to continue to help purchase some of the fantastic resources that benefit our children's learning.

As we all know, lost property is a problem in all schools and I am sure we are all familiar with our child, at some point, coming home from school with a missing item. As parents, we are aware that time is precious, which is why we think these labels are such a great idea; they simply stick onto the wash-care label of clothing. They can even be used in shoes! Naming of clothing is a school requirement and we are hoping that with this opportunity we can start to eliminate some of parents' frustrations that surround these issues.

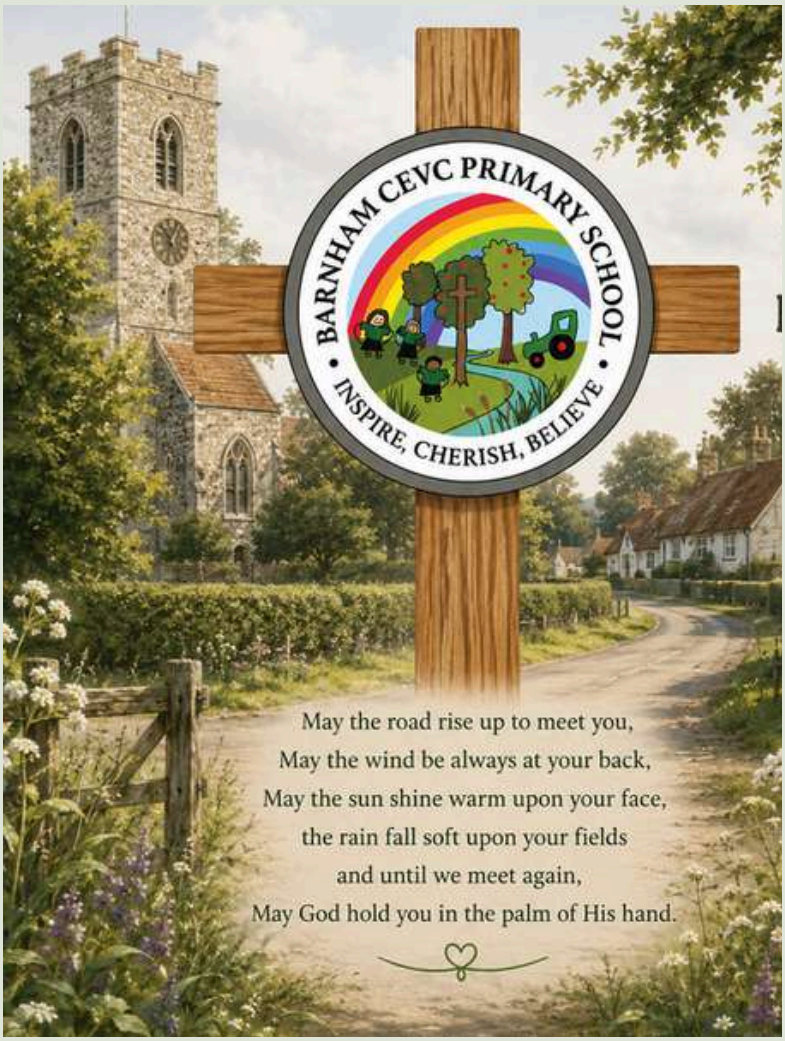
How it works:

Each order placed quoting the **school reference number (1353)** will provide the school with 30% commission.

Click here to visit the website and order your labels

Help us to ensure all clothing is labelled and that it can be returned to you if found.

Collective Worship News



Collective Worship this week has all been about focusing and reflecting and how far we have come and just how much we have grown over the last year especially in our value of RESILIENCE.

We want to share a Celtic Blessing with you all as we end this school year and look forward with hope to the next school year. This was shared with our Year 6 leavers at Collective Worship on Friday afternoon.

To all the families leaving us, we wish you all the very best for a the future.

Once a member of the Barnham Family, always a member! Do stay in touch and keep us updated with your news and achievements and remember we will always be here if there's anything that we can do to help you.

Picture News this week

Story: People living in remote parts of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador are using solar-powered canoes to travel along rivers.

Question: How can we travel while protecting nature?

Virtual Picture News:
www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

Our RESILIENCE Bible Verse -
"I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength."
Philippians 4 v 13

This week's attendance

HEDGEHOGS 91.33%

MOLES 95%

BADGERS 95%

FOXES 93.57%

SQUIRRELS 87.5%

OTTERS 98.95%

Improving attendance will be a key priority for our school next year, as every day in school really does make a difference to children's learning, friendships and wellbeing. We kindly ask all families to check the published term dates carefully when making holiday plans and ensure that family holidays are booked during the school holidays wherever possible.
Thank you for working with us to give every child the very best opportunity to succeed through excellent attendance.

Diary Dates

After the summer holidays-
All children return to school on
Thursday 3rd September 2026

Monday 21st September- Whole School 'Booknic' (from 2:30pm)
Monday 28th September- Sports Week Begins
Monday 28th September - Sports Day
Wednesday 30th September - Friday 2nd October -
Year 6 Residential to Grafham Water Centre
Friday 9th October- Flu Vaccinations
Friday 9th October - Harvest Celebrations (more info to follow)
Tuesday 13th October- Tempest Photography- Individual Photos
Tuesday 20th October - Music Extravaganza

Half Term - Saturday 24th October- Sunday 31st October- Children back to school on Monday 1st November

Monday 23rd November - Community Christingle (from 2pm)
Monday 7th December - Christmas Story Cafe(from 2:30pm)
Tuesday 8th December - EYFS and KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 15th December - Music Extravaganza
Friday 18th December - Christmas Services @ Church

Friday 18th December - Last Day of Term

OUR SCHOOL BIBLE VERSES:

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."
Jeremiah 17:7-8

Jesus said 'I am the vine; you are the branches.
Those who abide in my and I in them, will bear much fruit.'
John 15:5