

Barnsbury Primary School and Nursery Newsletter



“
Believe,
Persevere,
Succeed.
”

September 2025

A message from Miss Harbridge

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Barnsbury Primary School and Nursery. It is a real privilege to have joined such a warm and welcoming school community. Over the past two weeks, I've had the pleasure of meeting many of your children, and I have quickly noticed how happy, polite, and respectful Barnsbury children are. As we get to know each other, I hope you will see that I am committed to working closely with families, staff, and children to ensure every child thrives. My aim is for every child to succeed as we nurture their self-belief and perseverance — I truly believe that every child is capable of wonderful things.

As we come to the end of our first full week of the autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to share how well the children have settled into school life. Across the school, children are already showing great enthusiasm in their lessons, and having spent time in classrooms this week, I have been impressed by their excellent learning behaviours and positive attitudes.

I look forward to getting to know each child and family better over the coming weeks, and I thank you for your continued support as we begin this exciting journey together.

Whole School Focus

At Barnsbury, our school rules are: Ready, Respectful, Safe. This week, in our whole-school assembly and follow-up sessions, we focused on the theme of safety in school. During these sessions, children discussed how we stay safe at school and identified the trusted adults they can talk to if they ever feel worried.

We want all our children to know that they can speak to any adult in school if something is troubling them. For those who find this difficult, each class has a worry monster — a safe and discreet way for children to share their concerns. Teachers regularly check these and follow up with children to ensure they feel supported and heard.

Barnsbury Rules



Our Barnsbury Rules

Ready.



Respectful.



Safe.



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Key Messages

Please see our Designated Safeguarding Team below.

This team holds lead responsibility for keeping children safe and protecting them from harm. If you ever have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, please speak to a member of the DSL team.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are:



DSL: Miss V
Harbridge
(Headteacher)



Deputy DSL:
Miss L Powell



Deputy DSL: Mrs
A Ali



Deputy DSL: Mrs
S Kimber





Deputy DSL:
Miss A Bartlett

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Awards this week

	 Star of the Week	 Effort Award
Oak		
Ash		
1B	Umai	Krushnal
1M	Lottie	Robert
2A	Pipalina	Clemmie
2T	Haseeba	Cooper
3M	Joe	Ellie
3MC	Rebecca	Isla
4B	Roslyn	Isla-Rose
4J	Ulvi	George
5D	William	Henry
5T	Vadhana	Precious
6G	Adele	Ted
6L	Harvey	Grace O

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Dates for your diary 2025-26 - Autumn Term

September	
Monday 15th	Year 4 Parent Meeting 9am
Tuesday 16th	Year 5 Parent Meeting 9am
Tuesday 16th	Year 2 Parent Meeting 2:30am
Wednesday 17th	Reception Welcome Meeting 9am
Wednesday 17th	Year 3 Parent Meeting 2.:30pm
Thursday 18th	Year 6 Parent Meeting 9am
Thursday 18th	Year 1 Parent Meeting 2:30pm
Tuesday 23rd	Year 6 Parents Residential Trip Meeting 6pm
Weds 24th—Fri 26th	Year 4 Residential Trip
October	
Friday 3rd	Flu Vaccination Programme. Years Reception—Year 6
Friday 3rd	Height and Weight for Reception and Year 6 children only.
Friday 10th	PTA Quiz Night (times tbc)
Mon 13th—Fri 17th	Year 6 Residential Trip
Mon 27th—Fri 31st	Half Term
November	
Monday 3rd	INSET Day
Tuesday 4th	INSET Day
Wednesday 12th	Individual and Sibling Photos
December	
Tuesday 2nd	KS1 Christmas Panto (in school)
Tuesday 9th	Rocksteady Autumn Concert—Tuesday Bands
Wednesday 10th	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11th	Rocksteady Autumn Concert—Thursday Bands
Friday 12th	Rocksteady Autumn Concert—Friday Bands
Monday 15th	KS1 Christmas Performance 9am and 2pm
Tuesday 16th	KS1 Christmas Performance 9am and 2pm
Friday 19th	End of Term (1:15pm finish)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College

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



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YOUR BARNSBURY PTA NEEDS YOU!

**Help us shape the future of
Barnsbury school and it's
children by helping us raise
vital funds...**

WE NEED YOUR:

**INPUT...your opinions matter
TIME...however much you can spare
DONATIONS...big or small and your
help CREATING AWARENESS**



**Contact your class rep or email:
pta@barnsbury@surrey.sch.co.uk**