

Barnsbury Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

(FORTNIGHTLY)



“
Believe,
Persevere,
Succeed.
”

24th October 2025

A message from Miss Harbridge

As we reach the end of our first half term together, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many highlights and thank everyone—staff, children, and families—for such a warm and positive start to the academic year. It has been a pleasure getting to know the Barnsbury community, and I'm incredibly proud of how much we've already achieved.

This week, we began our parent tours for families interested in Reception places for September 2026. It's been a real pleasure to welcome prospective parents into Barnsbury and give them a glimpse of the warm, engaging, and inspiring learning environment their children could be part of.

This morning, Year 3 treated us to a joyful Harvest Festival Production, which was very well attended by parents and carers. The children sang four songs with great enthusiasm, including the brilliantly entertaining "Harvest Tango," which had everyone smiling. A huge thank you to the Year 3 team for their hard work in preparing such a memorable event.

Last week, most of Year 6 embarked on their residential trip to Avon Tyrell, where they showed tremendous courage and teamwork—especially on the high ropes! For those who stayed closer to home, exciting adventures were had at Runways End and Rugged Earth. Both groups returned full of stories, laughter, and pride in their achievements.

Across the school, children have settled into their learning brilliantly, and it's been a joy to visit classrooms and see such purposeful activity. Staff have worked tirelessly to create engaging lessons and supportive environments, and I'm grateful for their dedication.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope everyone finds time to rest and recharge. I'm looking forward to the second half of the autumn term and all the opportunities it will bring.

Whole School Focus

Over the past two weeks, our assemblies have focused on the British Value of mutual respect, linking this theme to Black History Month. We've explored the inspiring story of Floella Benjamin through her book *Coming to England*, which shares her journey of moving to Britain as a child and the challenges she overcame. Her achievements and resilience have helped us reflect on the importance of respecting others' experiences, backgrounds, and contributions.

Children have engaged thoughtfully with the themes of identity, fairness, and kindness, and it's been wonderful to hear their reflections and questions. These assemblies have helped us celebrate diversity and deepen our understanding of what it means to live respectfully in our school and wider community.

After half term, we'll be turning our focus to the value of co-operation, exploring how working together helps us achieve more and strengthens our relationships.

Focus Value



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Key Messages

Parking reminder - please be considerate to others as drop-off and pick-up times can be very busy. We have to remember that Barnsbury is surrounded by people's homes and we need to display our Barnsbury Values at all times and be respectful of that. If you can, please walk to school or park further away from the school and walk in from there. Please do not park across people's driveways, on double yellow lines or on grass verges.

Cycling to and from school - as the Winter months approach, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of wearing a helmet, high visibility clothing and bike lights, now it's getting darker.

Tissues - We would be most grateful if each family could bring in a box of tissues! We are using so many and they are quite expensive to keep buying, so if you are able to, please can you add a box to your weekly shopping? Thank you.



School Text

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Awards - week commencing 13/10

Star Award, Effort Award and Values Award			
Oak	Navie	Christober	Pimry
Pine	Hugo	Anabia	Sofia S
1B	Lyra	Denis	Harry
1M	Treasure	Enoch	Anna
2A	Clemmie	Imogen	Jake
2T	Lenny	Dakota	Aila
3M	Jenson	Henry	Eva
3MC	Logan	Jaswik	Hannah
4B	Sarah Luisa	Niyam	Fatimah
4J	Avy	Molly	Ulvi
5D	Amber	Josh	Edward
5T	Samantha	Kyra	Holly
6G	-	-	-
6L	-	-	-

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Awards - week commencing 13/10

Congratulations to our Super Speller of
the Week:

Aliza - 3MC
Nayna - 4B
Elsie - 5D



Congratulations to the recipients of a
WOW certificates this week:

Talia, Jaswik and Sammy - 3MC



Congratulations to the Lionesses of the week:



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Awards - week commencing 20/10

Star Award, Effort Award, Values Award & Writer of the Month				
Oak	Zac W	Karter	Skyla	Reya
Pine	Bella	Alex	Ziva	Sofia S
1B	Denis	Ruben	Logan	Isra
1M	Magi	Haniya	Gianna	Loki
2A	Michael	Sophie	James	-
2T	Vinnie	Nok Hang	Hugo	Tristan
3M	Misha	Mikael	Hannah	Scarlett
3MC	Aboudy	Jessica	Aliza	Sammy
4B	Poema	Fatimah	Priyam	Ella
4J	Aaron	Reece	Caitlin	Hadley
5D	Teniola	Chiram	Miriam	Leo
5T	Isla	Mila	Skylar	Jonathan
6G	William B	George A	Zoe	Bella
6L	Rosie	Rachael	Ruohan	Orla

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Awards - week commencing 20/10

Congratulations to our Super Speller of
the Week:

Emeli - 5D



Congratulations to the recipients of a
WOW certificates this week:

Denis - 1B

Azhaan, Vinnie, Kyla & Arthur - 3MC

Vishnu - 4B

Theo H, Avy, & George - 4J

Abubakr, Callan, Revaan - 5D

Class 6L



Congratulations to the Lionesses of the week:



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Dates for your diary 2025-26 - Autumn Term

October	
Mon 27th - Fri 31st	Half Term
November	
Monday 3rd	Inset Day
Tuesday 4th	Inset Day
Wednesday 12th	Individual and Sibling Photos
Saturday 22nd	PTA Christmas Fair, 12pm - 3pm.
Friday 28th	6G Class Assembly
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
Thursday 11th	KS2 Panto

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Dates for your diary 2025-26 - Autumn Term

December (continued)	
Friday 12th	Rocksteady Autumn Concert - Friday Bands
Friday 12th	KS2 Panto
Monday 15th	**UPDATED TIMES** KS1 Christmas Performance 9.15am and 2pm
Tuesday 16th	**UPDATED TIMES** KS1 Christmas Performance 9.15am and 2pm
Wednesday 17th	Acorns Festive Family Fun
Wednesday 17th	St Mary of Bethany Carol Concert at 4pm – Year 3 and 4
Friday 19th	End of Term (1:15pm finish)
January 2026	
Monday 5th	Inset Day
Tuesday 6th	Inset Day
Wednesday 7th	Start of Term at 08:30am



BARNSBURY PRIMARY

SCHOOL PTA

CHRISTMAS FAIR



**TOMBOLA, SNOW GLOBE, SECRET SHOP,
SWEET TREATS AND MORE!!!**



**JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON FULL OF
GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND FESTIVE FUNS!**

**SATURDAY 22ND
NOVEMBER**

12 NOON - 3PM

FREE ENTRY



FREE PLAY & LEARN
SESSION



WOKING FAMILY CENTRE

DROP-IN & JOIN US FOR MESSY PLAY

PLAYDOUGH, ARTS, CRAFTS & HEALTHY EATING

FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER 2025

12:00pm- 1:30pm



For more information contact:
wokingfamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk
01483 310419

Suitable for children 0-11 years (older siblings are welcome)

**Woking Family Centre, Sythwood,
Woking, GU21 3AX**



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



See full reference list on our website



The National College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College



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**