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Supporting everyone to be kind, confident and curious

Monday 11th May 2026

Dear Parents /Carers

It's been a busy few weeks at Barham, and I wanted to share some updates and highlights from across the school.

End-of-Year School Reports

From this year, end-of-year school reports will be sent to you electronically via email. Please ensure that we have your most up-to-date email address on record so that you receive your child's report promptly on Friday 10th July. To access the report, you will be required to enter your child's date of birth as an added security measure. Please let the office know if you will need a paper copy.

Reading for Pleasure & Summer Reading Challenge

We are continuing to encourage all children to read for pleasure. Both nationally and within school, we are seeing a decline in recreational reading, and we are keen to address this positively.

To support this, we would like to promote the local library's Summer Reading Challenge, which is a fantastic way to motivate children to enjoy reading over the holidays. **2026 is the National Year of Reading**, and we would love your help to make reading part of everyday life. More information will be shared with pupils, and we strongly encourage families to get involved. Here is the [link](#):

Kent Libraries are encouraging families to prepare early for the Summer Reading Challenge by getting a head start on summer reading now. Families can:

- join the library
- start building their Summer Reading list
- explore the virtual tours
- explore the free eLibrary apps and much more.

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

It is now six months since we began our OPAL journey and we are really proud of the progress we have made. Our OPAL Team—Miss Brice, Mrs Mohor, Mrs Brooker and Mrs Duhig are working hard to develop an excellent outdoor play and learning environment. We have shared our latest video with you on Seesaw. Parents and carers are invited to come and play on Thursday 11th June 2-3pm. Please fill in [this form](#) to let us know you are coming. As Year 4 are out of school on 11th June, Year 4 parents are invited to attend 9:15-10:15 before the class head off on their visit to Samphire Hoe on 22nd June.

We've created a wish list of resources that will really enhance what we can offer. We're very grateful for any contributions — thank you for helping us make play even better for our children. Here is the [Amazon wish list](#).



Site Security Updates

We have been working closely with the Local Authority to further improve our site security. This work has included securing all fire exits so that they remain fully accessible in an emergency but are otherwise locked. Staff now use security fobs to access many areas of the school, helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone. There is also a camera at the front entrance and digital signing in system.

Kingfisher Club – Breakfast and After-School Provision

We are very excited to be planning ahead for the continuing wraparound care for our families. Our Kingfisher Breakfast and After School Club will build on what the children already enjoy. The club will be run by existing school staff, led by Mrs Ward, so they will already be familiar faces to the children.



A parent handbook with further details will be sent to you shortly as we are committed to making the transition smooth and positive. We will be surveying the children to find out what they currently enjoy, the breakfasts and snacks they like most and anything new they would like to see at Kingfishers. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Mrs Higgins

We're pleased to share that a bench and commemorative plaque, along with a cherry tree, have now been put in place in memory of Mrs Higgins. This has been a really difficult time for our whole school community, and I want to recognise how incredible the staff have been – supporting one another and always keeping the children at the centre, even while managing their own grief.

A big thank you to Clare Scott and Mina Brightling, our new PTA co-chairs, for organising this so thoughtfully, and to everyone who contributed through donations. We will also be introducing an annual trophy in Mrs Higgins' memory.

Senior Leadership Team

As we move forward, we have made some changes to our senior leadership team. I'm really pleased to share that Mrs Anderson is our new Deputy Head. Mrs Morgan and Mrs Gooderham, both very experienced teachers, will now be joining the leadership team. I know they will all bring great strength and support to the school. Mrs Anderson will continue in her role as SENCO.

There is so much to look forward to in the coming weeks. Exciting trips are being planned, Forest School sessions are now underway and already proving a fantastic opportunity for outdoor learning, and anticipation is building for our upcoming production of Matilda. Swimming lessons have also begun. It is lovely to see the children so engaged and making the most of all these opportunities. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jo Duhig
Headteacher