We are focusing on all of the Fundamental British Values for this half term.

Our school values are;

Community, Kindness, Friendship, Happiness, Honesty and Respect.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

9th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely to see the children settling into their classes, building friendships and growing in confidence as the term gets underway. There is a real sense of energy around the school, with children enjoying their learning and taking pride in what they can achieve. Thank you for your continued support and for being part of the events and everyday moments that make our school community so special.

School improvement visit This week, our School Improvement Partner joined the Senior Leadership Team for a learning walk. Overall, the visit was positive, with strengths identified in the calm, welcoming environment, high expectations for learning, phonics teaching, questioning and consistency across classes.

Effective guided groups in the Early Years were also highlighted, alongside the children's creativity and imagination as they built, designed and brought their ideas to life through role play. We will build on these strengths and follow up the areas identified for improvement.

Poetry show What an overwhelming turnout for last week's Poetry Show. It was wonderful to see so many families joining us and supporting the children. Thank you to Ms Farmer for organising the show and to our teachers for helping the children perform to such a high standard so early in the term. Their confidence, expression and enthusiasm were a pleasure to see. We look forward to welcoming our Reception children to the stage for the spring Poetry Show. Have a look here to see a video of poetry in action at John Stainer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9ZiFEs-npQ

Parents' evening Our upcoming parent/carer consultations (Tuesday 20th/Wednesday 21st October) will be an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled, their progress and their next steps. During the meeting, your child's teacher will give you a verbal update, and you will have the opportunity to look through your child's books and ask questions. You were emailed a booking link so please do ensure you have booked your appointment. These conversations help us work together to support your child's learning and wellbeing.

Boosters and targeted support A small number of children in each year group have been invited to attend boosters to strengthen particular skills or address gaps in their learning. Please support your child to attend regularly so they can benefit fully from this provision.

Small group English interventions are also taking place for selected children in Years 5 and 6. This six week programme focuses on specific learning gaps and developing confidence and independence. We will review progress by the end of the half term and use this information to decide what support each child needs next.

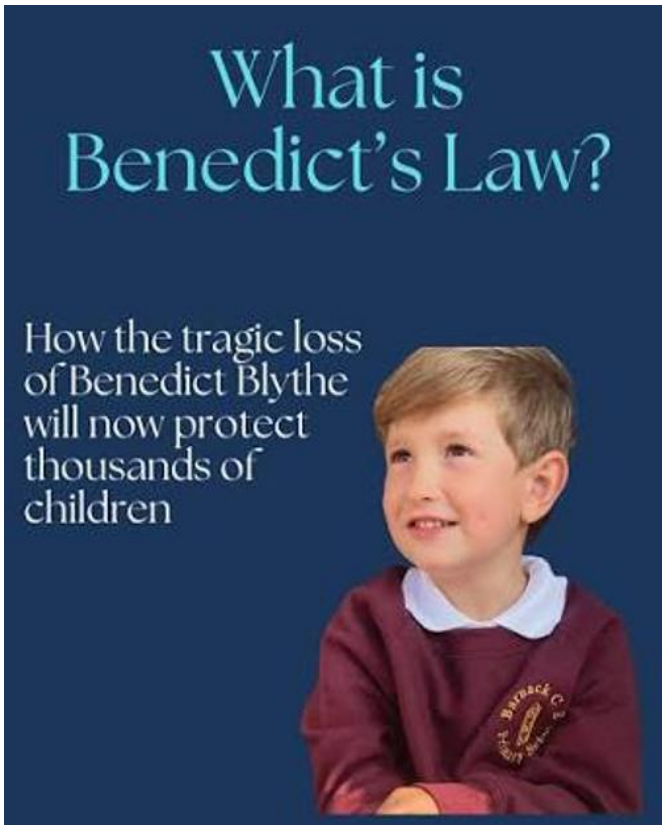
Harvest donations Our Harvest assembly gave children an opportunity to reflect on gratitude, kindness and helping those in need. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our collection so far. All contributions will be donated to Lewisham Food Bank to support people in our community. Your generosity reflects the spirit of Harvest: giving thanks for what we have and sharing with others.

Spread the word We currently have vacancies in all year groups except Year 5. If you have friends or family looking for a school place, please tell them about John Stainer and encourage them to contact the school office to arrange a tour.

Our Reception open mornings for September 2027 entry are also coming up. Please share this with families whose children will be starting school next September. We would love to welcome them and show them our school.

Have a lovely weekend.

Shermane Okorodudu
Headteacher



Allergy safety and Benedict's Law

We continue to strengthen our allergy safety arrangements in response to Benedict's Law and the updated guidance for schools. Please support our school rules by ensuring that children do not bring nuts or products containing nuts into school. Sweets should also remain at home, including those intended for birthday or other special celebrations. Children must not share food, as something safe for one child may cause a serious reaction in another.

Please tell the school promptly about any new allergy, changes to your child's medical needs or prescribed medication. For organised events involving food, please follow the school's instructions about ingredients and allergens. These precautions help us keep children safe and included.

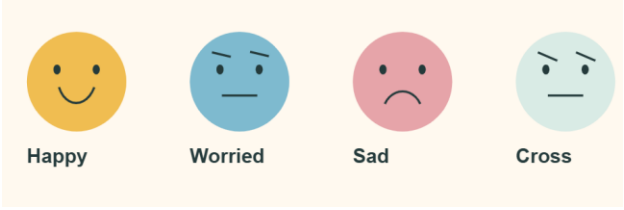


We are looking forward to our upcoming Culture Day and food tasting evening where we will celebrate the many cultures represented in our school community. Children are invited to wear clothing that celebrates their or others' culture or heritage to school that day, and families are asked to contribute food for everyone to enjoy. Please ensure that you drop off any food in advance, at 2pm, so we have time to set up the hall ready for a prompt 3:30 start. All are invited.

Please follow the information previously emailed to families about food contributions, including providing ingredients and allergen details.

Thank you for helping us make this a welcoming and enjoyable celebration.

Mental health and wellbeing



Today we marked World Mental Health Day ahead of the international day on Saturday. Our assembly focused on recognising feelings, showing kindness and knowing when and how to ask for help.

Throughout the year, we support children's wellbeing through PSHE, circle time, calming corners, sensory spaces and a shared language that helps children understand and manage their emotions. Children can also speak to trusted adults whenever they need support, including their class teacher, teaching assistant or another familiar member of staff. A wide range of pastoral support is available according to children's needs.

Our wellbeing action plan continues to focus on helping children feel safe, connected and ready to learn. The School Council and Change Team help us hear pupils' views and identify improvements to their experience of school. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have concerns about their wellbeing.

Parents Questionnaire Response July 2026

What parents value most

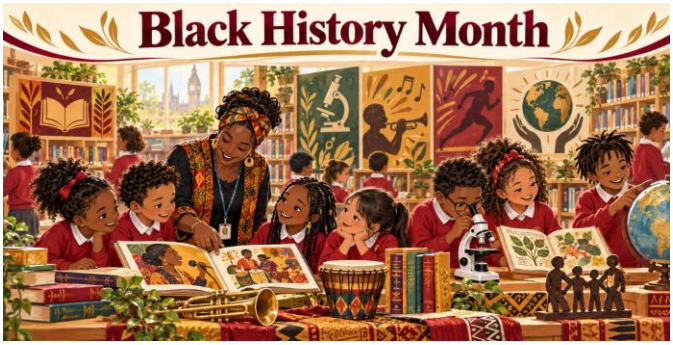
96% Children enjoy coming to school	**96%** Children feel safe	**96%** Staff encourage children to achieve their best
92% Healthy relationships and friendships	**92%** High expectations for behaviour	**90%** Extra-curricular & enrichment opportunities

Communication and diary dates In our recent parent questionnaire, communication received an **84% positive response**. Some parents explained that information is spread across several channels, making it difficult to find or revisit. Please regularly visit these sections of our website to ensure you are kept up to date:

- Calendar and Diary dates
- Newsletters
- Curriculum information

We encourage all parents to sign up for school notifications and keep an eye on updates or changes to arrangements.

We will review how information is organised on the website to make it easier to find, while continuing to meet our statutory website requirements.



Throughout October, children will explore Black history, achievements and contributions through their learning. We want pupils to hear a wide range of voices, develop an understanding of equality and celebrate the people and communities who have helped shape our world.

This learning builds on our work throughout the year to celebrate identity, challenge prejudice and strengthen everyone's sense of belonging.

Achievement Awards

Class	28th September- 2nd October		5th October- 9th October	
	Gold award	Citizenship award	Gold award	Citizenship award
Reception Elder	Joyann	Eden		Posie
Reception Magnolia	Jahmari	Vanessa	Nova	Ambre-Rose
Year 1 Spindle	Noah	Flynn	Dexter	Muhammad
Year 1 Sycamore	Quinton	Mackayla	Mohammad	Ivo
Year 2 Oak	Louis	Mariama	Emily	Samuel
Year 2 Ash	Samuel	Michela	Zhyla	Delilah
Year 3 Juniper	Hannah	Layth		
Year 3 Elm	Janayah	Leona	Musa	Michael
Year 4 Maple	Connie	Ayesha	Arabella	Kateryna
Year 4 Birch	Layad	Amalie	Sebastian	Monroe
Year 5 Lime	Charlie	Suleyman	Ela	Mohammed
Year 5 Willow	Maisie	Lauren	Abayomi	Seena
Year 6 Chestnut	Otto	Luna	Rohanna	Albert
Year 6 Beech	Jean-Eli	Polly	Mariana	Kalani

Attendance and Punctuality

Registration Form	Attendance	Lates
Year 1 Spindle	99.0%	1
Year 1 Sycamore	100.0%	2
Year 2 Ash	97.7%	0
Year 2 Oak	97.0%	0
Year 3 Elm	99.6%	1
Year 3 Juniper	96.4%	5
Year 4 Birch	98.6%	3
Year 4 Maple	95.5%	0
Year 5 Lime	95.3%	0
Year 5 Willow	93.0%	5
Year 6 Beech	98.5%	0
Year 6 Chestnut	99.1%	1

Well done Year 1 Sycamore for 100% attendance!