



Lady Boswell's C.E. (Aided) Primary School



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21 July 2026

Dear parents, carers, governors and staff

With the arrival of the summer holidays and the end of the academic year, we are pleased to write to reflect on what has been another memorable year at Lady Boswell's School and to glimpse ahead at the academic year 2026-2027.

The start of our academic year saw our 350th anniversary year drawing to a close, but allowed our new September intake to be a part of our celebrations. Our October Service of Thanksgiving at Rochester Cathedral was a milestone event for us all and demonstrated the enormity and significance of this event, not only for us but for the wider public. As a reflection of the work of Lady Margaret Boswell, the Lady Boswell's community continued to complete acts of service until the end of the calendar year with a target of achieving 350 such acts. We are very proud and unsurprised to say that, by December 2025, we far exceeded our goal. This was a very fitting end to our sesquicentennial celebrations and a wonderful recognition of the remarkable legacy of Lady Margaret Boswell.

As we step forward to July 2026, we can look back with pride at a 2025-6 chapter that we have added into our School's history book. It has been a year filled with progress, discovery and many moments of celebration. Our pupils have embraced every opportunity with curiosity and determination, grown in confidence and independence, and consistently shown compassion and respect for those around them. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through charitable fundraising, on the stage or during educational visits, they have made the most of every experience, contributing to a vibrant and flourishing school community. The breadth of opportunities enjoyed throughout the year has created lasting memories and highlighted the enthusiasm, talent and spirit of our pupils.

With two successful external inspections behind us, SIAMS and Ofsted, we are delighted that both reports recognised the dedication, ambition and excellence demonstrated by our staff. Their findings reflect the commitment of everyone in our school community to providing every child with an education of which they can be truly proud.

CHRIST AT THE CENTRE

Our Christian vision continues to be at the heart of all that we do, shaping the daily life of our school community and inspiring the way we learn, serve and care for one another. Throughout the year, we have seen our school values of faith, respect, honesty, kindness, forgiveness and love reflected in countless acts of compassion, generosity and friendship, reminding us that these values are most powerful when lived out in everyday actions.

With our 350th anniversary celebrations, 2025 was a particularly significant year in the life of the school. Beyond the celebrations of this special anniversary, our Collective Worship has continued to provide moments of reflection, celebration and prayer as we journeyed together through the seasons of the Church calendar. From the quiet dignity of our Remembrance Service and the anticipation of Advent, to the joy of Christmas, the hope of Easter and the inspiration of Pentecost, our children have been encouraged to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and to consider how its message influences the way we live our lives today.

Alongside these occasions, services celebrating Mothering Sunday, friendship and the transition of our Year 6 pupils have strengthened the sense of belonging that is such an important part of our school family. One of the most treasured days in our calendar remains our annual Prayer Day, when children are given time and space to be still, to reflect and to explore their own faith and spirituality amidst the pace of everyday school life.

As we look back with gratitude on another memorable year, we give thanks for the many opportunities we have shared to worship, to serve others and to grow together in faith. We pray that the values nurtured within our school community will continue to guide our children long after they leave our care.

CURRICULUM AND ENRICHMENT

At Lady Boswell's, learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our ambitious curriculum provides the foundations for academic success but it is the wealth of experiences that enrich that learning and inspire curiosity, deepen understanding and create memories that last long after lessons have ended.

Throughout the year, children have embraced a wide variety of educational visits, workshops and themed learning experiences, bringing their studies vividly to life. From exploring local attractions such as Knole House and Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve to visiting zoos, castles, cathedrals, museums, theatres and the seaside, to stepping back in time through immersive workshops on the Ancient Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, Vikings, Mayans, the Great Fire of London and the Second World War, pupils have been encouraged to question, investigate and make meaningful connections with the world around them. Alongside this, our Year 5 pupils developed valuable cycling and road safety skills through Bikeability, while residential visits to Stubbers and Manor Adventure challenged our older children to grow in confidence, resilience and independence.

Our love of reading has continued to flourish. Book Fortnight once again transformed the School as classes enjoyed daily *Drop Everything and Read* sessions, book swaps and a shared celebration of literature. World Book Day provided another wonderful opportunity for children to share favourite stories, with our ever-popular Surprise Readers initiative continuing to strengthen the partnership between home and school. We are grateful to the many parents who have given their time to inspire a love of reading in our classrooms.

The year has also been enriched through opportunities to explore science, technology and creativity. STEM Week challenged pupils to think critically through practical investigations and engineering tasks, supported by inspiring visitors from STEM professions. We are also grateful to Sevenoaks School and Walthamstow Hall School for extending these and other opportunities through their outreach programmes. Alongside this, children marked national awareness events including Anti-Bullying Week, Black History Month, Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day, encouraging thoughtful discussion and reinforcing the values that underpin our school community.

One of the many treasures of our beautiful school grounds is our dedicated Forest School area, which continues to be a much-loved and enriching part of life at Lady Boswell's. This year, we have further developed our Forest School provision, led by our trained and accredited staff, giving children across a range of year groups the opportunity to enjoy regular sessions throughout the seasons. Whatever the weather, pupils have enthusiastically embraced learning beyond the classroom, exploring, creating and discovering in the natural environment. Through these experiences, they have developed confidence, resilience and problem-solving skills, whilst learning to assess and manage risk within a safe, supportive and nurturing setting.

The year concluded on a particularly memorable note as our Year 5 and 6 pupils took to the stage at The Stag Theatre for their outstanding and sparkling production of Aladdin Jr. Their confidence, talent and teamwork captivated audiences and provided a fitting celebration of the creativity, commitment and joy that characterise life at Lady Boswell's.

ENRICHMENT SUPPORT

The many opportunities we are able to offer our children beyond the classroom are enriched enormously by the generosity, enthusiasm and dedication of our PTA and those who support their initiatives. Whilst school budgets continue to face increasing pressure, the funds that they raise make a real difference, enabling us to enhance the children's learning and provide experiences and opportunities that might otherwise not be possible.

With a number of new members joining the Committee this year, alongside the continued support and experience of longer-serving volunteers, the PTA has gone from strength-to-strength. We are immensely grateful to everyone who has given their time, energy and expertise to support the School through fundraising, events and community activities.

Throughout the year, the PTA has, once again, brought our school community together through a fantastic programme of events, creating memorable experiences for children and families whilst raising invaluable funds for the School. From much-loved favourites to exciting new initiatives—including children's discos, the Spring Ball, Silent Auction, Break the Rules Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day Pop-Up Shops, the Christmas and Summer Fairs, cake sales and pre-loved uniform sales, the commitment and hard work of the Committee and its many volunteers have been outstanding. We encourage you to take a look at the PTA's end-of-year newsletter to see the full breadth of their achievements, and how their contribution has enriched every aspect of school life and left a lasting impact on the experiences we are able to provide for the children.

The PTA is always delighted to welcome new volunteers. Whether you are able to help regularly or simply lend a hand at the occasional event, your support would be greatly appreciated, and the Committee would love to hear from you.

In addition to the support of the PTA, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to a charitable foundation associated with a member of our parent community for their incredibly generous donations which have allowed us to fund many additional workshops, trips and arts events.

WELLBEING

We are committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, supported and equipped to flourish both in school and beyond with the emotional wellbeing of our children and families remaining central to all that we do here at Lady Boswell's.

This year, our accredited practitioners have continued to embed both the Thrive and RULER approaches across the School. Together, these programmes nurture emotional awareness, resilience and self-confidence, helping children to recognise, understand and regulate their emotions whilst developing skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

Our valued partnership with the NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team has once again enabled us to offer a programme of face-to-face and online workshops for parents and carers. These sessions have provided practical strategies and expert guidance, strengthening the support available to children both at home and at school. If your child is transitioning to secondary school this year, or just preparing to start their journey in primary school, do join their summer holiday parent online workshops (invitation can be found in last week's Newsletter).

Our Family Support Worker has continued to play an important role in our wellbeing provision, offering tailored support to families and leading parent workshops that complement the approaches used in school. By working closely together, we can provide a consistent and nurturing environment in which every child can thrive. We would also like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Mrs Anne-Marie Lara, who will be joining us in this role from September.

Earlier this year, as part of our ongoing commitment to promoting children's wellbeing, we took the decision to become a Smartphone Free School with effect from September. This follows a growing body of research highlighting the impact that smartphone use can have on children's mental health, wellbeing, concentration and online safety.

We recognise that decisions about technology and children's access to smartphones are deeply personal for families. By joining the growing movement of Smartphone Free Schools, however, we hope to support and empower parents who wish to delay giving their child a smartphone until they are older. We are grateful for the overwhelmingly positive response we have received from our parent community and look forward to working together as we continue to place the wellbeing of every child at the heart of all we do.

MUSIC

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue developing the rich musical and creative opportunities available to our pupils. Music and the arts play a vital role in school life, fostering creativity, confidence and collaboration, and we look forward to building on this year's many successes.

Reflecting on the year, we are incredibly proud of all that has been achieved. Our classroom music programme has seen Year 2 enjoy learning the ocarina, Years 3 and 4 make excellent progress on the recorder, and Year 5 develop their ukulele skills. Holly Class's spirited recorder performance of 'Sweet Caroline' in support of the England football team was a memorable highlight.

The Spring Concert provided a wonderful opportunity for our young musicians to showcase their talents, whilst our Orchestra, KS1 Choir and KS2 Choir continued to flourish through performances at school and across the local community, including the Summer Fair, Sevenoaks School, local churches and Weald Heights Care Home.

Our sincere thanks go to Mrs Bragg, Mrs Clark and Mrs O'Prey for their outstanding leadership of our ensembles, and to our talented peripatetic music teachers, whose inspiring morning performances have brought such joy to our school community throughout the year.

SPORT

Sport continues to play a central role in life at Lady Boswell's. Whether trying a new activity or representing the School in competition, every child is encouraged to challenge themselves, discover new strengths and enjoy the many benefits of an active lifestyle. Through sport, our pupils develop qualities that extend far beyond the playing field, including perseverance, teamwork, resilience, self-discipline and respect for others.

Throughout the year, children have enjoyed a wealth of opportunities in which to participate. Our popular inter-house competitions and Sports Days promoted healthy competition, teamwork and House spirit, ensuring that every child could play a full part. Meanwhile, our Key Stage 2 pupils successfully completed their swimming programme, building confidence in the water and, for our older children, developing valuable life-saving skills.

Our busy calendar of inter-school fixtures, festivals and tournaments saw pupils represent Lady Boswell's across football, netball, tag rugby, kwik cricket, hockey, lacrosse, tennis, boccia and infant agility. We are delighted to share that 151 KS2 children have, this year, represented our School in 15 different external sports fixtures. Our dancers also performed with great enthusiasm and pride at the Love2Dance Showcase, highlighting the breadth of sporting opportunities on offer.

This has been another exceptional year of sporting success, with victories in the District Swimming Gala, District Sports, Year 5 and 6 Athletics and the Girls' Orange Tennis Doubles competition, alongside a superb third-place finish in the Kent Girls' Cricket Finals. These achievements reflect not only the talent and determination of our pupils but also the dedication of our staff, coaches and supportive families.

We have been thrilled to welcome to School, Olympians Lizzy Arnold and Tom Bosworth who delivered wonderfully inspirational talks and gave everyone the opportunity to touch Olympic gold! Another highlight was welcoming back to Lady Boswell's former pupil and renowned dancer, Anton du Beke. His assembly cha cha cha and Co-Headteacher-lift will remain in the memories of all present.

Lady Boswell's has once again been awarded the School Games Gold Mark, recognising our continued commitment to high-quality physical education and sporting opportunity. Our thanks to the staff members who deliver such excellence.

Our aim is that every child leaves Lady Boswell's with a life-long love of being active, the confidence to embrace challenge and an understanding that the greatest rewards of sport are not simply the medals and trophies won, but the character, resilience and friendships developed along the way.

CLUBS

One of the real strengths of school-life continues to be the wealth of opportunities available to our children beyond the school day. Our extensive programme of clubs and Activities Extra has enabled children of all ages to explore new interests, nurture existing talents and enjoy learning in different and exciting ways. Whether participating in sport, music, the arts, computing, STEM or a host of other activities, our children have embraced these opportunities with enthusiasm and curiosity.

These experiences are only possible because of the generosity and commitment of our staff, who willingly give their time and expertise to enrich the children's school experience. In addition, we would like to express our thanks to parent, Mrs Clark, who has led the KS2 Choir this year and, despite her daughter leaving the School this term, she has kindly offered to continue as a volunteer to lead the Choir. We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm, creativity and dedication each and every one of these people bring to every club they lead, helping children to grow in confidence, develop new skills and form lasting friendships.

As we look ahead, we remain determined to continue developing our extra-curricular provision, offering an even broader range of opportunities that inspire, challenge and engage every child. We know that some of the most memorable moments of school life happen beyond the classroom and we are committed to ensuring that as many children as possible benefit from these valuable experiences.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our pupils continue to achieve exceptionally well in external examinations, with outcomes consistently significantly above national averages. Once again, Lady Boswell's appeared within the top 3% of schools in the 'Times Best Schools Parent Power Guide 2026'.

We are delighted to share with you below the outcome of recent external examinations, which demonstrate the strength of teaching and learning throughout the School. As you will see, our pupils have once again risen to the challenge with focus and enthusiasm, and their results reflect their hard work and the high expectations we uphold.

Our youngest children have been blessed with an exceptionally strong foundation: 83% of our EYFS pupils have achieved the 'Good Level of Development' benchmark compared to 68% nationally. Moving to Year 1, 95% of pupils reached the expected standard in Phonics, compared to a national average of 80%.

Year 6 SATs		Lady Boswell's 2026	National Average (Provisional)
Reading	% Pupils reaching the expected level	92%	75%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	63%	31%
	Average Point Score	110.9	106
SPAG	% Pupils reaching the expected level	90%	74%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	57%	30%
	Average Point Score	110.2	105
Writing	% Pupils reaching the expected level	87%	73%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	21%	13%

Maths	% Pupils reaching the expected level	86%	75%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	54%	27%
	Average Point Score	108.3	105

This achievement serves as a springboard, not a finish line. We remain ambitious and forward-looking, constantly striving to raise standards and support every child in reaching their full potential.

STAFFING NEWS

Our School offers a family environment, not only for our children but also for our staff. With an enviable staff-retention rate, this year we have been delighted to welcome back 3 members of staff from maternity leave. Mrs Guard will commence her maternity leave in the latter part of the autumn and so we look forward to having her in School for Term one. This week, we have said a fond farewell to HR Assistant, Mrs Sarah Hunter, and TA, Miss Francesca Czarnowski. Mrs Hunter leaves to develop her business and Miss Czarnowski will be starting her teacher training in another School. We thank them for all that they have given to the School and wish them success and happiness for the future.

With a history of growing-our-own teachers, we are delighted that Miss Abi Rea will be leaving her role in the Orchard to start her teacher training here at Lady Boswell's School. We are also delighted to announce that TA, Mrs Anne-Marie Lara, will, from the start of next year, be taking on the role of Family Support Worker.

SUPPORTING OUR WORKING PARENTS

The Orchard has continued to play an invaluable role in the life of our school, providing a welcoming, nurturing and enriching environment for our children before and after the school day. Far more than a wraparound care provision, it has become a place where children can relax, be creative, develop new skills and enjoy time with friends in a calm and stimulating setting.

This is only possible because of the dedication, enthusiasm and imagination of the exceptional Orchard team, whose commitment we greatly appreciate. Through an ever-changing programme of engaging activities and creative projects, often linked to themes being explored in school, they ensure that every session offers children meaningful opportunities to learn, create, collaborate and have fun. We are immensely grateful for the care, warmth and professionalism they bring to this important part of school life.

We recognise that school holidays can present challenges for many working parents and carers, and we have been delighted to support families this year through the introduction of our Holiday Clubs. These have been exceptionally well-received and have provided children with a range of enjoyable and engaging experiences throughout the breaks. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Kelly, whose enthusiasm and commitment have been instrumental in making the Clubs such a success and in providing the children with so many fun and memorable sessions.

REFLECTING OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Reflecting our School values and the enduring example of service set by Lady Margaret Boswell, our school community has once again demonstrated a wholehearted commitment to supporting others. Throughout the year, pupils, families and staff have come together to champion a wide range of charitable causes and local initiatives. We have been proud to continue our longstanding support for The Royal British Legion, the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Appeal and Farming for Orphans in Mozambique (FOM), helping our children to develop empathy, generosity and an understanding of their responsibility as global citizens.

Our School Council has shown exceptional leadership, inspiring the whole school community to become involved in a number of charitable initiatives. We are grateful to everyone who donated to the Loaves & Fishes Foodbank and supported Odd Socks Day. The children's crowning achievement, however, was their wonderful *Grow the Love* campaign, through which they raised £4,255.54 in support of The Zikomo Trust. We cannot thank you enough for the encouragement and generosity you showed in supporting this pupil-led initiative. The funds raised will have a transformative impact on the lives of many, and the children's compassion, determination and sense of purpose have made us all immensely proud.

We have also been delighted to continue our special relationship with the residents of Weald Heights Care Home in Sevenoaks. Our visits have provided opportunities for friendship, shared experiences and joyful inter-generational connections, enriching the lives of both our pupils and the residents. These moments remain a treasured part in our School community, and we look forward to strengthening this valued partnership in the year ahead.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we prepare for the new academic year, our focus is firmly on continuing to build upon the many strengths of our school community. Guided by the Strategic Pillars shared with parents by our Governors at the forum earlier this year, we remain committed to providing a rich, ambitious and well-rounded education that enables every child to flourish academically, socially and spiritually.

Planning for the year ahead has been shaped by the voices of our whole community. The thoughtful feedback received through our annual governor survey, together with the views of our pupils and staff, has been invaluable in informing our priorities. We are sincerely grateful to everyone who took the time to share their experiences and ideas. Alongside careful analysis of pupil outcomes and our own rigorous self-evaluation, this feedback has informed our School Improvement Plan for 2026–2027. The plan sets out the key areas that will drive our work over the coming year, ensuring that our strategic vision continues to have a positive impact on every aspect of school life.

We are pleased to share a summary of the SIP for the coming year, below:

Pillar 1: Ethos - <i>a clear Christian ethos underpinning all aspects of School life</i>	✓ Deliver the School's Climate Action Plan ✓ Publish our RE Statement of Entitlement ✓ Work with all stakeholders to review our definition of bullying alongside our policy and processes ✓ Embed a shared language of spirituality ✓ Embed practice in Classroom Worship
Pillar 2: Education - <i>an outstanding education available to all pupils</i>	✓ Implement the new computing, PHSE and RSE curriculums ✓ Implement the School's renewed Writing Framework ✓ Build SEND capacity through our ACCESS approach to inclusion, with particular focus on impactful TA work ✓ Further enhance our reading resources for SEND pupils, particularly in KS2. ✓ Work with the Maths Hub to ensure Lady Boswell's is a beacon of good practice for meeting the needs of high achievers in Maths ✓ Ensure that disadvantaged pupils achieve the highest possible academic standards through a personalised approach
Pillar 3: Staff - <i>recruitment, development and retention of an excellent staff team</i>	✓ Ensure our CPD offer for TAs enables access for all. ✓ Ensure succession planning for key roles ✓ Continue to 'grow our own' through highly effective Initial Teacher Training and Early Career programmes
Pillar 4: Finance - <i>strong financial position, sustained through robust resource management</i>	✓ Ensure a full role in every year group ✓ Secure, enhance and expand revenue streams ✓ Ensuring best value for money in all resources
Pillar 5: Wellbeing - <i>supporting positive wellbeing amongst all members of the school community</i>	✓ Introduce the OPAL programme ✓ Review the behaviour strategy and the mechanisms for reflection and restorative justice ✓ Implement the new Online Safety, PHSE and SRE curriculums ✓ Use the DfE Enrichment Framework to ensure our offer is broad and accessible for all pupils ✓ Use a wide range of external advisors to support staff holistic wellbeing

FINALLY ...

Although our attention now turns to September and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead including welcoming a new generation of pupils, we take this opportunity to wish our Year 6 children every success as they begin the next stage of their educational journey. We would also like to take this moment to wish every happiness for the future to a number of families who leave us today to relocate. It has been a privilege to watch each of these children grow in confidence, character and achievement during their time with us, and we know they leave us with their heads inspired and hearts enriched, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges ahead. They go with our heartfelt congratulations, our prayers and every good wish for a happy and successful future.

We would like to thank everyone who contributes to the life of our school. Together, our dedicated staff, supportive parents and carers, committed governors, volunteers, PTA and wider school community create the nurturing, ambitious and joyful environment in which our children flourish. We thank each and every one of you for working alongside us in the shared journey of educating the children in our care.

As we look ahead to the summer holidays, we pray that they will be filled with rest, happiness and precious family time. We look forward to welcoming most of you back in September, ready for another exciting year together. To those leaving us, we send our love, prayers and every good wish for the future. May you go forward with confidence, knowing that you will always hold a special place in the Lady Boswell's family.

Please join us in this short prayer:

Loving God,

As we come to the end of another school year, we thank You for Your many blessings. Thank You for the gift of learning, for friendship, kindness and love, and for guiding us through every challenge and every success.

Help us always to keep Christ at the Centre, so that we may walk in Your light, grow in faith, and show Your love to those around us.

We pray for our Year 6 children as they leave Lady Boswell's. Bless them with confidence, courage and joy as they begin the next stage of their journey.

Be close to those who are facing difficult times, bringing them Your comfort and peace. As the summer holidays begin, keep us safe, bless our families with rest, laughter and special times together, and bring us back in September with thankful hearts, ready to learn and grow with Christ at the Centre of all we do.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

With our warmest thanks and every blessing for the summer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Saunders' followed by a large flourish and then 'Pullen'.

Hannah Pullen and Sharon Saunders
Co-Headteachers