Speldhurst CE Primary School, Speldhurst, TN3 0NP
Tel: 01892 863044  Email: office@speldhurst.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher Mrs S Hayward

June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

As your child continues their journey through one of the Tunbridge Wells primary schools, we are writing collectively to share an important update regarding our approach to mobile phones and digital devices. This townwide commitment is designed to support children's wellbeing, learning, and social development, and reflects a shared vision across our schools.

**A UNIFIED SMARTPHONE-FREE APPROACH**

From September 2026, primary schools across Tunbridge Wells will be a smartphone-free environment for pupils. Many of our schools are already operating this approach, and others will be implementing or strengthening it from September.

This decision follows and aligns with the coordinated smartphone-free policy being introduced across Tunbridge Wells secondary schools, ensuring a clear, consistent expectation for children and families throughout their education journey. It also reflects strengthened national guidance from the Department for Education and growing evidence of the impact of smartphones on children's wellbeing and development.

**WHAT PUPILS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BRING**

Each school's context is different and therefore in some schools, pupils in Year 5 and 6 may be permitted to bring a simple mobile phone, often referred to as a 'brick' phone with no internet access, where this is absolutely necessary for travel and with the agreement of that school and their policy. Any phones permitted on these grounds must be handed in and stored in line with each school's policy. Devices brought into school in breach of this policy will be held in the school office until collected by a parent or carer.

**WHAT PUPILS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BRING**

Personal smartphones, smartwatches or other internet enabled devices are not permitted on site.

**MEDICAL EXCEPTIONS**

We will, of course, continue to support pupils who require a device for medical reasons. These will be permitted where appropriate documentation is provided.

**WHY THIS MATTERS**

This decision has been made in the best interests of all children. A smartphone-free environment will:

- Protect children from avoidable online risks
- Improve focus, behaviour, and engagement in learning
- Strengthen face-to-face communication and friendships
- Support positive mental health and overall wellbeing

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**WORKING TOGETHER**

This approach will only be effective with your full support. We expect all families to adhere to these expectations and to reinforce them at home. Consistency between school and home is essential in helping children develop healthy, responsible habits around technology.

**OUR COMMITMENT**

As schools, we are committed to creating safe, calm, and focused learning environments where every child can thrive.

We appreciate your cooperation and support.

Yours faithfully,
Headteachers of Tunbridge Wells Primary Schools

Mrs Julie Burton
Headteacher
Bidborough Primary School

Mrs Laura Johnson
Headteacher
Bishops Down Primary School and Nursery

Mrs Candi Roberts
Headteacher
Claremont Primary School

Mrs Hannah Walters
Headteacher
Pembury Primary School

Mrs Lyndsay Smurthwaite
Headteacher
Rusthall St Paul's C.E Primary School

Mrs Gemma Wyatt
Headteacher
Skinners' Kent Primary School

Mrs Emma Savage
Headteacher
Southborough CEP School

Mrs Stephanie Hayward
Headteacher
Speldhurst CE Primary School

Mr Wil Liddle
Headteacher
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Mrs Moira Duncombe
Headteacher
St Barnabas' CE VA Primary School

Mr John Tutt
Headteacher
St James' CE (Aided) Primary School

Mr Niall Dosad
Headteacher
St John's CEP School

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Headteacher Mrs S Hayward

Mr Simon Bird
Headteacher
St Mark's CEP School

Miss Claire Harris
Headteacher
St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

Mrs Joanna Langton
Headteacher
St Peter's Church of England Primary School

Mrs Rebekah Leeves
Headteacher
Skinners' Temple Grove

Mrs Katharine Le Page
Headteacher
The Wells Free School