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# BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

**Autumn Term 2015 - Second Half**

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your children enjoyed a well-earned rest over the half term break. Welcome back!

**Harvest Festival** Our Reception/KS1 children all enjoyed their Harvest Celebration in school with Reverend Dee. They sang their Harvest songs beautifully and read some of their lovely poems. Dee was impressed with their super behavior and enthusiasm! Thank you very much for your generous donations of food items to support 'Women's Aid'.

**Star Pupils** Our two Barnby Dun bears continue to be given to one boy and one girl who I choose as my star pupils for the week. They also receive a special certificate. It is always a very difficult choice!

So far my star pupils have been: Luca Palmer, Tommy Plevy, Brynley Sims, Alex Hayward, Louis Dunne, Jack Collins, Millie Brewster, Lydia Miller, Ruby Dunne, Ava Jubb, Katie Acornley, Amy Heath, Lewis Stork and Freya Fullerton. Well done!

**Attendance** The government has now published the revised bandings against which schools and Local Authorities must monitor every child's attendance. These are:

- Expected—96% and above
- Monitoring—95%-95.99%
- Concern—90.01%-94.99%
- Persistent absentee— 90% and below

If a pupil's attendance falls below 96%, it will be closely monitored on a daily/weekly basis by myself until it reaches the 96% threshold again or to the end of the school year. All pupils who finish a school year with attendance less than 96% will continue to be monitored closely from September of the next school year. If you are concerned about the impact of a period of absence on your child's attendance percentage, you can request an up to date figure at any time. These are updated each Friday when each child's attendance marks for the week are uploaded to the Local Authority. Please ask at the office.

**Class Assemblies** I know many of you enjoyed attending your children's class assemblies last year and seeing all the lovely work they have been doing. We very much appreciated you coming and joining in the celebration of each class's achievements.

Thursday 12th November—Fireflies (Mrs Bailey)

Thursday 19th November—Dragonflies (Miss Jones)

Thursday 26th November—Toucans (Mrs Pearson)

Thursday 14th January—Eagles (Mrs Smith)

Thursday 21st January—Giraffes (Mrs Harris)

Thursday 28th January—Koalas (Miss Connor)

Thursday 4th February—Caterpillars (Mrs Ronan)

Thursday 18th February—Penguins (Mrs McCaw & Mrs Walker)

Thursday 25th February—Honeybees (Miss Curtis)

Thursday 3rd March—Lions (Miss May)

Bears & Ladybirds will do an assembly later in the year.

Each assembly will begin at 3pm so please arrive at Reception by 2.55pm. In recognition of all the hard work that the children and staff put into producing these assemblies, can we politely remind family members to ensure their mobile phones are switched off/on silent. Also, parents with babies or young children who may become restless should please sit by the hall door so they can pop outside if this occurs. It can be very disappointing for our children if they practise their lines and look forward to performing their bit, and then they can't be heard. Many thanks for your co-operation.

## **Sporting News**

We took some children to the first Pyramid Cross Country tournament at Hungerhill on 29th September. The children were fantastic and persevered their way around the long course. A huge well done to Corinne Hay who beat all the boys and girls in Year 3 and 4 to earn first place. Well done to all those who took part. Well done also to our Year 3/4 football team who travelled to Rossington All Saints for a competition. They played very well and just missed out on a place in the final. Our Year 5/6 football team had a very wet and windy trip to Balby Carr where they battled against the weather to come 4th in their group. In addition, our new girls football team enjoyed playing in a competition at Hungerhill and KS1 had an enjoyable time at our Pyramid Multiskills Competition.

Well done to all our sporting superstars! Freya Jones, Ava Chesney, Corinne Hay, Sophia Newbury, Lloyd Perigo, Alfie Denton, Evan Warrenner, Zachary Nugent, Luke Atkins, Max Garbutt, Sam Shipley, Thomas Atkins, Adam Walker, Zach Smith, Tommy Plevy, Jayden Waite, Archie Allen, James Butterfield, Leo Jackson, Leon Perigo, Becky Oliver, Fenella Straw, Bella Moran, Abi Stanbridge, Natasha Kozlowski, Jasmine Satterley, Ruby Smickersgill, Saskia Sleath, Patsy Denton, Kelsey Brooks, Ruby Dunne, Sophia O'Sullivan, Emily Wedell, Ruby Smickersgill, Oscar Trowbridge, Charis Jayet-Laraffe, Jodie Parkin, Molly Smith, Freya Jubb, Beau Cheesewright, Ben Gibson, Grace Hancock, Mackenzie Carroll, Louisa Dixon, Monica Dias, Michael Butterfield, Freya Fullerton, Eli Moran, Jude O'Sullivan, Ethan Stoddart, Eva Dudley, Pippa Reddish, Mallika Pasik-Davies, George Goodchild Pask.

### 'Barnbywoods'

Mr Harrison and his keen gardeners continue to be busy in 'Barnbywoods'. There is still plenty to do, even in the colder months. We had a lovely first Eco-warriors group who enjoyed a treat on our last after-school session, toasting marshmallows.

'Barnbywoods' will be open to our community on the afternoons of 9th November and 7th December. Please feel free to go in and take a stroll around. We would be most grateful for any suggestions/feedback or offers of help.

**Attendance** Thank you for ensuring your children are here on time so everyone can have a calm, positive start to the school day.

Children have been enjoying our weekly attendance cup celebration for the class with the highest attendance and individual attendance raffle. Children who have 100% in the previous week and have their ticket drawn out of the raffle, get to sit on a chair in Friday's celebration assembly which makes them feel very special!

The classes with the highest attendance for the first half term were the Yr3 Caterpillars with 99.8%, closely followed by Yr4 Penguins with 99.2% and Yr 1/2 Dragonflies with 99.0%. These are amazing totals as very few children in the class have had any time off at all. I am currently 'negotiating' with the Caterpillars about their special reward day. We held a special raffle for the individual children who have achieved 100% attendance for the first half term. The winner of Arnold the Attendance Alligator's Waterstones' voucher was Eli Moran. Several other children also won some sweet treats in Arnold's raffle. Well done everybody for excellent attendance and working as a team in the first half term—keep it up!

### Appointments in school time

Please remember that, as far as possible, all medical appointments should be taken in out of school time. Authorised absence to attend a medical appointment can only be given if parents can provide a valid reason for why this appointment has to be taken during school hours and a copy of the appointment letter.

We would ask that any such appointments are arranged for **after 1.30pm**, so children are not missing English and/or Maths lessons and disrupting other children's learning by arriving/leaving mid session. If an appointment has to be during a morning, children need to attend registration at 8.45am to get their attendance mark and return as soon as possible after their appointment. Many thanks.

Please note—authorisation for leave of absence cannot be given for routine appointments that could be taken after school or during the school holidays.

### Payments coming into school

Please ensure that all school meal payments are made on a MONDAY morning or the first day back after a holiday or training day. Late payment involves a considerable amount of extra accounting, and repeated late payments can ultimately result in withdrawal of meal service under local authority policy.

School meals continue to be £2 per day. If you prefer, you may pay in advance for the whole half term.

**All cash/cheque payments for school meals, breakfast club, trips, clubs etc. should be in a sealed envelope labelled clearly with your child's name and class and placed in the class boxes. Loose cash payments cannot be accepted at the office window. Please use separate envelopes for different payments. It would also help us if payments for siblings are also placed in separate envelopes as these are accounted for separately. Thank you for your co-operation.**

### Pushchairs

A polite reminder that during wet weather, pushchairs should not be wheeled through school. All of our corridors, classrooms and shared areas are recently carpeted. Please help us to keep our school clean, tidy and safe for everyone. Many thanks.

### Diary Dates

Monday 9th November—Friday 20th November—International Arts Fortnight—China.

Monday 7th Dec 10am—Reception/KS1 Nativity Performance—Grandparents only. Parents are not permitted to attend this performance. Thankyou.

Tuesday 8th Dec—2pm performance for parents Reception/KS1 Nativity.

Wednesday 9th Dec—5.30pm performance for parents Reception/KS1 Nativity.

Thursday 10th Dec—11am Key Stage 2 Carol Service at church. Family members are welcome!

Monday 14th Dec—Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party.

Tuesday 15th Dec—Christmas lunch.

Tuesday 15th Dec- Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party.

Wednesday 16th Dec—year 5 and 6 Christmas Party.

Thursday 17th Dec—Reception Christmas Party.

**Friday 18th Dec—We break up for the Christmas holidays. Children return on Monday 4th January 2016.**

### Resources to support your child

Following on from our parents' workshops, we have added some new resources to our website to support parents with getting to grips with all the new grammatical terms that children are being taught and need to know. Click on 'grammar progression' on the left hand side menu on the home page. We have recently added the 'grammar guide' as a pdf. Let us know if you find it useful. Thanks.

Kind regards

Miss C.E. Robinson

Headteacher

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