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Barnby Dun Primary Academy NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2015- First Half



Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your families have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break together. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2015. It is lovely to be back at school and hear all the children's exciting news!

Christmas Performances Thank you to all those who attended our Reception/KS1 nativity performances and the KS2 Carol Service at church. I'm sure you will agree that the children were fantastic. Your positive comments and encouragement were much appreciated by staff and children.

Christmas Hampers Once again our Christmas raffle proved very popular. Our lucky winners were Max Green and Fenella Straw and the winner of the adult's food hamper was Claire Anderson. Alice Wilkinson-Leigh won the 'chocolate explosion' donated by Bluebell Wood. Congratulations—we hope you enjoyed these Christmas treats!

Punctuality

Thank you for ensuring your child arrives on time each morning, well prepared and ready to learn. To try and ease the pressure for parents, we open the doors early, at 8.30am, and the register is taken at 8.45am. In order for the school day to begin smoothly and on time, and to ensure the safety and security of staff and pupils, **it is essential that parents leave the school building promptly when the bell goes at 8.45am.** Unless you are calling at the school office, please exit using classroom doors and not the main school entrance.

If any parent/carer wishes to see their child's teacher, please arrange a mutually convenient time, preferably after school. I am sure you understand it is difficult for teachers to talk to parents first thing in a morning, when they are welcoming the children into school and trying to ensure a secure, happy start to the day for them. Parents are always welcome to pop in to see me and I will be happy to pass on a message or ask your child's class teacher to contact you to arrange a meeting/discuss an issue over the phone. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Attendance Success All children received a platinum, gold, silver or bronze certificate before Christmas to recognise their attendance during the Autumn term. We had over 90 children with 100% who also received a voucher for a free swim session at The Dome. Winners of Toysrus vouchers in our Attendance raffle were Georgia Hay and Alex Hawker. The class with the highest attendance in the second half term were year 2 Woodpeckers with an amazing 99.7%, closely followed by year 5 Monkeys and Dinosaurs.

Well done everybody—keep it up!

Parents Evenings

We will be holding our Spring term parents' evenings on Monday 2nd March and Thursday 5th March. We hope all parents will be able to attend to discuss their child's progress and social and emotional development. If you are unable to attend Parents Evenings on these days please let class teachers know and they will contact you to arrange an appointment at a different time.

Fundraising Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas fundraiser on behalf of Doncaster Royal Infirmary Children's Ward. Donations from our Christmas memory tree, concert collections and our staff alternative Christmas card amounted to £453. We also raised £308 for Bluebell Wood. We have received lovely letters of thanks from both charities which I have shared in assembly. Your support is very much appreciated.

Attendance The school has a statutory duty to monitor pupils' attendance and punctuality very closely. In partnership with the Attendance Service (formerly the Education Welfare Service) we have to do all we can to ensure each pupil achieves at least 'average' attendance—96.1%. Frequency and reasons for absence are checked every day by myself and tracked very closely particularly if a pupil's attendance falls below 96%. Low attendance or frequent short term absences can lead to involvement of the Attendance Service.

If children are absent from school and no reason is given or the reason is not considered valid/sufficient, an UNAUTHORISED mark is given. When our weekly attendance is sent electronically to the Education Welfare Office, any unauthorised marks are highlighted immediately as a cause for concern. These can result in Fixed Penalty Notices.

It is vital that parents contact school as soon as they decide their child is too ill to attend and give a full explanation, so a decision can be made whether an authorised mark can be given. Parents should phone school each morning their child is absent to keep us updated and let us know when they are well enough to return. Please remember we are happy to administer prescribed medicines. Thank you for your continued support.

Leave of Absence During Term Time

A polite reminder again that that it is now **against the law** for Headteachers to authorise leave of absence unless it fits one of the three criteria as defined by the Government. If an application does meet the criteria up to 5 days may be authorised, if a child's attendance is at least 96%.

Parents are urged to ask for advice, **prior** to making any booking or firm plans. A quick phone call to myself will usually clarify any issues and answer any questions.

Barnbywoods

Our Outdoor Classroom, 'Barnbywoods', continues to be open to parents and the community on the first Monday afternoon of each month. Please feel free to go in and sit for a while, enjoy a walk around and see the areas we have developed so far—any ideas/suggestions would be gratefully received! 'Barnbywoods' is open on the afternoons of Monday 3rd February and Monday 3rd March 2015.

School Uniform

The children always look very smart in their Barnby Dun uniforms. Thank you for supporting our policy. Please remember all children should wear black shoes, not trainers. If children are wearing trainers they will be given black plimsolls to change into when indoors.

Maths Mrs Pearson and Miss Goodall have been busy working with staff to update our Maths policies, in line with the new National curriculum which came into force on 1st September. Our new calculation pathway and resources to support the teaching of times tables can be found on our website in 'helping your child'.

Diary Dates

Tues. 20th Jan. after school—year 5/6 netball at Hungerhill.

Tues. 27th Jan. pm—year 5/6 athletics at Hungerhill.

Tues. 10th Feb.—National Internet Safety day.

Fri. 13th Feb. school closes for half term. Staff and children return on Monday 23rd February.

Tues. 3rd March pm—year 3/4 basketball at Hungerhill.

Thurs. 5th March—year 6 'Crucial Crew' trip.

Tues. 17th March pm—KS1 dance off at Hungerhill.

Fri. 27th March—school closes for Easter. Staff and children return on Monday 13th April.

Kind regards,

Miss C.E. Robinson. Headteacher.



Staffing Changes

We are very pleased to welcome back Miss Walsh, one of our teaching assistants in year 5/6. She has been working at a school in Newcastle for the past two years but it is lovely to have her back as part of our team. We also look forward to Mrs Walker's return at the end of January, as her maternity leave comes to an end.

Star Pupils

Our two Barnby Dun bears—Bernard and Snuggles—continue to be very popular with the children. The bears are given to one boy and one girl who have stood out as Star Pupils for that week. They also receive a special Headteacher's certificate. Recent star pupils have been: Bailey Fletcher, Dayna Birkinshaw, Olivia Jones, Imogen Stokoe, Millie Brewster, Ross Hawkhead, Ethan Milnes, Connor Doran, Ben Firth and Grayson Nixon. Well done everybody—we are proud of you.

A message from the NSPCC

The ChildLine Schools Service recently visited all children in years 5 & 6 to provide them with key messages about keeping safe. It can be beneficial for these messages to be reinforced at home. The NSPCC has developed some guides for **all** parents of primary school aged children on speaking to your child about keeping safe – called The Underwear Rule.

You can find guides to The Underwear Rule to help you have simple conversations about keeping safe from abuse at www.nspcc.org.uk/underwear.

You can speak to an advisor for further advice or request a hard-copy guide for parents/carers by phoning the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000. You can also visit www.nspcc.org.uk/parents for other advice on keeping your child safe.

Sporting News

Our girls' football club was a roaring success last half term and will continue on Thursdays after school with Miss May and Miss Jones. The girls are visiting the Keepmoat stadium soon for one of their practices. I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Sleath for their kind generosity in providing the team with a fantastic new kit which I am sure they will wear with pride.

We have recently taken part in a handball competition. The children really seemed to enjoy this new sport and played really well. Thank you to Patsy Denton, Harry Dixon, Saskia Sleath, Leon Perigo, Natasha Kozlowski, Ross Hawkhead, James Butterfield, Will Chesney, Lewis Thaxton, Leo Jackson, Charlie Batty, Harmany Gibson, Corinne Hay, Bradley Taylor, Jack Collins, Joseph Dixon, Alfie Reed, Megan Lister and Sophia Newbury for taking part.

Upcoming events include:

- Year 5 and 6 Netball
- Athletics
- Key Stage 1 multiskills
- Tchoukball
- Year 3 and 4 Basketball
- Key Stage 1 Dance Mats