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BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY



NEWSLETTER - Summer Term 2015 - First Half

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter break.

Easter Celebrations and fundraising

Thank you very much to all the parents and family members who attended our Easter church service. The children did their readings beautifully and the singing was wonderful.

A big thank you also for your kind donations of Easter treats for our raffle. With your support, we raised a fantastic £268 for school fund. The Easter discos were a very fitting way to end a busy term. Everyone commented what a fantastic time we all had and how well behaved the children were. Many thanks to those parents who helped to supervise. With your support we had a great time and raised a fantastic £790. Thanks as always to Mrs Fenney and Mr Harrison who did the lion's share of the organisation.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the current year stands at a very pleasing 98.0%.

It was the closest battle we have ever had to be the class with the highest percentage last half term. The Year 2 Owls knocked our double-winners Year 5 Monkeys off the top spot, with an amazing 99.8%. The Owls will enjoy their i-pad reward day later this month. Many, many children enjoyed receiving their Platinum 100% attendance certificates and Dome swimming vouchers for the term. Oscar Smith and Monica Dias were the lucky winners of Argos vouchers in Arnold the Attendance Alligator's raffle on the last day.

Well done everybody - and most importantly, keep it up!!

Sports Update

We were very pleased to be invited to the FA's Girls Football Festival on Wednesday 11th March. We took part in lots of fun activities such as penalty shoot outs, 5 a-side games, speed goals and agility games. A big thank you to parents who took children to the venue and well done to Ruby Smickersgill, Bailey Fletcher, Sophia O'Sullivan, Patsy Denton, Saskia Sleath, Jasmine Satterley, Natasha Kozlowski, Abi Green and Abbie Smith who were a credit to our school.

Hungerhill hosted the annual dance mat competition for Year 1 on Tuesday 17th March which all the children thoroughly enjoyed. The children's behaviour was exemplary throughout the whole competition, so well done to Hermione Flint, Maddison Taylor, Summer Richardson, Darcy Conway, Lily Cooper, Ethan Stoddart, Roxy King, Charlotte Errington and Ashton Carroll.

We have lots of competitions coming up this term including cross country and football and as ever a big thank you to parents for your continuing support.

Miss Jones and Mrs Bailey.

School Uniform The children always look super smart in their uniforms and we are very grateful that parents support our policy. Hopefully we will be enjoying some warmer weather and therefore a few polite reminders:

- Leggings, cycling shorts and 3/4 tracksuit bottoms are not considered appropriate for school.
- Flip flops and wedges are not safe footwear and shouldn't be worn please.
- Girls' sandals should be an appropriate colour to complement their uniform. I know black sandals are very hard to find, so white or pale pink would be a suitable alternative.
- Children should have a sun hat or cap on the warmest days.
- Children have NEVER been permitted to wear trainers inside school. Shoes should be worn—even in Year 6! If children are wearing trainers, they will be given a pair of black plimsolls to change into. This is not a new policy, but one that some people are forgetting.

Thank you for your continued support.

Star Pupils 'Snuggles' and 'Bernard' - our Barnby Dun bears, continue to be popular features of our Monday Special Mentions assembly. They are given to one boy and one girl who have stood out for their special effort, achievement or attitude that week.

Our recent star pupils have been: Olivia Williams, Eva Green, Amy Heath, Alice Wilkinson-Leigh, Ashley Chapman, Tom Harris, Niall Scholey and Ryan Washbourn.

Well done everyone!

New building We are thrilled to be able to tell you that we have secured funding through the Academies Condition Improvement Fund to replace our mobile classroom. Our application was one of only four Doncaster Academies to be successful. The application process was massively time consuming and challenging and it has been a huge amount of hard work on mine and Mr Harrison's part so we are both thrilled to have been rewarded. The project will take place over the summer holidays to minimise the disruption to the smooth running of the school. The current mobile will be demolished and replaced with a new modular building bigger in size—with a spacious cloakroom and most importantly toilets!

World Book Day On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day, where the children came to school dressed up as their favourite book characters. The effort that went into the costumes was amazing so thank you for your support. In addition, many thanks for your donations, both of books for the book swap and money. Altogether we raised £271, which we have added to the £477 received from the sponsored penalty shoot out. We are now in the process of spending this money on new books for the school.

Mornings Thank you for ensuring your children continue to arrive promptly for the start of the school day. We open our doors 15 minutes early each morning to try and ease the pressure a little and give you the flexibility of dropping children off between 8.30 and 8.45am. We are happy for parents to come into classrooms and help children get settled before you say your goodbyes. We politely ask all parents and child minders to:

- Please keep younger children with you and do not allow them to 'roam' into school areas and other classrooms.
- Once your child is settled, please leave via the classroom door. Classrooms can become very noisy and crowded if adults stand having lengthy conversations together. This then becomes the opposite of what we are trying to achieve.
- If you wish to see your child's teacher, please arrange a time after school. Teachers cannot leave the children unattended as they are arriving to have a conversation with a parent. If you wish myself or a member of the office staff to pass on a message to contact you, we will happily do so.
- In order to adhere with safeguarding requirements, all parents/carers must ensure that they leave by the 8.45am bell.

Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring a safe and happy start to the school day for parents, staff and most importantly, children.

Year 5 Easter Science school Well done to Max Hawkins-Smith, Sam Shipley, Kelsey Brooks and Holly Twynham who attended the Hungerhill science school on the first Monday of the holidays. Along with other year 5 pupils from the pyramid of schools, they enjoyed practical activities and experiments to do with the Human Body and digestion. I hear their favourite was the burning crisps experiment - investigating which crisps contain the most energy.

Leave of absence during term time

Parents are regularly reminded that it is against the law to keep your child off school without authorisation. Doing so will result in you receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice from Doncaster Magistrates' court. Taking an unauthorised leave of absence will also mean from that point I will be unable to authorise any future absences for your child during the remainder of the school year for any reason at all. Unauthorised absences may result in the involvement of the Attendance and Pupil Welfare service and ultimately can lead to prosecution for failing to ensure your child attends school regularly, under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996. No leave of absence requests will be considered yet for next school year as it is highly likely that new legislation will come into force regarding harsher penalties for unauthorised and low attendance. Thankyou.

Kind regards Miss C.E. Robinson Headteacher

Staffing update It has been lovely to welcome back Miss Connor this week, she is very happy to have returned to Barnby Dun. She is settling into her very varied role teaching year 2 groups every morning and covering classes in each key stage in the afternoons. Miss Connor will take over the Owls class when Mrs Pedder commences her maternity leave in July. Miss May, class teacher in the Meerkats, has taken up post as Acting Deputy Head. Although she has only been with us since last September she has quickly established excellent relationships with all staff, parents and children throughout school and is highly respected by everyone. I know she will bring strength, expertise and enthusiasm to our existing leadership team and be committed to helping us move closer to becoming an outstanding school.

Unfortunately, Jacquie Bell, our French teacher, is no longer with us. Jacquie was due to retire at the end of this school year but due to unforeseen family circumstances, she has had to bring this date forward. Jacquie has taught French here for a number of years and will certainly be missed. She will still be leading our Boulogne trip in July so we look forward to seeing her again.

Kate Greenaway Literacy Project

We are once again participating in this very worthwhile project with Hungerhill school students and our Year 3 Squirrels. We are sure, as in previous years, it will prove successful in inspiring children to read for pleasure. Again, the project will involve a trip to Hatfield Library and a pyjama party at Hungerhill. Parents will get the opportunity to see some of the children's work as part of the celebration.

Diary Dates

- Monday 20th April—year 2 trip to the Butterfly House, Anston.
- Thursday 23rd April— year 1 and Reception trip to the Butterfly House, Anston.
- **Monday 4th May—School closed for May Day bank holiday.**
- Week beginning 11th May - National Sats tests for year 6 children.
- **We break for half term on Friday 22nd May and staff and pupils return on Monday 1st June.**
- 8-10th June—year 3 and 4 classes will enjoy a one night residential at Austerfield Field study centre.
- Thursday 11th June 3pm class assembly for the Bears.
- Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th June—year 6 Transition days to Hungerhill.
- Thursday 18th June 3pm class assembly for the Ladybirds.
- Friday 19th June—class photos.
- Monday 22nd June 1.30pm—Reception and KS1 sports day.
- Thursday 25th June 1.30pm—KS2 sports day.
- **School is closed to pupils on Friday 26th June for teacher training.**
- Tuesday 30th June—meeting for new Reception parents.
- Friday 4th and Saturday 5th July—year 5&6 trip to Boulogne.
- Monday 6th July 10am—KS2 performance for grandparents only.
- Tuesday 7th July 6pm—KS2 performance for parents.
- Wednesday 8th July 10am—KS2 performance for parents.
- Thursday 9th July 6pm—KS2 performance for parents.
- Monday 13th July—class swap afternoon.

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