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BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Autumn Term 2016—First Half

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you and your children have all enjoyed a wonderful summer break and had lots of fun together. Apart from an occasional heavy downpour, we certainly can't complain about the weather. It has been lovely hearing all the children's exciting news. The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and looking very smart. It is so nice to see them settle into their new classes and connect with friends old and new. They have impressed us with how quickly they have adapted back into school routines and coped with the early mornings. Everyone has made a positive and happy start.

Thank you to those of you who have commented on how nice all areas of school and our grounds look for the children's return. It has been particularly challenging with our roofing project ongoing but the end is in sight now. Mr Harrison and our cleaners Mrs Harrison, Mrs Bennett and Mrs Lyne have done a brilliant job as always getting everything so clean and tidy. Teachers and teaching assistants have spent many days in the holidays, getting the classrooms ready. Mrs Smith has given very generously of her time working her artistic magic, creating some lovely displays of recent work to celebrate children's achievements across the curriculum.

New Reception Children

It is an exciting time for us all to welcome our new Reception children. Having visited us in the summer, they are ready to start attending on a part time basis. We look forward to getting to know our new children and their families, and ensuring they have a great start to their school life at Barnby Dun. The other children will make them feel very welcome and look after them, as they always do. Our Reception classes this year are called Butterflies and Bluebirds.

Water Bottles

Please remember to take your child's water bottle home each day and wash it thoroughly. Children should fill their bottle at home, ready for the new school day, and they can refill their bottle at one of the water coolers when needed. It is important that children drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially during the September heat wave we always seem to have!

In accordance with our 'Healthy Schools Policy' children should not have bottles filled with juice. Thank you.

Text Messaging Service

We continue running our text messaging service, which enables us to reach parents quickly and effectively regarding child illnesses, child absences, after school clubs and in case of emergency.

Please could you ensure that our school office is kept up to date with your current mobile phone contact details. Thank you.

'Barnbywoods'

Our wonderful outdoor classroom on Catling Lane will be open to parents and the community on the afternoons of Monday 5th September, Monday 3rd October and Monday 7th November. Please feel free to go in and stroll around. Any suggestions of how we could further develop this area would be welcome.

Mr Harrison will soon be busy with his various gardening groups and our popular after-school Eco-Warriors will start soon.

Punctuality Thank you for ensuring children have been arriving on time to school. Please remember classroom doors open at 8.30am and all pupils must be in class by 8.45am for registration. As always, parents are welcome to come into classrooms and help settle their children. In order to comply with safeguarding requirements, all parents should **exit via classroom doors by the 8.45 bell**. Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring all children have a calm, happy start to each school day.

Attendance Success We are extremely proud of our whole school attendance sustaining an amazing 97.8% for 2015/16. More than 80 children achieved a perfect 100%, not missing a single session all year, which is a wonderful achievement. Miss May's Lions had the highest class percentage with a brilliant 98.8% and a number of classes weren't far behind.

We will continue monitoring and rewarding good attendance and punctuality throughout the year. Children can only achieve their best progress if their attendance is as high as possible and they are here on time each day. Frequent short term absences or lengthy one-off absences and lateness have a massive impact on children's progress and ability to sustain friendships. We are very grateful that the vast majority of parents appreciate this.

School Uniform Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name so they can be returned if misplaced. Please remember the only jewellery permitted are small stud-type earrings and a wrist watch. These must be removed by children **themselves** for P.E. lessons. **Children should wear black shoes, not trainers please. If children do attend in trainers, they will be given black indoor pumps to change into.** Can I also remind parents that nail varnish/nail art and temporary tattoos are **not** permitted.

Lost property is located near the Reception classes.

Leave of Absence

To achieve their very best, children need to attend school every day and be on time. Any absence or lateness disrupts their learning and can affect others too. Gaps in learning have a detrimental effect on their progress in the long term as they cannot build on skills and knowledge previously missed. We take our legal duties regarding attendance very seriously and our expectation is, that in choosing to send your children here, you will support our policies and aspirations.

Please can I remind parents that routine medical appointments should be made outside school hours. If children do have to attend during the school day, please try to arrange the appointment for as late in the afternoon as possible. The worst possible time to arrange such appointments is first thing in the morning as children will miss work in English or maths and joining a lesson mid-way is really difficult for children. Medical appointment forms are available at the office and in order for the absence to be authorised, we will require a copy of the letter/appointment card. Thank you.

As all parents should be aware, it is **illegal** for Head Teachers to authorise holidays during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. The Government define these as:

- When parents are given specific holidays by their employer and have no choice/control over when these are (evidence required from employer.) This must evidence that this is your one and only family holiday during the year.
- When a family holiday has been recommended by a Health Professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from recent illness (evidence required from Health Professional).
- When a parent is in the Armed Forces and a family holiday is planned prior to embarking upon a tour of duty or following their return.

If there are 'exceptional circumstances', parents may apply for up to 5 days holiday on one occasion per school year. Applications should be made via appointment with myself -in person or via telephone, if more convenient for you. As always, parents are urged to enquire prior to making any bookings.

The attendance of all pupils who had any unauthorised absences during 2015/16 will be closely monitored by school and the Local Authority throughout the year and parents now risk prosecution if there are further unauthorised absences and their child's attendance does not improve significantly.

Payments coming into School

A reminder that all payments by cheque must be made payable to BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY. Please ensure that any payments are placed in a SEALED envelope clearly marked with the child's name and class. Payments for siblings should be separate please. We also ask that payments for different reasons (e.g. dinner money and breakfast club) are not sent together in the same envelope. Thank you.

Eco-Schools We will continue to collect items for recycling this year. We are able to accept spent batteries, ink cartridges and old mobile phones. Ink cartridges and mobile phones can be left at the school office or with Mrs Pearson, and there is a battery recycling point near the school hall. Thank you.

Fundraising thanks

Thank you very much for supporting our fundraising efforts for the North of England and Yorkshire regional branch of Diabetes UK. Our collections at our KS2 performances raised a wonderful £ 397.20 for this worthwhile cause. We are very grateful for your generosity.

This particular charity was chosen with the three children and member of staff who live with Diabetes in mind and it seemed a fitting way to recognise the challenges they face and bravery they show every day.

Parents' evenings Our Autumn term parents' evenings will be held on Monday 10th and Thursday 13th October. Miss May's parents' evenings will be Monday 10th and 11th October. We hope that all parents/carers will meet with class teachers to see how their children have settled into their new class and discuss their curricular targets for this school year. Sign up sheets for appointments will be up in the classrooms from 3rd October. We look forward to seeing you.

Parent Workshops/New Curriculum

Following positive feedback from last year, all teachers will again be inviting parents to attend an hour long workshop where they will provide an overview of age-related expectations in English and Maths in their year group and advise parents how to support their child at home.

It would benefit all parents to attend these workshops so you understand what your child now needs to achieve to be considered 'on track' for their age. More details will be sent home soon.

Tuck Shop

Over the past years the school's healthy tuck shop 'Nutritious Nosh', which is open during first break, has been really popular. The children have really enjoyed and benefitted from the opportunity to buy a healthy mid-morning snack. Last year available snack options included blueberry muffins, healthy biscuit, yoghurt tubes, strawberries, grapes, raisins, apples, bananas, pears, apricots, plums, oranges, peas and carrot sticks. The options available reflect seasonal change and are varied each week to give the children a good variety of options. This year all snacks will remain at 20p per item.

PLEASE ASK US IF YOU REQUIRE THIS NEWSLETTER IN LARGE PRINT



Important diary dates—Autumn Term 2016

9th, 19th, 20th & 21st September —Year 6 cycling proficiency (weather permitting)

Week commencing 19th September—Year 6 parents' open morning at Hungerhill (details to follow)

23rd September—teacher training day-school closed to pupils

13th October—Individual and family photographs

17th-19th September—Kingswood residential for year 6

18th October—parents of Butterflies invited for lunch

19th October— parents of Bluebirds invited for lunch

21st October—finish for half term

Monday 31st October—teacher training day, children return on Tuesday 1st November

14th-18th November—National Anti-Bullying week

5th December 10am —Reception/KS1 Christmas performance for grandparents only

6th December 2pm & 7th December 5.30pm—Reception/KS1 Christmas performance for parents

12th December—Years 3 and 4 Christmas party

13th December—Years 1 and 2 Christmas party

14th December—Years 5 and 6 Christmas party

15th December- Reception Christmas party

16th December—finish for Christmas break. Staff and pupils return on Tuesday 3rd January.