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BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY



NEWSLETTER - Summer Term 2017 - Second Half

Welcome back to our final half term. Fingers crossed the sunshine will continue!

Star Pupils Every week we continue to enjoy our special assemblies to celebrate children's achievements and efforts across the curriculum as well as with French, Swimming, Gardening, Sporting competitions and out of school activities. Our Barnby Dun Bears, Snuggles and Bernard, continue to be very popular and are given to one boy and one girl for outstanding achievement, effort and behaviour. Recent star pupils have been: Bradley Taylor, Alex Mawson, Ben Gibson, Louis Skelton, Finn Cairns, Summer Richardson, Chloe Barley, Isabella Goodchild, India Smith Kilgallon, Jasmine Satterley and Monica Dias.
Well done, we are very proud of you all.

Year 6 Sats Before half term, our Year 6 did their National Sats tests in maths, reading and spelling, punctuation and grammar. They have been working extremely hard in preparation for these, during and after school, as well as at home. We are so proud with how they dealt with the tests, every single child did their absolute best. It will be a nervous wait now until their results are published in July. **Thank you to all parents for your support and encouragement.** I am sure, like us, you are glad it's all over!!

Unauthorised absences Parents are reminded that:

- Keeping your child off school without authorisation is an offence. Fixed Penalty notice fines can be issued even for one day unauthorised absence (£60 per parent, per child).
- When your child is reported to be absent, a decision is then made by myself if the absence can be authorised or not.
- Authorised absences will not be given for very minor injuries or illnesses. They will certainly not be given for children being tired from celebrations/events neither will they be given if we believe the reason provided is not genuine.
- Absences for medical appointments are only authorised if we can see effort has been made to arrange it at a time that will least impact on a child's learning. As late as possible in the school day is best as they will not miss much lesson time and their arrival/departure won't disrupt lessons for others.
- If you fail to explain your child's absence and do not respond to our efforts to contact you by phone, unauthorised absence marks will have to be given.

Staffing and plans for September

I am sure you would wish to join me in congratulating Mrs Jevons (teacher in Yr1 Jellyfish), Mrs Ronan (teacher in Yr4 Elephants) and Mrs Johnson (teaching assistant in Yr3 Peacocks) who are all expecting babies in early Autumn. Mrs Johnson will return for a few weeks in September before going on maternity leave and Mrs Jevons and Mrs Ronan will commence their maternity leave at the end of August. We wish all of them and their husbands the very best and will eagerly await their exciting news!

We are very happy to announce that Miss Jackson, who has been with us all year as a trainee teacher in the Butterflies' and Turtles' classes, will become a member of our teaching staff from September. We also look forward to welcoming experienced teachers Miss Hirst and Miss Nettleton to our teaching staff. Mrs Nicklin, who has worked within the year 6 team to help prepare our children for their end of year Sats, will be returning on a part time basis.

Class lists are now finalised and children will be told of their new classes later in the term.

Class swap day will take place on Monday 17th July. Our new Reception children and their parents will be visiting us too on that day. We hope you will pop in and say hello to your child's new teacher and teaching assistants. We will remind you closer to the time and advise you of arrangements. Many thanks.

Sporting News

Last term we attended a Kwick Cricket Tournament at Hungerhill. The year 5 and 6 boys did incredibly well coming joint 2nd in the competition. Well done to Jensen Duke, Nate Conway, Max Ibbotson, Ethan Miller, Charlie Batty, Joseph Dixon, Jack Collins, Ben Munro, Alex Hawker and James Butterfield.

This term there will be a KS1 Tri-golf tournament and a year 5 and 6 Cube Competition. Look out for letters coming out soon!

Sports Days Fingers crossed that the weather will be kind to us and our Sports Days will go ahead as planned. We very much hope to see you on Monday 19th June at 1.30pm for Reception/KS1 and Friday 23rd at 1.30pm for KS2. As always we will be over on our sports field next to the schools library service/old school. Feel free to bring a rug or a chair.

If these events cannot go ahead due to bad weather we will text parents/carers and re-schedule. Thank you in advance for your patience.

*****May I remind parents that the sports field is part of our school site and the same no-smoking/no dogs policies apply. Thanks.*****

INSET DAY

Another reminder that school is closed to pupils on Friday 16th June.

Top attendance

Congratulations to the Reception Butterflies, Yr4 Leopards, Yr3 Owls and Yr6 Zebras whose overall attendance hit the target of 98.1% or above for the last half term. They will enjoy a reward day with activities of their choice very soon. Our lucky winners of book vouchers for having 100% attendance last half term were Ashlea Rawlings and Bailey Fletcher. Well done!!

Eco-project

Mr Harrison and his gardeners have been even busier than usual and our lovely pond area in Barnbywoods is almost complete. Lots of time and effort has gone into building the pond and we are extremely grateful to Mr Sleath for bringing his digger! Our poly-tunnel greenhouse is stuffed full of all different sorts of vegetables grown by Mr Harrison and our gardening groups. It is lovely that these are now being used in the school kitchen!

We are also working towards the Woodland Trust 'Woodland Charter' where we earn green points for planting trees on school site and in community areas.

School Office

Please could we remind parents that we cannot accept loose money at the school office window. All payments coming into school should be placed in an envelope marked with your child's name and class. Please can payments be placed in the class boxes wherever possible. Thankyou.

We are becoming increasingly inundated with items being brought to the school office for delivering to class through the school day. The delivery of items causes disruption both in classrooms and to our busy school office. With this in mind, please can parents endeavour to ensure that children have everything they require for the school day when they arrive in the morning—including packed lunches, water bottles, PE kits and items of clothing for after school clubs. Thank you for your co-operation.

Kind regards, Miss C.E. Robinson — Headteacher

Diary Dates

- Week beginning 12th June—Diabetes Awareness Week
- Tuesday 13th June—Trip to Harrogate/Yorkshire Showground for some gardeners/eco-warriors
- Monday 19th June 1.30pm—yr3 Owls at Hungerhill
- 20th, 21st and 22nd June—Year 6 Transition Visits to Hungerhill
- Thursday 22nd June—KS1 trip to Eureka
- Thursday 29th June—Meeting for new Reception parents @ 5.30pm
- Monday 10th July—KS2 Performance for Grandparents @ 10.00am
- Tuesday 11th July—KS2 Performance for Parents @ 6.00pm
- Wednesday 12th July—KS2 Performance for Parents @ 9.30am
- Thursday 13th July—KS2 Performance for Parents @ 6.00pm
- Monday 17th July—Class Swap Day
- Wednesday 19th July—trip to Yorkshire Wildlife park for 100%/highest attendance
- Friday 21st July—SCHOOL CLOSES FOR SUMMER. Pupils return on Tuesday 5th September 2017.

Class Assemblies We are very much looking forward to our Butterflies' class assembly on Thursday 15th June at 3pm and Bluebirds' class assembly on 22nd June at 3pm. Please arrive a few minutes before 3pm so we can get everyone seated. Mobile phones should be on silent and if younger children or babies become restless and noisy, please be prepared to nip out. As with all performances photos must not appear on Facebook or any other social networking site. We look forward to seeing you there. I'm sure the children will be excited!

Leave of Absence Government legislation prohibits leave of absence during term time, except in very exceptional circumstances. The Government defines exceptional circumstances as:

* Where it is Company Policy for an employee to take leave at a specified time of year and there is no opportunity to take a family holiday at any other time. Documentary evidence needs to prove that the employee has no influence at all over when their employer allocates their holidays. Please note also that self-employed people who prefer to take their holidays in term time do not meet this criteria.

* Where service personnel are returning from or scheduled to embark upon a tour of duty abroad.

If family circumstances meet one of these criteria and a child's attendance is at least 96%, 5 days leave of absence may be authorised for one occasion during a school year. I have always urged parents/carers to speak with me prior to making any booking or travel plans. Given the serious implications of taking unauthorised leave, and growing number of parents being prosecuted for their child's low attendance, it is imperative that you do this. Thank you.

We have been advised not to consider any leave of absence applications for next school year as yet, because it is expected that changes will be made to law regarding consequences for unauthorised absences. If you require further information, please contact me.

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