



Barcombe CE Primary School

# Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting time the children and staff are having with their current learning journeys! Ancient Egypt has been thoroughly investigated by Owls and Foxes (and Owls classroom has been turned into a pharaoh's tomb!), Badgers are experts on all things Australian, Squirrels on everything about India, and Hedgehogs know lots about farming. It is lovely to see the children so engaged in their learning.

## Learning Behaviours

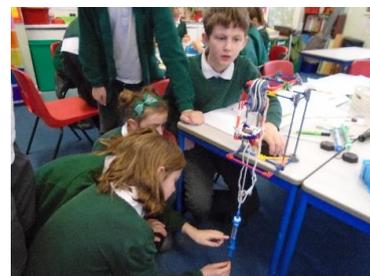
This week, we have introduced to the children a system for rewarding learning behaviours. In every lesson, we are looking for examples of the children showing determination, respect, independence, resilience, curiosity and pride. Whenever these behaviours are seen, the child receives a token to put into the class pot. During Friday assembly each week, one of the names from each class will be pulled out of the pot and those children will be able to choose a reward from the 'shop' of goodies on offer – items such as marbles, sticker packs, fancy pencils, gel pens. The more tokens a child has in the pot, the higher his/her chance of being pulled out. The children are responding well to the system and there are lots of tokens in the pots this week. Well done to Ellis, Matilda, Frankie, George W and Jude S for being the first children to be drawn out for rewards.

## Assemblies and Y Club

We are delighted that Rev James Hollingsworth will be in school next Wednesday to lead an assembly with the whole school. Miss Doone and Mrs Tomsett are leading most of our worship assemblies with James coming in to lead one assembly each half term. Y Club is running very successfully on Fridays, with a good number of children choosing to attend to watch and discuss animations about Bible stories.

## Super Science

How did the Egyptians build the pyramids? Owls class can tell you all about it, because they have been investigating pulleys, levers and mechanisms. This term, Owls and Foxes have continued to learn about forces and have conducted some exciting investigations. Foxes tested the effectiveness of different parachute designs and Owls designed their own mechanisms. Hedgehogs have investigated the effects of ice and learnt that even though ice seems heavy, it floats. Badgers have been investigating the effects of magnetism and which metals are attracted to magnets and which aren't, while Squirrels have learnt about the seasons.



Both Squirrels and Foxes have recently visited Cumnor House laboratories. Squirrels earned their Bunsen burner licenses and Foxes investigated the effect on friction on shoes. Science Club has seen some exciting experiments too: the children have made big bubbles, constructed games using electrical circuits and turned juice into sorbet.

## Coats and Shoes

Please ensure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat to wear when they are outside for playtimes and lunchtimes. Also, please ensure that their shoes are appropriate for winter conditions. We want our children dressed appropriately for the weather and the activities that they are doing.

## Parent Information

For information about local events that may be of interest, please check the Parent Information Point on the school website.

## Lost Property

There is, once again, a lot of lost property in school: 15 cardigans/jumpers, 2 pairs of trousers, 4 polo shirts, a winter coat, waterproof trousers....None of the items have names in them or the names have faded beyond legibility. It is the dream of all schools to have zero lost property with everything returned to its rightful owner straight away. Please help us realise that dream at Barcombe by naming **every piece** of clothing your child brings into school and checking regularly that the name can still be read.

## School Library Books Plea

The books in our school library are starting to look a bit tired and out-of-date. We are looking for donations of books that are less than 5 years old and in good condition so if your children have outgrown any, we would be very grateful to have them to replace some of the current stock.

## Wild about Barcombe



All our classes have been out and about visiting Wild About Barcombe again this term and enjoying their outdoor learning: Hedgehogs toasted marshmallows round the fire; Owls carried out the Big Schools' Birdwatch at WAB and made bird seedy cakes which have been very popular with the local feathered population; and Foxes made Egyptian reed boats and floated them in the stream.

Please make sure your child is dressed for whatever the weather decides to do! It is easier to remove layers if the children get too warm than to warm them up if they are not wearing enough clothes.

Our classes have, in addition, been visiting Wild About Barcombe with the Playground Working Group who also look after Wild About Barcombe, finding out about the ways in which the community can look after the space for the future.

## Attendance

We are really looking to consolidate our attendance figures this term as the local authority and Department for Education expectation is 97%. Therefore, as ever, please make every effort to get your child in school every day on time. If your child is unable to attend school (due to illness) please contact the school office daily by 9.00am on 01273 400287

Where patterns of absence or lateness emerge, we will be setting targets with parents to improve.

Our attendance statistics to date are as follows:

Owls 97.6%  
Foxes 97.4%  
Badgers 95.5%  
Squirrels 93.7%  
Hedgehogs 97.8%

Badgers and Squirrels have some catching-up to do!

This week's attendance winners are Hedgehogs with 100%. Well done!

### Dates for your diary

Please note these dates are not exhaustive and can be subject to change.

February 2019	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehogs class assembly
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term 3
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Return to school
March 2019	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Click theatre production Y6
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 and 6 to VIAM
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Y5 Little Big Bang STEM event
April 2019	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term 4
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Return to school
May 2019	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Foxes class assembly
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Y4 Hindleap Warren
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 Hindleap Warren
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> – Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 SATs week
June 2019	
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 PGL residential
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sports Day
July 2019	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of school for pupils
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET days

Best wishes,

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Ruth Force

Stewart James

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