



Barcombe CE Primary School

Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of another very busy term at Barcombe, and what an exciting one it has been! All the classes have been thoroughly engaged in their learning journeys and it has been lovely to see the children enthusing about their new knowledge and skills.

Learning Opportunities and Curriculum Development

Lots of wonderful opportunities to extend learning have happened in the last few weeks:

Owls and Foxes have had two visits from STEM ambassadors: one where they designed and costed railway crossings and stations before presenting their designs to a panel; and one where a geologist got everyone very excited about earthquakes and tsunamis. There are some budding geologists at Barcombe judging by the children's interest and questions.



These two classes have both also been to Cumnor House for a science lesson – Owls extracting DNA from fruit and Foxes analysing a 'crime scene'. Badgers and Squirrels have both had a visit from Chartwells to

talk about healthy eating. There was lots of chomping on vegetables going on, and the wraps looked delicious!

Last week, Hedgehogs visited Middle Farm and had a wonderful time. The hay barn was especially popular! They continue to enjoy their weekly welly walks and are all well wrapped-up against all that the winter weather can throw at them!

Year 2 have been on weekly Forest School sessions this term, and Year 1 will start theirs



shortly after half term.

Our Poetry Day was very successful and all the children had great fun being creative around poetry and then showing off what they had learnt to everyone else in the school.



World Book Day and Reading Rocket Challenge

World Book Day will soon be with us – it's on March 5th. As the letter you have received says, we would like our World Book Day to be more sustainable. Rather than lots of families going out to buy new costumes, maybe someone has an outfit their child has grown out of that can be passed to a younger child; maybe your child can bring a prop rather than wear a whole outfit. This is, of course, optional.

Your child has recently also brought home information about our February Half Term Reading Rocket Challenge to read in weird and wonderful places. Please email to the office any photos of your child reading carrying out the challenge so we can display them in school. The wackier, the better!

Health and Safety

Barcombe have been listed as 'flu fighters' as our take-up rate for the flu vaccine was 81% compared with the national figure of 65%.

Recent advice has been sent to schools about the coronavirus outbreak and how to reduce risk of infection for this and other diseases. We encourage the children to wash their hands regularly and always have tissues available in classrooms. DfE advice is:

- always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.

School Council

The School Council's main focus at the moment is energy saving. We are monitoring electricity usage for each week to see if we can keep reducing it by switching off lights and whiteboards when not in use. The children in Badgers, Foxes and Owls have designed Electricity Superheroes and Mrs Edwards' fantastic artistic skills have brought a whole energy saving display to life.



Coats and shoes

Several children are coming to school without waterproof coats. Unless the rain is really heavy, the children do go out for playtime, so they need to be dressed for wet weather to avoid being wet and uncomfortable for the rest of the school day. Please make sure your child has a waterproof coat in school every day.

Please also make sure that your child has school shoes. These should be black. **Trainers and boots are not part of our school uniform.**

School emails

We are aware that some people are not getting notifications when emails are sent from school. Please make sure that your contact details are up to date. The schools app is also a good way to make sure that notifications get through to you.

Attendance

Our attendance for the academic year currently stands at 95.9%. This year, we aim to achieve higher than the DfE expectation of 97%. Inevitably, there will be times when your children are too ill to be in school, but we ask that our pupils are in school every day whenever possible to support us in our goal of 97%+.

Our attendance statistics since the start of term are as follows:

- Hedgehogs 97.3%
- Squirrels 97.1%
- Badgers 97.3%
- Foxes 97.4%
- Owls 98.2%

Sporting Activities

A team of swimmers represented Barcombe at the Lewes Schools Swimming Gala recently. All our pupils swam well and represented Barcombe brilliantly.

Next term, among other events, Year 5/6 pupils will be taking part in the Newick Football Festival.

Church Links

Next term's Christian value is Compassion. This will be a focus for our classroom reflection areas and for our worship assemblies.

The Lord is merciful and good; our God is compassionate. (Psalm 116:5)

Online Safety

This week has seen Safer Internet Day take place nationwide. The theme for this year is #freetobe and explores online identity and reputation. The children have been working on different activities linked to this during the week.

We would encourage you to monitor your child's online use as much as possible to help them stay safe. Minimum age recommendations are given for all social media. Most have a minimum age of 13. Whatsapp has a minimum age of 16. Further details can be found at <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/age-restrictions-social-media-services>

Charity Fundraising

Each class at Barcombe has a class charity for which they raise money during the school year through different events. Hedgehogs, for example, held a very popular biscuit sale last week.

Owls Class always have Patina as their charity. Patina is the organisation which runs the Year 6 Moving On Parade in Lewes each July, celebrating the children moving on to the next stage of their education and lives.

You will have already noticed stalls popping up in the playground at the end of the day with Owls pupils selling hot chocolate, cakes etc. This is all part of their fundraising work as they are taking part in the Fiver Challenge – we give the children £5 to 'grow' over a few months and then return to us with any extra they have raised. Please support these children as much as possible in their endeavours.

We hope you all have a very happy half term break and look forward to seeing you all back on Monday, February 23rd.

Best wishes,

Rforce

Stewart James

Ruth Force

Stewart James

Dates for your diary

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

February 2020

Friday 14 th	Last day of Term 3	
Monday 24 th	Start of Term 4	

March 2020

Thursday 5 th	Mini Medics First Aid Owls	
Wednesday 18 th	Badgers Science at Cumnor House	
Thursday 19 th	Mini Medics First Aid Foxes	
Tuesday 24 th	Parent consultations	
Wednesday 25 th	Squirrels Science at Cumnor House	
Thursday 26 th	Parent consultations	
Tuesday 31 st	Easter Service at St Mary's	

April 2020

Wednesday 1 st	Fishbourne Roman Palace Owls and Foxes	
Friday 3 rd	End of Term 4	
Monday 20 th	Start of Term 5	
Thursday 30 th	Foxes Class Assembly	

May 2020

Tuesday 5 th	Year 4 to Hindleap	
Wednesday 6 th - Thursday 7 th	Year 5 to Hindleap Warren	
Friday 8 th	May Bank Holiday	
Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th	Year 6 SATs Week	
Wednesday 20 th	Hedgehogs Science at Cumnor House	