



Barcombe CE Primary School

Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to all of you! Term is well under way now and the buzz of learning is clear all around the school. Our new learning journeys are exciting and there is lots of chatter about what the children are learning.

Learning Opportunities and Curriculum Development

Lots of wonderful opportunities to extend learning are being planned for the next few weeks:

Foxes and Owls will be having a visit from a STEM ambassador next Monday. This will be a session looking at engineering and railways. A further STEM session is planned for the following week for these classes too, this time with a geologist focussing on earthquakes and tsunamis as part of our Active Earth learning journey.

We are looking forward to a whole school poetry day on Tuesday next week. The children will spend the whole day looking at a poem or poems and will do lots of related drama, art and music activities as well as performing the poems to the rest of the school. From T S Elliott via Alfred Noyes to Alexander McCall Smith, there will be a school full of poetry!

Owls are heading off to Cumnor House on Wednesday next week for a science afternoon which, among other exciting things, will involve extracting DNA from strawberries.

Hedgehogs continue to have a wonderful time on their weekly Welly Walk on Tuesdays. This week, they have been mud painting.



We are in the process of arranging

Clubs

There are lots of after school clubs on offer this term, and it is lovely to see so many children taking up the opportunities.

Please don't forget that we have after school care available Monday to Thursday till 5.30pm. At the moment we have very few children attending. For it to be viable, numbers really need to increase. We will look at the figures at Easter to decide whether it is possible to continue after that holiday. Use it or lose it!

Sporting Activities

This week, a Year 3 and 4 team attended Sports Hall Athletics at Chailey School. They all represented the school very well and came second in the competition. Well done to all who took part.



Mr Timmins has started his work with Skylark Federation this week. He is teaching Owls class on Monday afternoons and is running Football Club after school too. We welcome him to Barcombe and hope that he will really enjoy working here.

Sports Kit Amnesty!

Please look at home and see if you have any Barcombe sports hoodies, sports team shirts, shin pads, socks etc. We are missing a lot of our kit – it must be somewhere! Please return anything you find to Mrs Sakaki as soon as possible.

basic first aid training for all the children in Owls and Foxes.

We are also excited to be planning Forest School sessions for Year 1 and 2. These will hopefully start in the very near future.

School Council

Our school council is currently focussing on Eco issues. Next week is Energy Saving Week in school, and the School Council are developing initiatives to help us save energy.

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.

Blogs

Please look on your child's class blog for up-to-date information about what is happening in their class.

Attendance

Our attendance for the academic year currently stands at 95.5%. 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 96.6%
- Squirrels 98.4%
- Badgers 95.4%
- Foxes 98.7%
- Owls 97.8%

Safety

It is good to see many of our children coming to school on bikes, scooters and skateboards. In order to ensure your child's safety, we strongly advise that he/she wears a helmet. Please accompany your children along School Path rather than letting them ride ahead of you. There have been some near misses recently as cars have come round the corner.

Super Skylarks

We now have six Super Skylarks in school – Ayla, Emilia and George W have been successful in gaining their purple sweatshirts. Years 5 and 6 are considering what privileges should be awarded to our Super Skylarks – Funky Footwear Fridays seem to be the top of the list of suggestions!

Midday Supervisory Assistant Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a midday supervisor. If you are interested in this role from 12 noon to 1pm, please let the office know. It may be possible for a couple of parents to job-share.

Church Links

This term's value is Forgiveness. 'In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death. And so we have forgiveness of sins because of God's rich grace' Ephesians 1:7

Our Wednesday worship assemblies this term are focussing on the Lord's Prayer. We were very impressed this week when Esther in Year 2 confidently said the whole of it from memory in front of the whole school.

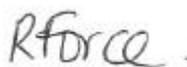
Online Safety

We regularly work with the children on online safety and how to keep themselves safe online. National Online Safety Day is in February, and we will be again drawing the children's awareness to these issues in addition to the work we do all year round.

We are aware that some of our children are accessing social media sites, and have recently had to speak to some children about the inappropriate use of social media.

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>

Best wishes,



Ruth Force



Stewart James

Dates for your diary

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

December 2019	
Friday 20 th	End of Term 2
January 2020	
Wednesday 22 nd	Owls Science at Cumnor House
Thursday 30 th	Badgers Class Assembly
February 2020	
Thursday 6 th	Squirrels Class Assembly
Wednesday 12 th	Foxes Science at Cumnor House
Thursday 13 th	Hedgehogs Class Assembly
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
Friday 27 th	tbc Fishbourne Roman Palace Owls and Foxes
Tuesday 31 st	Easter Service at St Mary's
April 2020	
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