



Barcombe CE Primary School

Newsletter

Executive Headteacher: Stewart James
Head of School: Ruth Force

barcombeoffice@skylarkfed.education
www.barcombe.e-sussex.sch.uk

Address: School Path, Barcombe Cross, BN8 5DN
Tel: 01273 400287

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another exciting term of learning is underway at Barcombe, and everyone is well and truly engrossed in their new learning journeys.

Hedgehogs are learning about Growing Things – they are reading a book called *Bog Baby* by Jeanne Willis. It follows two children who venture into the woods and find a magical creature. It tackles important themes such as respecting our natural environment.

Squirrels are learning all about Dinosaurs this term and are reading two books in this topic: *Harry and His Bucketful of Dinosaurs* and *Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish*. They are both picture books relevant to the topic of Dinosaurs and to the current Climate Change crisis; they tackle issues of environmental degradation and humanity's role in this.

Badgers are learning about Victorians. Their key text is the classic *Oliver Twist* which describes conditions for children in Victorian Britain very well. 'Please, Sir, can I have some more?'

Both Owls and Foxes are reading a book called *Escape from Pompeii* to bring their topic of The Romans to life. The book follows to children, Tranio and Livia, as Mount Vesuvius erupts and engulfs the Roman town of Pompeii.

Learning Opportunities and Curriculum Development

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

World Book Day is always a favourite day of the year and it was wonderful to



Health and Safety

As your children may have told you, we have introduced stricter handwashing regimes. The children are washing hands first in the morning when they arrive at school, after playtime, before snacks and lunch and if they sneeze or cough into their hands. We are following government advice on how to deal with the current situation, and will, of course, update you of any changes you need to be aware of.

Respect

We would like to politely remind parents that all our staff should be spoken to in a respectful manner. We will always address your concerns, but a calm, measured approach is always more beneficial when alerting staff to them, and helps resolve situations more easily.

School Council

The School Council continues to work on eco issues. They were keen to encourage our pupils to attend the recent Eco fair. Emma Burnett will be attending a School Council meeting to further develop their eco work. The children also discuss learning behaviours in their meetings and are very positive about the learning experience at Barcombe School.

Church Links

Our current school value is Compassion. *The Lord is merciful and good; our God is compassionate.* (Psalm 116:5) This is the focus for our classroom reflection area and for our worship assemblies led by Mrs Tomsett and Rev James Hollingsworth. Once each term, a worship assembly will be led by an Open the Book team, including the above people and others from local churches. These sessions explore Bible stories through drama. For more information, please see the Christian Distinctiveness tab on the school website where there is general information leaflet.



see so many inventive costumes and props around school. The children enjoyed lots of different reading activities during the day, especially buddy reading with children from other classes.

Sports Relief this week has seen lots of different sporting activities take place, including different races based on 'egg and spoon', included blindfold with friends guiding the runners with verbal instructions! Of course, the favourite activity has to be the Jumpstart Jonny workout with parents on Tuesday morning. It was great to see so many of you coming along to join in. We all enjoyed it so much that we are thinking of making it a termly event! Today sees our final workout of the week, with the children doing a Body Coach schools workout. The total raised by Barcombe for Sports Relief is a fantastic £170. Thank you to everyone for your support.

This week, we have held a Science Day on the theme of Evolution with Richard Robinson, the director of Brighton Science Festival, presenting to the children and leading workshops with them.

Owls also recently took part in a first aid training session, 'Mini Medics'. In it, they learnt basic first aid and life-saving skills.

Hedgehogs had a wonderful time celebrating Shrove Tuesday!



Attendance

Our attendance for the academic year currently stands at 96.1%. 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 2020 are as follows:

- Hedgehogs 97.7%
- Squirrels 96.9%
- Badgers 97.1%
- Foxes 97%
- Owls 97.6%

Progress towards the School Development Plan

Our School Development Plan is available for you to view on our school website. It outlines what we are doing to ensure the school, and our pupils, continue to develop and flourish.

This term we are continuing to focus on improving three aspects of what is called the 'SDP': attendance, reading for pleasure, and continuing to improve participation in sports and arts events. We have signed up to take part in the Brighton and Hove Half Marathon event and there are numerous other sporting events coming up. Some of our children have been involved in a competition to create a front cover for the April edition of Barcombe News. A winner has been selected. Watch out for your April issues! It has been lovely to see the response to our February Reading Rocket Challenge. Lots of children did reading in some very strange places! Please keep encouraging your children to read at home – it is a wonderful way to develop imagination and vocabulary as well as spelling skills.

In addition, you will see that Mr James is regularly writing in the local Parish Magazine and also submitting articles to local newspapers. As part of this, he is including notices about available places for Reception children for September 2020.

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. Socks and tights should be white, black grey or dark green. Trainers and boots are not part of our school uniform.

Reading Dog

We are delighted to have become part of the Read to Dogs programme. Barney, a very lovely golden retriever, has been to visit the whole school as part of an assembly, and is now visiting us on a regular basis so the children can read to him. He has already captured the hearts of everyone at school. Reading to dogs helps children develop their reading skills, encourages positive behaviour and helps build confidence and self-esteem. Reading to dogs inspires children to have fun and enjoy the experience of reading. If your child feels unsure about being close to dogs, please talk to his/her class teacher.

Best wishes,

Rforce

St James

Ruth Force

Stewart James

Dates for your diary

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

March 2020

Tuesday 17 th	Lewes Big Dance Festival
Wednesday 18 th	Newick Football Festival
Thursday 19 th	Mini Medics First Aid Foxes
Tuesday 24 th	Parent consultations
Wednesday 25 th	Badgers to Preston Manor
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
Wednesday 22 nd	Y1 and Y2 multi skills festival
Tuesday 28 th	Y5 curriculum morning at Chailey
Thursday 30 th	Foxes Class Assembly

May 2020

Tuesday 5 th	Year 4 to Hindleap Warren
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
Friday 15 th	Year 6 celebration day at Plumpton
Wednesday 20 th	Hedgehogs Science at Cumnor House tbc