



Friday, 4 May 2018

Head Teacher's Remarks

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Children

As we approach the Bank Holiday weekend it seems slightly unusual that the weather is warming up and sunshine is forecast! The children are certainly enjoying the more pleasant weather, and have contributed to the growing pile of lost property as they shed layers in the sunshine! Please could all parents ensure that items are named, as this makes it so much easier to return them to the children. Thank you.

As usual this week has been a busy one in school. I was very proud of the children as we practised our lock-down procedures earlier in the week. This is always a challenging experience for the children. We do explain that, for our location, an accident on the railway line is the most likely scenario to lead to a lock-down; but due to several high profile news reports some children immediately worry about a different scenario. It is essential that we do practise this at least once a year, so that the children would know what to do in the unlikely event of us being required to lock-down. Fire drills are practised more frequently and so most children find them less concerning.

Year 3 and Year 1 enjoyed a visit from our Polar Ambassador on Monday this week. The children are really enjoying the exciting science activities they are introducing to enhance the learning.

It was lovely to welcome some of our Reception parents to share the learning on Wednesday morning. We do hope that those of you who are able to pop in occasionally find the experience rewarding.

Regarding the election of a governor by the parent body, the Governors are aware that the start of the term has been very busy for parents. Therefore the deadline for expressions of interest has been extended to next Friday, 11th May. Please do take a moment over the coming days to consider if this is a way in which you could support the school moving forward. Thank you.

Year 2 have already started their end of year assessment process, which is spread throughout May; and Year 1 are mirroring this so that they are familiar ready for next year. For Key Stage 2 children their assessment week begins on Monday 14th May. It is always preferable for the children to complete their tests and tasks at the same time as their peers, and we would be most grateful if non-urgent appointments are not made for that week. We do not want any child to be worried or concerned, but simply to try their best. We are grateful for your support in that.

Next week we are looking forward to a visit from a senior education professional who we have invited to work with us. We are always striving to offer the best possible opportunities for your children, and are keen to explore additional ways in which we can support the children in their learning and personal development.

Please do remember that Monday is a Bank Holiday so we all enjoy an extended weekend, and the children return to school on Tuesday morning. (A reminder to Year 6 parents that Tuesday afternoon is Leavers Photo.)

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher

Congratulations to our special learners this week who are:

- from YR: - Penny Brown and Oliver Craft
- from Y1: - Sophie Forster and Joshua Newton-Telling
- from Y2: - Oliver Hine and Steve Turner
- from Y3: - Elsie Adamson and Charlotte Wright
- from Y4: - Ethan Hart and Savannah Powell
- from Y5: - Ella Hammill and Alice Holder
- from Y6: - Jacob Clark and Grace Lancaster

We are celebrating our Special Learners this year by each child having a gold star badge to wear during the following week. These badges should be worn with pride, and returned to their class teacher on the Friday morning ready to be given to the next child. Thank you for your help and support with this.

Next Week's Reminders

Monday, 7th May - Bank Holiday

Tuesday, 8th May - Year 6 Leavers Photos

Library Closure

The School Library will be closing due to the system being updated. Therefore, can all library books please be returned to school by Friday, 11th May.

Thank you for your support and assistance in this matter.



Year 6 - River Dart Residential

The final letter for the River Dart trip, including clothing list, will be sent home on Friday, 11th May.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN?

Being a parent is the most important job we will ever have but also the most difficult, with long hours, new challenges every day and no training.

No wonder that sometimes parents could do with a helping hand. Barnardo's helps these families with young children by offering support from trained volunteers.

What will I do as a Volunteer?

Volunteers help in many different ways – they may help their family to begin to get out and make new friends at a local Children's Centre or Mother & Toddler group. The family may need help because of illness or disability or they may need support to help sort out financial problems or get their children into better routines and encouraging good behaviour.

Why should I get involved?

Parenting is not easy for anyone but some families are faced with extra problems that make coping with day to day problems difficult. Your help and support can help a family to move forward and make changes so that life is a little better and less stressful for children and parents. This would also enable you to gain valuable experience if you are planning to take up a career working with children and families. We will pay your expenses and provide full training and support.

Am I the right kind of person to enjoy this work?

If you are warm, supportive, reliable and non-judgemental and know what family life is like with young children, then you are the person we are looking for.

How many hours a week will I have to volunteer?

Volunteers visit the family once a week for 2 -3 hours for a time-limited period. This is following a 6 week initial training course of one morning a week. The project asks for at least one year's commitment.

How do I find out more?

Please either telephone 01494 568955 or email
nina.loader@barnardos.org.uk
or visit our website www.barnardos.org.uk