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Barnby Dun Primary Academy NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2016- First Half



Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your families have enjoyed a fantastic Christmas break together. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2016. It is lovely to be back at school and hear all the children's exciting news!

Christmas Performances Thank you to all those who attended our Reception/KS1 nativity performances and the KS2 Carol Service at church. I'm sure you will agree that the children were brilliant! We had lots of fun, as well as being touched by their performances. Your positive comments and encouragement were much appreciated by staff and children.

Christmas Hampers Once again our Christmas raffle proved very popular. Our lucky winners were Chloe Higgins and Owen Lyall and the winner of the adult's food hamper was Lynsey Taylor. Many thanks to staff who donated all the items.

Punctuality

Thank you for ensuring your child arrives on time each morning, well prepared and ready to learn. To try and ease the pressure for parents, we open the doors early, at 8.30am, and the register is taken at 8.45am. In order for the school day to begin smoothly and on time, and to ensure the safety and security of staff and pupils, **it is essential that parents leave the school building promptly when the bell goes at 8.45am. The side gate is locked by Mr Harrison at 8.45am promptly and only visitors who are signed in and have undergone safeguarding checks are permitted to be in the building.** Unless you are calling at the school office, please exit using classroom doors and not the main school entrance.

If any parent/carer wishes to see their child's teacher, please arrange a mutually convenient time, preferably after school. I am sure you understand it is difficult for teachers to talk to parents first thing in a morning, when they are welcoming the children into school and trying to ensure a secure, happy start to the day for everyone. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Attendance Success All children received a platinum, gold, silver or bronze certificate before Christmas to recognise their attendance during the Autumn term. We had over 90 children with 100% who also received a voucher for a free swim session at The Dome. Winners of vouchers in our Attendance raffle were Matty Munro and Hetty Walton. The class with the highest attendance in the second half term were year 6 Lions with an amazing 99.1%, closely followed by previous champions year 3 Caterpillars.

Well done everybody—keep it up!

Parents Evenings

We will be holding our Spring term parents' evenings on Monday 29th February and Thursday 3rd March. We hope all parents will be able to attend to discuss their child's progress and social and emotional development. If you are unable to attend Parents Evenings on these days due to work commitments please let class teachers/school office know and they will contact you to arrange an appointment at a different time.

Fundraising Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas fundraiser on behalf of 'Support dogs'.

The proceeds from our Christmas memory tree, concert collections and our staff alternative Christmas card amounted to an amazing £864.31. We have received a lovely letter of thanks and a member of the charity will be bringing one of the dogs to visit us in an assembly very soon.

Attendance The school has a statutory duty to monitor pupils' attendance and punctuality very closely. In partnership with the Attendance Service (formerly the Education Welfare Service) we have to do all we can to ensure each pupil achieves at least 'average' attendance—**96.1%**. Frequency and reasons for absence are checked every day by myself and tracked very closely particularly if a pupil's attendance falls below 96%. Low attendance or frequent short term absences can lead to involvement of the Attendance Service.

If children are absent from school and no reason is given or the reason is not considered valid/sufficient, an UNAUTHORISED mark is given. When our weekly attendance is sent electronically to the Education Welfare Office, any unauthorised marks are highlighted immediately as a cause for concern. These can result in Fixed Penalty Notices.

It is vital that parents contact school as soon as they decide their child is too ill to attend and give a full explanation, so a decision can be made whether an authorised mark can be given. Parents should phone school each morning their child is absent to keep us updated and let us know when they are well enough to return. Please remember we are happy to administer prescribed medicines. Thank you for your continued support.

Leave of Absence During Term Time

A polite reminder again that that it is now **against the law** for Headteachers to authorise leave of absence unless it fits one of the three criteria as defined by the Government. If an application does meet the criteria up to 5 days may be authorised, if a child's attendance is at least 96%.

Parents are urged to ask for advice, **prior** to making any booking or firm plans. A quick phone call to myself will usually clarify any issues and answer any questions.

Barnbywoods

Our Outdoor Classroom, 'Barnbywoods', continues to be open to parents and the community on the first Monday afternoon of each month. Please feel free to go in and sit for a while, enjoy a walk around and see the areas we have developed so far—any ideas/suggestions would be gratefully received! 'Barnbywoods' is open on the afternoons of Monday 1st February and Monday 7th March 2016.

School Uniform

The children always look very smart in their Barnby Dun uniforms. Thank you for supporting our policy. Please remember all children should wear black shoes, not trainers. If children are wearing trainers they will be given black plimsolls to change into when indoors.

Diary Dates

Thurs. 14th January 3pm —Eagles' class assembly

Tues. 19th January—safety meeting for parents—PCSO attending

Thurs. 21st January 3pm —Giraffes' class assembly

Thurs. 28th January 3pm —Koalas' class assembly

Tues. 2nd February— we will do National Internet Safety day (actual date is 9th Feb.!))

Tues. 2nd February 3.30pm—London trip parents' meeting

Thurs. 4th February 3pm—Caterpillars' class assembly

Fri. 5th Feb. school closes for half term. Staff and children return on Monday 15th February.

Tues. 16th and Wed.17th Feb. - after school Sats booster classes for year 6 begin (twice weekly for 10 weeks)

Thurs. 18th February 3pm—Penguins' class assembly

Thurs. 25th February 3pm—Honeybees' class assembly

Thurs. 3rd March 3pm—Lions' class assembly

Fri.4th- Sat.5th March—London trip

Fri. 18th March—school closes for Easter. Staff and children return on Monday 4th April.

Staffing Changes

We are very pleased to confirm that Miss May, teacher of the year 6 Lions, has been appointed as our permanent Deputy Head teacher. She has been doing an excellent job and I am sure will continue to help lead the school from strength to strength. It has also been lovely to welcome back Mrs Johnson, teaching assistant, who has returned from maternity leave. She will be supporting in the year 2 Fireflies and year 5 Toucans. We are also delighted that Metro catering, who supply our school meals, have appointed a new cook in charge, Vicky Rushworth.

One of our midday supervisors, Mrs Hone, has just left us to await the arrival of her baby in early February. We wish her well and look forward to hearing her exciting news.

We recently bid a sad farewell to Mrs Rowland, KS1 teaching assistant, who retired before Christmas. She has been at our school for over twenty years and has always worked so hard to give the children the very best. It has been a pleasure to work with her and we will miss her greatly.

Star Pupils

Our two Barnby Dun bears—Bernard and Snuggles—continue to be very popular with the children. The bears are given to one boy and one girl who have stood out as Star Pupils for that week. They also receive a special Headteacher's certificate. Recent star pupils have been: Luke Manson, Elijah Maxey, Ethan Miller, Joshua Sleath, Logan Gross, Michael Butterfield, Becky Oliver, Ashlea Rawlings, Mallika Pasik-Davies, Abbie Smith, Lily-Rae Scholey and Erin Cleghorn.

Well done everybody—we are very proud of you. Thank you for setting a great example.

Sporting News

Our year 5/6 netballers did spectacularly well in the Pyramid Schools tournament at Hungerhill in December. They won every match and came first overall. A huge well done to: Abigail Stanbridge, Becky Oliver, Leon Perigo, Ben Munro, Bradley Taylor, and Lucy Roffe.

Upcoming events include:

Indoor Athletics on Tuesday 12th January at Hungerhill for Year 5 and 6 from 1.30pm until 3pm.

Kids Cup Football Tournament at the Keepmoat on Wednesday 27th January for Year 5 and 6. Kick off 3.30pm.

If you wish to make contact with your child's teacher or another member of staff and you find it difficult to get into school—please feel free to contact them via our secure office email address:

office@barnbydun.doncaster.sch.uk

This way your email message can be forwarded directly to the appropriate member of staff.

Thank you.

kindest regards,

Miss C.E. Robinson. Headteacher.