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# BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY

## Autumn Term 2015—First Half

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you and your children have all enjoyed a wonderful summer break and enjoyed lots of fun together. It has been lovely hearing all their exciting news. The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and looking very smart. It is so nice to see them settle into their new classes and connect with friends old and new. They have impressed us with how quickly they have adapted back into school routines and coped with early mornings! Everyone has made a positive and happy start. We are thrilled with our new classroom and very relieved it was completed on time. Now it is being enjoyed and appreciated by our Year 4 Penguins, the anxiety and sleepless nights seem worth it! Thank you for your positive comments.

Thank you to those of you who have commented on how nice all areas of school and our grounds look for the children's return. Mr Harrison and our cleaners Mrs Harrison, Mrs Bennett and Mrs Lyne have done a brilliant job as always. Teachers and teaching assistants have spent many days in the holidays, getting the classrooms ready. Mrs Smith has given very generously of her time working her artistic magic, creating some lovely displays of recent work to celebrate children's achievements across the curriculum.

### New Reception Children

It is an exciting time for us all to welcome our 43 new Reception children. Having visited them at home in July, they have started to attend on a part time basis. We look forward to getting to know our new children and their families, and ensuring they have a great start to their school life at Barnby Dun. The other children will make them feel very welcome and look after them, as they always do.

**Baby news!** I am sure you would wish to join me in sending our love and best wishes to Mrs Pedder and her husband who welcomed baby Emilie Ivy into the world on 28th July. She is a dainty little thing, weighing just 5lb but she is doing well. We can't wait to meet her soon.

### Water Bottles

Please remember to take your child's water bottle home each day and wash it thoroughly. Children should fill their bottle at home, ready for the new school day, and they can refill their bottle at one of the water coolers when needed. It is important that children drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially during the September heat wave we always seem to have!

**In accordance with our 'Healthy Schools Policy' children should not have bottles filled with juice. Thank you.**

### Text Messaging Service

We continue running our text messaging service, which enables us to reach parents quickly and effectively regarding child illnesses, child absences, after school clubs and in case of emergency. Please could you ensure that our school office is kept up to date with your current mobile phone contact details. Thank you.

### 'Barnbywoods'

Our wonderful outdoor classroom on Catling Lane will be open to parents and the community on the afternoons of Monday 7th September, Monday 5th October and Monday 9th November. Please feel free to go in and stroll around. Any suggestions of how we could further develop this area would be welcome.

Mr Harrison will soon be busy with his various gardening groups and our popular after-school Eco-Warriors will start soon.

**Punctuality** Thank you for ensuring children have been arriving on time to school. Please remember classroom doors open at 8.30am and all pupils must be in class by 8.45am for registration. As always, parents are welcome to come into classrooms and help settle their children. In order to comply with safeguarding requirements, all parents should **exit via classroom doors by the 8.45 bell.** Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring all children have a calm, happy start to each school day.

### Attendance Success

We are extremely proud of our whole school attendance sustaining an amazing 97.8% for 2014/15. More than 70 children achieved a perfect 100%, not missing a single session all year, which is a wonderful achievement. Mrs McCaw's Monkeys had the highest class percentage with a brilliant 99.4%. They were also the class with the most children achieving 100%. Ruby Dunne, Dinosaurs, received a voucher entitling her to free swim and skate sessions throughout the summer holidays. Ruby has achieved 100% for three consecutive years and is always on time. This was generously donated by Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust, who will continue to support us this year.

### School Uniform

Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name to avoid them being lost. Please remember the only jewellery permitted are small stud-type earrings and a wrist watch. These must be removed by children **themselves** for P.E. lessons. **Children should wear black shoes, not trainers please. If children do attend in trainers, they will be given black indoor pumps to change into. This includes year 6 children!**

Can I also remind parents that nail varnish/nail art is not permitted. Many thanks.

## Leave of Absence

To achieve their very best, children need to attend school every day and be on time. Any absence or lateness disrupts their learning and can affect others too. Gaps in learning can have a detrimental effect on their progress in the long term as they cannot build on skills and knowledge previously missed. We take our legal duties regarding attendance very seriously and our expectation is, that in choosing to send your children here, you will support our policies and aspirations.

Please can I remind parents that routine medical appointments should be made outside school hours. If children do have to attend during the school day, please try to arrange the appointment for as late in the afternoon as possible. The worst possible time to arrange such appointments is first thing in the morning as children will miss work in English or maths and joining a lesson mid-way is really difficult for children. Medical appointment forms are available at the office and in order for the absence to be authorised, we will require a copy of the letter/appointment card. Thank you.

As all parents should be aware, it is **illegal** for Head Teachers to authorise holidays unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. The Government define these as:

- When parents are given specific holidays by their employer and have no choice/control over when these are (evidence required from employer.) This must evidence that this is your one and only family holiday during the year.
- When a family holiday has been recommended by a Health Professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from recent illness (evidence required from Health Professional).
- When a parent is in the Armed Forces and a family holiday is planned prior to embarking upon a tour of duty or following their return.

If there are 'exceptional circumstances', parents may apply for up to 5 days holiday on one occasion per school year. Applications should be made via appointment with myself -in person or via telephone, if more convenient for you. As always, parents are urged to enquire prior to making any bookings.

**All unauthorised absences will result in a Fixed Penalty Fine and subsequent monitoring and possible involvement of the Attendance/Education Welfare Service. Last school year, 24 parents were fined by Doncaster Magistrates Court for unauthorised absences and now risk prosecution if there are further unauthorised absences and their child's attendance does not improve significantly this year.**

## Payments coming into School

A reminder that all payments by cheque must be made payable to BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY. Please ensure that any payments are placed in a SEALED envelope clearly marked with the child's name and class. Payments for siblings should be separate please. We also ask that payments for different reasons (e.g. dinner money and breakfast club) are not sent together in the same envelope. Thank you.

**Anti-Bullying Charter Mark** Last year, we worked really hard on ensuring systems for anti-bullying were in place and had a great team of anti-bullying ambassadors. Because of this, we decided to apply for the Silver Chartermark, which involved a group of anti-bullying ambassadors visiting Edenthorpe Hall Primary School to present the great work we have been doing to some of their anti-bullying team. The children we took did a wonderful job and we have been accredited with the award. Special thanks to these children: Ella Smith, Amber Elworthy and Olivia Jackson, who have now left us but whose legacy will live on at Barnby Dun Primary Academy! We are now in the process of establishing our anti-bullying team for this year, who I am sure will make us just as proud and continue the great work that has already been done.

**Eco-Schools** We will continue to collect items for recycling this year. We are able to accept spent batteries, ink cartridges and old mobile phones. Ink cartridges and mobile phones can be left at the school office or with Mrs Pearson, and there is a battery recycling point near the school hall. Thank you.

**Fundraising thanks** Thank you very much for supporting our fundraising efforts for Marie Curie. Our collections at our KS2 performances raised a wonderful £386.08 for this worthwhile cause. We are very grateful for your generosity.

## Parents' evenings

Our Autumn term parents' evenings will be held on Monday 12th and Thursday 15th October. We hope that all parents/carers will meet with class teachers to see how their children have settled into their new class and discuss their curricular targets for this school year. Sign up sheets for appointments will be up in the classrooms from 5th October.

## Parent Workshops/New Curriculum

Following positive feedback from last year, all teachers will be inviting parents to attend an hour long workshop where they will provide an overview of age-related expectations in English and Maths in their year group and how parents can support their child at home. The new National Curriculum is statutory for all year groups now and this has brought significant changes to age-related expectations. The bar has certainly been raised!

It would benefit all parents to attend these workshops so you understand what your child now needs to achieve to be considered 'on track' for their age. More details will be sent home soon.

## Tuck Shop

Over the past year the school's healthy tuck shop 'Nutritious Nosh', which is open during first break, has been really popular. The children have really enjoyed and benefitted from the opportunity to buy a healthy mid-morning snack. Last year available snack options included blueberry muffins, healthy biscuit, yoghurt tubes, strawberries, grapes, raisins, apples, bananas, pears, apricots, plums, oranges, peas and carrot sticks. The options available reflect seasonal change and are varied each week to give the children a good variety of options. This year all snacks will remain at 20p per item.

**PLEASE ASK US IF YOU REQUIRE THIS NEWSLETTER IN LARGE PRINT**



## Important diary dates—Autumn Term 2015

- 10th, 17th, 23rd September & 1st, 8th October—Year 6 cycling proficiency (weather permitting)
- 24th September—Year 6 parents' open morning at Hungerhill
- 13th October—Individual and family photographs
- 21st—23rd October—Caythorpe residential for year 6
- 21st October—parents of Bears invited for lunch
- 22nd October— parents of Ladybirds invited for lunch
- 23rd October—finish for half term
- Monday 2nd November—teacher training day, children return on Tuesday 3rd November
- 4th November—Kinectic theatre performance for KS2
- 16-20 November—National Anti-Bullying week
- 7th December 10am —Reception/KS1 Christmas performance for grandparents only
- 8th December 2pm & 9th December 5.30pm—Reception/KS1 Christmas performance for parents
- 14th December—Years 3 and 4 Christmas party
- 15th December—Years 1 and 2 Christmas party
- 16th December—Year 5 and 6 Christmas party
- 17th December- Reception Christmas party
- 18th December—finish for Christmas break. Staff and pupils return on Monday 4th January.