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Barnby Dun Primary Academy NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2017- 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 2017. 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 amazing. 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 Lauren Haslewood and Bradley Dutton and the winner of the adult's food hamper was Beth and William Dunn-Beeching's Mum. 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 have lengthy conversations with 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 230 children with 100%. Winners of vouchers in our attendance raffle were Darcey Powell and Alex Barter. The class with the highest attendance in the second half term were year 3 Peacocks with an amazing 99%. Other classes who achieved our target of 98.1% or above were: Leopards, Butterflies, Jellyfish, Owls and Meerkats.

Well done everybody—keep it up!

Parents' Evenings

We will be holding our Spring term parents' evenings on Monday 6th March and Thursday 9th 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 Doncaster Lions.

The proceeds from our Christmas memory tree, concert collections and our staff alternative Christmas card amounted to an amazing £440. We have received a lovely letter of thanks. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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 **against the law** for Headteachers to authorise leave of absence unless it fits one of exceptional circumstances 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 9th January, Monday 6th February and Monday 6th March 2017.

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. 12th January 3pm —Owls' class assembly

Thurs. 19th January 3pm — Zebras' class assembly

Week. beg. 23rd Jan.— after school Sats booster classes for year 6 begin (twice weekly)

Thurs. 26th January 3pm —Turtles' class assembly

Thursday 2nd February 3pm—Sharks' class assembly

Tuesday 7th February—National Internet Safety day

Thursday 9th February 3pm—Meerkats' class assembly

Thursday 16th February 3pm—Jellyfish class assembly

Friday 17th February—INSET day. School closed to pupils. Half term break. Staff and children return on **Monday 27th February.**

Thurs. 2nd March 3pm— Leopards' class assembly

Thurs. 30th March—Crucial Crew visit for year 6

Friday 7th April—INSET day . School closed to pupils. Easter holidays. Staff and children return on **Monday 24th April.**

Kindest regards,

Miss C.E. Robinson. Headteacher.

Sporting News

We have been awarded the Bronze School Games Mark. The School Games Mark is a Government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. We are now working towards the Silver School Games Mark.

Well done to children in Year 1 and 2 who took part in a multi- skills competition at Hungerhill. They represented our school admirably! Thank you to Noah Flint, Grace Hancock, Matty Munro, Grace Wilkinson-Leigh, Abigail Beighton, Charlotte Oliver, Hannah Barley, Martha Beck, Louisa Dixon, Molly Smith, Maia Abdelmessih, Isaac Edgington and Tom Beck. A huge thank you to parents for your support in transporting children to events.

Golden Time

Parents will be aware that KS1 and KS2 children are rewarded with 'golden time' for 45 minutes on a Friday afternoon for making the right choices with regards their behaviour and following our Golden Rules all week. If children choose not to follow our Golden Rules on a number of occasions, they miss some of their golden time. We have decided to inform parents if their child is missing any golden time by text so that they can reinforce the need to behave safely and responsibly at all times to their child. Parents should be aware that the frequency of children missing golden time is tracked closely. Thank you for your support.

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: Owen Hind, Ava Denton, Evan Warrenner, Hetty Walton, Rowan Dunne, Layla Jacques, Georgia Mart, Mathew Stewardson, Jude O'Sullivan, Martha Beck, Abigail Beighton and Owen Lyall.

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

Mrs Pearson's choir

Many thanks to our choir who visited church and performed some songs at the Mothers' Union Christmas carol afternoon. They made us so proud with their beautiful singing and great dance moves! Well done to: Georgia Mart, Maisey Williams, Lauren Haslewood, Rose Linsley, Chloe Barley, Holly Pollard, Lyly Ticala, Tanasie Smith, Freya Jones, Ester Jayet-Laraffe, Ashlea Rawlings, Bella Yates and Jessie Rollin. Thanks also to Mrs Pearson for all the time spent rehearsing after school.

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.