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BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2017 - Second Half

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your children enjoyed a well-earned rest over the half term break. Welcome back to a busy half term!

Harvest Festival Our Reception/KS1 children all enjoyed their Harvest Celebration in school. They sang their Harvest songs confidently and read some of their beautiful poems. We received a lovely letter of appreciation from members of the church who attended. Thank you very much for your generous donations of food items to support the church's chosen charity.

Star Pupils Our two Barnby Dun bears continue to be given to one boy and one girl who I choose as my star pupils for the week. They also receive a special certificate. It is always a very difficult choice! So far my star pupils have been: Amy Brewster, Chloe Higgins, Madison Weir, Millie Brewster, Emmy Gude, Sam Croft, Zach Hague, George Denton, Reuben Greenwood, Neshesh Rai, Owen Hind, Nate Conway, Deone Vorster, Georgia Hay and Mackenzie Carroll. We are proud of you!

Attendance The Education Welfare Officer completed his half-termly review with me recently. These are the bandings against which schools and Local Authorities monitor every child's attendance. These are:

- Expected—96% and above
- Monitoring—95%-95.99%
- Concern—90.01%-94.99%
- Serious concern/Persistent absentee— 90% and below

All pupils whose attendance is currently below 96% were discussed in some depth and will continue to be closely monitored on a daily/weekly basis by myself and the Education Welfare Officer until their attendance reaches this threshold at least. If you are concerned about the impact of a period of absence on your child's attendance percentage, you can request an up to date figure at any time. These are updated each Friday when each child's attendance marks for the week are uploaded to the Local Authority. Please ask at the office.

I can't stress enough the negative impact even a short absence can have on a child's progress. With the much higher age-related expectations now, the curriculum moves on at such a rapid pace and absences cause gaps in learning that are very difficult to close.

Class Assemblies The children's class assemblies were enjoyed by us all last year. We very much appreciated you coming and joining in the celebration of each class's achievements. We hope to see you on these dates:

Thursday 7th December—Stingrays (Mrs Pearson)

Thursday 18th January— Monkeys (Miss May)

Thursday 25th January— Lions (Mrs Cowling)

Thursday 1st February— Tigers (Mrs Bailey)

Thursday 8th February— Chameleons (Mrs Harris)

Thursday 22nd February— Panthers (Mrs Wilton)

Thursday 1st March— Pandas (Miss Hirst)

Thursday 8th March— Polar Bears (Mrs Smith)

Thursday 15th March— Penguins (Miss Jackson)

Thursday 22nd March— Wolves (Miss Nettleton)

Our Butterflies & Bluebirds will do an assembly later in the year.

Each assembly will begin at 3pm so please arrive at Reception by 2.55pm. In recognition of all the hard work that the children and staff put into producing these assemblies, can we politely remind family members to ensure their mobile phones are switched off/on silent. Also, parents with babies or young children who may become restless should please sit by the hall door so they can pop outside if this occurs. It can be very disappointing for our children if they practise their lines and look forward to performing their bit and then they can't be heard. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Kingswood Our year 6 children enjoyed their residential stay at Kingswood in the run up to half term. Well done everyone for your fantastic teamwork and overcoming your fears on those adventurous activities. Thanks to the staff for giving up your time and coping with the lack of sleep!

Doncaster Book Awards On Wednesday 18th October, we took 20 children (Riley Trowbridge, Luke Atkins, Oscar Smith, Lily Ashurst, Zach Hague, Isabella Goodchild, Ruby Hancock, Ester Jayet-Laraffe, Max Green, Abi Green, Eve Harris, Harry Beaglehole, Lauren Haslewood, Tia Jacques, Zach Nugent, Katie Jackson, Jamie Munro, Oliver Bull, Charlie Hall and Harmany Gibson) to Doncaster Dome for the launch of the Doncaster Book Awards. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, where the children joined in with Paul Cookson as he performed some of his hilarious poems; and watched in awe as Chris Riddell created some live sketch illustrations on stage. The children also bought copies of these authors' books, which were then signed by the authors themselves! The booklist (primarily aimed at children from years 5 and 6) for the Doncaster Book Awards can be found at the following web address: doncasterbookaward.net, where children can then give online book reviews. We have also ordered copies of the books for school so they can be found on our DBA display from this week onwards!

'Barnbywoods' Mr Harrison and his keen gardeners continue to be busy in 'Barnbywoods'. There is still plenty to do, even in the colder months. Myself and Mr Harrison are looking forward to enjoying the woods again with a new Eco-warriors group after school.

'Barnbywoods' will be open to our community on the afternoons of 13th November and 4th December. Please feel free to go in and take a stroll around. We would be most grateful for any suggestions/feedback or offers of help.

Attendance Thank you for ensuring your child is here on time so everyone can have a calm, positive start to the school day. Children have been enjoying our weekly attendance cup celebration for the class with the highest attendance and individual 100% attendance raffle. Children who have 100% in the previous week and have their ticket drawn out of the raffle get to sit on a chair in Friday's celebration assembly which makes them feel very special! The class with the highest attendance for the first half term were Mrs Harris' Chameleons with an outstanding 99.4%. Reception Butterflies, Yr 1 Tigers, Yr3/4 Penguins, Yr4 Wolves, Yr 5 Stingrays, Yr5 Pandas and Yr 5/6 Monkeys also achieved our target of 98.1% or above, as a class. They will each enjoy a special reward day with activities of their choice.

We held our special Golden raffle for the individual children who achieved 100% attendance for the first half term. The winner of 'Arnold the Attendance Alligator's' vouchers were Charlie Hargrave and Leighton Hasson. Several other children also won some sweet treats in Arnold's raffle. Well done everybody for excellent attendance and working as a team in the first half term—keep it up!

New reading books

Many of you have commented positively on the large number of new reading books we have invested in recently and the children are loving having so much choice! We are currently labelling a stock of new free readers which will soon be on the shelves. PLEASE ensure your child looks after their reading book and younger siblings don't have access to these. If you find there are any gaps in any of the coloured band collections, please let Mrs Cowling (Lions' class) know. Thankyou. Happy reading!

Appointments in school time

Please remember that, as far as possible, all medical appointments should be taken in out of school time. Authorised absence to attend a medical appointment can only be given if parents can provide a valid reason for why this appointment has to be taken during school hours and a copy of the appointment letter.

We would ask that any such appointments are arranged for **after 2.30pm**, so children are not missing English and/or Maths lessons and disrupting other children's learning by arriving/leaving mid session. If an appointment has to be during a morning, children need to attend registration at 8.45am to get their attendance mark and return as soon as possible after their appointment. Many thanks.

Please note—authorisation for leave of absence cannot be given for routine appointments that could be taken after school or during the school holidays.

Payments coming into school

Please ensure that all school meal payments are made on a MONDAY morning or the first day back after a holiday or training day. Late payment involves a considerable amount of extra accounting and repeated late payments may ultimately result in withdrawal of meal service under local authority policy.

School meals continue to be £2 per day. If you prefer, you may pay in advance for the whole half term.

All cash/cheque payments for school meals, breakfast club, trips, clubs etc. should be in a sealed envelope labelled clearly with your child's name and class and placed in the class boxes. Loose cash payments cannot be accepted at the office window. Please use separate envelopes for different payments. It would also help us if payments for siblings are also placed in separate envelopes as these are accounted for separately. Thank you for your co-operation.

Sporting News

On Tuesday 3rd October, children from Year 1 to Year 6 took part in an inter-school cross country competition at Hungerhill School. They all finished the demanding course and achieved high results for Barnby Dun. Overall the KS1 team came second and the KS2 team came first—an amazing result with some outstanding individual performances. They were a pleasure to take, behaviour was exemplary and we are proud of them all.

Congratulations also to our Year 5/6 boys football team who played in the annual Hungerhill pyramid competition and won! They played four teams, won three games and drew one which meant Barnby Dun were the pyramid champions! They represented our school admirably and were a pleasure to take. Well done boys!

Diary Dates

Monday 13th November—Friday 24th November—International Arts Fortnight— India

Friday 17th November—Children in Need (non-uniform day)

Monday 11th Dec. 10am—Reception/KS1 Nativity Performance—Grandparents only. Parents are not permitted to attend this performance. Thankyou.

Tuesday 12th Dec. 2pm—Reception/KS1 Nativity performance for parents .

Wednesday 13th Dec. 5.30pm—Reception/KS1 Nativity performance for parents.

Thursday 14th Dec. at 11am—KS2 Christmas service at Church.

Monday 18th Dec.— KS1 Christmas Party.

Tuesday 19th Dec.- Yr 5/6 Christmas Party.

Wednesday 20th Dec.— Yr 3/4 Christmas Party.

Wednesday 20th Dec. — Christmas dinner.

Thursday 21st Dec.— Reception Party.

Friday 22nd Dec.—We break up for the Christmas holidays. Children return on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

Resources to support your child

Thankyou for attending our recent parents' workshops. Copies of presentations/handouts can be found on our website. We wish to remind you of the resources available on our website to support parents with getting to grips with all the grammatical terms that children are being taught and need to know. Click on ' for parents', 'grammar progression' and the 'grammar guide' is on there as a pdf. Let us know if you find it useful. Thanks.

Kindest regards

Miss C.E. Robinson

Headteacher

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