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# Barnby Dun Primary Academy NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2018- First Half



Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your families have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break together. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2018. 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. I'm sure you will agree that the children were absolutely amazing. We had lots of fun as well as being touched by their performances. Your positive comments and encouragement were much appreciated by myself, staff and children. Thankyou for making these such special occasions.

Christmas Hampers Once again our Christmas raffle proved very popular. Our lucky winners were Archie Fullerton and Martha Beck and the winner of the adult's food hamper was Emmy Gude's grandma. 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 of the children received a platinum, gold, silver or bronze certificate before Christmas to recognise their attendance during the Autumn term. We had over 140 children with 100%. The winners of vouchers in our attendance raffle were William Dunn-Beeching and Ava Litteldyke. The class with the highest attendance in the second half term were Year 5 Pandas, who were the only class to reach our target of achieving at least 98.1%. With all the illnesses around before Christmas, the Pandas did so well to maintain such high attendance. Well done everybody—keep it up!

Parents' Evenings In response to requests from a number of parents, the timings of our Spring term parents' evenings will be slightly different. On Monday 5th February appointments will be between 1.45pm and 4.15pm and on Thursday 8th February between 3.30pm and 7pm. 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 the class teacher know and they will contact you to arrange an appointment at a different time. We look forward to seeing you.

Fundraising Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas fundraiser on behalf of the Children's Ward at DRI.

The proceeds from our Christmas memory tree, concert collections and our staff alternative Christmas card amounted to an amazing £474. We have received a lovely letter of thanks which I have shared in assembly.

Attendance The school has a statutory duty to monitor pupils' attendance and punctuality very closely. In partnership with the Attendance Service/Education Welfare 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 the 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 for the previous full academic year is at least 96%. Requests must be made **at least six weeks in advance**. Parents should apply for a leave of absence prior to making any bookings or firm plans. Any requests made less than six weeks in advance, will not be considered.

### 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 15th January and Monday 5th February.

### Diary Dates

Thurs. 18th January 3pm —Monkeys' class assembly

Thurs. 25th January 3pm — Lions' class assembly

Week. beg. 29th January.— after school Sats booster classes for year 6 begin (twice weekly)

Thurs. 1st February 3pm —Tigers' class assembly

Tuesday 6th February—Global Safer Internet day- 'Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you'

Wednesday 7th February 3pm—Chameleons' class assembly

**Friday 9th February** break up for half term. Staff and children return to school on **Monday 19th February**.

Thurs. 22nd February 3pm — Panthers' class assembly

Week. beg. 26th February—Shakespeare Week

Tuesday 27th February—Year 5 trip to York

Thurs. 1st March 3pm —Pandas' class assembly

Thurs. 8th March 3pm —Polar Bears' class assembly

Thurs. 15th March 3pm —Penguins' class assembly

Monday 19th March—Crucial Crew visit for year 6

Thurs. 22nd March 3pm —Wolves' class assembly

**Friday 23rd March** break up for Easter holidays. Staff and children return to school on **Monday 9th April**.

**Staffing** Mrs Pearson (Yr 5 Stingrays) has begun her maternity leave; her baby is due next week! We are pleased to welcome Mr Brown who will cover her class until she returns. He spent some time getting to know the children before Christmas and is keen to get started. Following Mrs Pedder's departure, Mrs Jeffrey has taken over the role of SENCo, working Wednesdays and Fridays.

### 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.

### 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, completing all home learning on time and following our Golden Rules all week. We have decided to inform parents if their child is missing any golden time by text so that they can reinforce the need to meet homework deadlines and 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: Amelia Hayter, Isabella Goodchild, Jana Adams, Frankie Hayter, Elijah Maxey and Owen Cairns.

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

### Online Safety

We wish to draw your attention to some useful resources for parents which have been added to the CEOP website (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command).

The link is <https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

**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](mailto: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.