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BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Autumn Term 2018—First Half

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you and your children have all enjoyed a fantastic summer break and had lots of fun together. For once, we certainly can't complain about the weather. It has been lovely hearing all the children's exciting news. The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and looking super 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 the early mornings and busy days. Everyone has made a positive and happy start.

Thankyou 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 and Mrs Kearsley have done a brilliant job, as always, getting everything so clean and tidy. Teachers and teaching assistants have spent many days in the holidays getting the classrooms ready. Mrs Smith and Mrs Fawcett have given very generously of their time, creating some beautiful displays of recent work to celebrate children's achievements across the curriculum. I am very grateful to staff for their hard work.

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. Parents are welcome to come into classrooms in Reception and KS1 and help settle their children. In order to comply with safeguarding requirements, all parents should **exit via classroom doors by the 8.45 bell**. Parents should not walk through school to exit via the main security door. Thank you for your co-operation. **In order to develop children's independence and ensure learning can get off to a prompt and focused start every morning, all KS2 children should be dropped off at their classroom door and enter the classroom on their own.** Thankyou.

School Uniform Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name so they can be returned if misplaced. 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 flip flops or trainers please. If children do attend in inappropriate footwear, they will be given black indoor pumps to change into. Nail varnish/nail art and temporary tattoos are **not** permitted. Children's hair colour should remain natural please and clip-in hair pieces in bright colours are not permitted. Thankyou.

Text Messaging Service We continue running our text messaging service which enables us to reach parents quickly 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 10th September, Monday 1st October and Monday 12th 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.

New Reception Children It is an exciting time for us all to welcome our 49 new Reception children. Having visited us in the summer, they are ready to start attending 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. Our Reception classes are called the Butterflies and Bluebirds again this year. Mrs Wilkinson-Leigh is the phase leader in charge.

Attendance Success We are extremely proud of our whole school attendance, achieving a pleasing 97.3% for 2017/18. More than 85 children enjoyed a fabulously sunny and fun day out at Yorkshire Wildlife Park as a reward for high attendance. These children didn't miss a single session all year: Lewis H, James D, William DB, Jack J, Ethan L, Joseph E, Layla G, Jessica V, Matthew S, Khai WS, Freya J, Kallum K, Ben G, Milania E, Rose L. Some children have achieved 100% attendance for more than one year- what fantastic commitment! :

2 consecutive years— Finn B, Leighton H, Riley T, Martha B

3 consecutive years- Harry S, Ava L, Grace WL

4 consecutive years-George GP, Emily Ch, Sam C, Max G

A massive well done to Lauren H who hasn't had a single day off since starting school in Reception six years ago! Amazing.

Children can only achieve their best progress if their attendance is as high as possible and they are here on time each day. Frequent short term absences or lengthy one-off absences and lateness have a massive impact on children's progress and ability to sustain friendships. We are very grateful that the vast majority of parents appreciate this.

Parents'/visitors' behaviour on site

We acknowledge there may be times when parents have concerns, require further information, feel unhappy or confused about a situation and wish to voice their opinion and discuss this further. I am more than happy for this to happen and see this as a perfectly reasonable and healthy part of working together and achieving the best for your child. If parents are unhappy at any time, I would rather you come in and discuss the situation and us look for a solution together.

However, in dealing with such matters, it is absolutely imperative that certain procedures are respected and at all times, parents' behaviour is reasonable, proportionate and respectful of the smooth running of the school and feelings of staff involved. The Academy Governors and I will not tolerate any behaviour towards staff that they feel is intimidating, offensive or upsetting in any way. This includes face to face conversations and communication via e-mail or telephone. Whatever the circumstances, school staff are entitled to be spoken to in a calm, polite way and have conversations at a time/place that is appropriate. We do always endeavour to address issues immediately or at the earliest opportunity however parents must understand that, at times, this may not be possible due to events happening in school or commitments that cannot be cancelled at short notice. We ask that parents exercise some patience and understanding in this respect. We will not tolerate parents arriving in school without appointment and refusing to leave until they see someone. This is not reasonable behaviour and parents will automatically be asked to leave, without further discussion.

Unfortunately, there have been some occasions recently where parents' behaviour on site has been unacceptable and school staff, other parents or myself have been spoken to in a rude, aggressive and disrespectful way. I have had to have conversations with several parents and make clear the serious implications of such behaviour. Some of these incidents had to be discussed with the police. Following their advice, I have had to ban a small number of parents completely from entering the building or site as they are considered a risk to the safety and well being of others and the smooth running of the school. All parents/visitors are invited onto site on the understanding they will behave in a reasonable and responsible manner. We are happy to address any issues with you at any time as long as they are approached in an appropriate way. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

HOME LEARNING

Thankyou very much to the many parents who supported their children in completing the Transition homework over the summer holidays and found time to read regularly. This will have helped them make a flying start in their new class this week. A significant number of children also completed the Doncaster Libraries' Reading challenge and were very proud showing their medals and certificates. Your time and effort is much appreciated and really does make a difference to your child's progress. Thankyou.

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.

Parent Pay

Thankyou for your support and co-operation in getting our new system up and running. ParentPay is now used in school to pay for School Dinners, Breakfast Clubs, School Trips and Activities etc. You will need to use this facility at some point during the school year. In order that you do not miss out on events/activities that are limited in numbers and are offered on a first come first served basis, it is imperative that you set up your account as soon as possible. Please contact the office if you require any help or advice.

Fundraising thanks

Thank you very much for supporting our fundraising efforts for 'Diabetes UK' in the summer. Our collections at our wonderful KS2 performances raised £487.82 for this worthwhile cause. We are very grateful for your generosity and have received a lovely letter of thanks from the charity.

Parents' evenings Our Autumn term parents' evenings will be held on Monday 24th September and Wednesday 26th September (years 1-6) and 2nd October and 4th October (Reception). We hope that all parents/carers will meet with class teachers to see how their child has 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 Monday 17th. We look forward to seeing you.

Parent Workshops/New Curriculum

Following positive feedback last year, all teachers will again be inviting parents to attend an hour-long workshop where they will provide an overview of expectations in English and Maths in their phase and advise parents how to support their child at home.

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 few years, 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 biscuits, 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 2018

Tuesday 18th September 2.30pm—Armadillos, Giraffes and Elephants parents' workshop.

Wednesday 19th September—3.30pm Year 6 Sats parents' workshop.

Thursday 20th September—Year 6 parents' open morning at Hungerhill (separate letter to follow).

Friday 21st September 2.30pm— Years 1 and 2 parents' workshop.

Wednesday 26th September 2.00pm— Reception parents' workshop.

Monday 1st October—all week—year 6 cycling.

Wednesday 10th October—Individual and family photographs.

22nd—24th October —Kingswood residential for Year 6.

Tuesday 23rd October—parents of Bluebirds invited for lunch—details to be confirmed.

Wednesday 24th October— parents of Butterflies invited for lunch—details to be confirmed.

Friday 26th October—Finish for half term.

Monday 5th November—teacher training day, children return on **Tuesday 6th November.**

12th—23rd November— International Arts fortnight— Africa.

Monday 10th December - 10am —Reception/KS1 Christmas performance for grandparents only. Parents are not permitted to attend this performance.

Tuesday 11th December 2pm & Wednesday 12th December 5.30pm—Reception/KS1 Christmas performance for parents.

Monday 17th December— KS1 Christmas party.

Tuesday 18th December—Kangaroos, Koalas, Spiders and Bats' Christmas party.

Wednesday 19th December—Reception Christmas party.

Thursday 20th December- Giraffes, Armadillos and Elephants' Christmas party.

Friday 21st December—finish for Christmas break. Pupils return on **Tuesday 8th January.**