

Church Road
Barnby Dun,
Doncaster, DN3 1BG
Tel : 01302 883917
www.barnbydunprimaryacademy.
co.uk



BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2018 - 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 with Reverend Beck. 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: Grace H, Ava R, Ava T, Deone V, Skye H, Hudson G, Brynley S, Jacob B, Henry J, Luke A, Charlie H. We are proud of you.

Well done, you are all amazing!

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%
- Close monitoring/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.

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 17th January— Bats

Thursday 24th January— Foxes

Thursday 7th February— Spiders

Thursday 14th February— Koalas

Thursday 7th March— Armadillos

Thursday 14th March— Giraffes

Thursday 21st March— Kangaroos

Thursday 28th March— Owls

Thursday 4th April— Rabbits

Thursday 11th April— Elephants

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 part and then they can't be heard. Many thanks for your co-operation. We look forward to seeing you.

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 In October, we took a very enthusiastic group of children to the Doncaster Dome for the launch of the Doncaster Book Awards. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, where the children joined in with authors Andy Stanton and Andy Cope and the illustrator of Horrible Histories, Martin Brown. 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 and they can be found on our DBA display near the library. Thankyou to: Summer-Rose C, Grace H, Scarlett B, Stan M, Beau C, Aiden R, Charis J, Hannah B, Riley L, Zak S, Emmy G, Elijah M, Jude O, Ben G, Freya J, Freya F, Mackenzie C, Lily C, Rowan D, Mia E, Roxy K, Matty M, Eva D, Millie B, Riley T, Luke A, Oscar S, Isabella G, Ruby H, Max G, Harry B, Lauren H, Tia E, Zach N, Katie J, Oliver B, Charlie H, Victoria M, Ava J and Sam C.

'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, Miss Metcalfe 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 12th November and 3rd 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 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 Year 6 Bats with a wonderful 99.3%. Reception Bluebirds, Yr1 Owls, Yr4 Elephants, Yr4/5 Kangaroos, Yr5 Koalas and Yr 6 Spiders 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 8 week half term. The winner of Arnold the Attendance Alligator's vouchers were Charlie Moran and Rowan Dunne. 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!

Bluebirds' and Butterflies' parents' lunches

Butterflies' and Bluebirds' parents thoroughly enjoyed having lunch with their child during the last week of term. It was wonderful to hear all the positive comments about the range and quality of food options available. We are really pleased with how the children are willing to try new foods/meals since starting school. Thanks for attending.

Appointments in school time

Please remember that, as far as possible, all medical appointments should be taken 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.

Sporting News

Congratulations to our yr5/6 boys' football team who took part in the annual Hungerhill pyramid football tournament. Both teams gave a fantastic performance and really encouraged each other. Our 'A' Team got through to the final and eventually won on penalties! Well done: Alfie Da, Charlie H, Riley T, Harry B, Daniel M, Luke A, Coen J, Evan W, Connor P, Brynley S, Oscar S, Eli M, Mackenzie C, Ashton C, Ben G, Owen C, Alfie De, Oliver B.

Well done to the 31 children from yr1-6 who took part in the annual cross country competition at Hungerhill. All children participated with enthusiasm and were good sports. A special mention to Charlie H who came first in the yr5/6 race and Beau C who won the yr3/4 race. Blyss C came second overall in the yr1/2 girls' race and Jenson C came third in the boys' race. Our boys' team came in first place overall and our girls' team were third. Fabulous results!

Our yr5/6 girls' football team have also competed in the Hungerhill tournament. They did fantastically well and got through to the final. Unfortunately they were just pipped to the top spot in a very tense penalty shoot-out! Nevertheless, we are very proud of their efforts and team spirit. Well done to: Sasha L, Georgia H, Tia E Ava J, Milania E, Misha S, Isabella G Maisie W and Grace H.

Diary Dates

Monday 12th November—Friday 23rd November—International Arts Fortnight— Africa

Friday 16th November—Children in Need (non-uniform day)

Friday 16th November—discos

Thursday 22nd November—Flu jabs Reception-Year 5

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

Tuesday 11th Dec. 2pm—Reception/KS1 Nativity performance for parents

Wednesday 12th Dec. 5.30pm—Reception/KS1 Nativity performance for parents

Thursday 13th Dec. at 11am—KS2 Christmas service at Church

Monday 17th Dec.— KS1 Christmas party

Tuesday 18th Dec. — Christmas dinner for all children

Tuesday 18th Dec.- Kangaroos', Koalas', Spiders' and Bats' party

Wednesday 19th Dec.— Reception Bluebirds' and Butterflies' party

Thursday 20th Dec.— Armadillos' Giraffes' and Elephants' party

Friday 21st Dec.—**We break up for the Christmas holidays. Children return on Tuesday 8th January 2019.**

Tuck shop/Eco schools

Here at Barnby Dun we are committed to sustainable living and reducing our impact on the environment. We are taking steps to move towards making our school tuckshop plastic free; this will take effect from January.

Children will continue to be able to choose from a range of snack options priced at 20p.

Kindest regards

Miss C.E. Robinson

Headteacher

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