



Barnett Wood Infant School

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Newsletter – September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school. We have lots of exciting events planned for you and the children this term. We are really looking forward to working with you and welcoming our new families. It was lovely to see the children returning happily and they all seem to have settled well into their new classes.

Staffing update – We continue with our dedicated and talented team. Please see attached letter from our Chair of Governors.



Time Reminder – Early drop off is from 8.30am for 50p per session. SCHOOL STARTS AT 8.55am with the doors opening at 8.45am. The teachers prepare activities for children from this time. There is a morning break of 20 minutes, an hour for lunch and 10 minute afternoon break. We finish at 3.00pm.

New Initiatives - This year we are starting three new initiatives:

1. On Monday and Friday mornings from 8.30am to 8.45am. If your child would like to come and walk/run/skip our track, there will be a member of staff on duty for no charge. Early drop-off children will not be charged on these days. Research shows that children taking exercise in the morning prepares them well for learning. Come straight through the pencil gates and meet us on the track for 8.30am.
2. We are working with Louise at Ashted's Kid Club to provide child care in The Beehive. Ashted Kids club will be managing the club on our site. More details to follow.
3. Our caretaker, Gary will be replacing the pencil gates which will be more secure and will have a security lock. For the safety of our children please ensure that you continue to close **ALL** gates on site.

School Development Plan 2017 – 2018

Our School Development Plan focuses on how we can develop children's skills across all curriculum areas including children's social development. In English we will be focusing on developing higher level reading skills and further developing creative writing, spelling and phonic skills. In mathematics we continue to provide children with appropriate problem solving activities in order to develop their mastery of the subject and their skills. In PE we will continue to offer Professional sessions in Dance and Games as well as looking at ways of improving our swimming resources. Staff receive appropriate training by attending courses or receiving 'in house' training delivered by professional consultants or through training led our professional team. At the end of last term we were awarded the Silver Healthy schools award and we continue to look at ways of providing a healthy and happy life style. We will be using our track regularly so please ensure your child has a coat with hood at school so that we can use this resource easily.



School lunch – If you have chosen the hot school lunch option, we require at least a weeks notice to change to packed lunch. We will inform you if your child regularly leaves all or most of their lunch. Our policy is to positively encourage children to try their lunch. We are more than happy for parents to come and help us at lunch time at any time. Please let the office know if you can volunteer at any time. We are also looking to recruit paid lunchtime staff on a Tuesday and Thursday. Again, if you are interested, please let the office know.

Absences – Please let us know by 9.30am if your child is going to be absent from school. We need to give our caterers the lunch numbers by this time.

Meet the teacher Evenings – Wednesday 20th September, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

We pride ourselves in working in partnership with our parents so please come and meet your child's teacher, find out about what your child will be learning this year, how you can help and the opportunities available at Barnett Wood. The evening takes the form of a presentation by the class teacher starting at 7.30pm ending by 8.30pm. Teachers are always available if you have any concerns. The best time for this is usually after school.

Mrs Penny will also be holding a coffee morning where she will present a session on ‘**How to support your child’s reading skills**’. This is for new Reception parents and any other interested parents. The times have been chosen to fit in with drop off or pick up times – **27th Sept at 9.00am and repeated at 2.30pm**. There will also be the opportunity to talk about the Friends committee, parent reps and any other questions you may have. You will also have the opportunity to meet with the class teacher and discuss your child’s progress during individual appointment times **on 7th or 9th November**.

Class Reps - Each year we ask for three/four parents from each class to act as class reps. The reps meet once or twice a term with Mrs Penny and the Friends committee to discuss school issues. The reps are the first point of contact for the teachers and Friends when help is needed to organise events throughout the year. The meetings are also an opportunity for reps to report back class views. You can be as active as you like. Some reps have organised coffee mornings, after school picnics, meals out etc. New parents to the school can find out more during meet the teacher evening.



Swimming - Thank you to the maintenance team, pool checkers and pool supervisors who have kept the pool in excellent condition throughout the summer holidays. Thank you to all the parents who have used the scheme.

As last year, we have decided to give the children a couple of extra swimming lessons before the pool closes (weather permitting). We need some help with supervising changing so please let your teacher know if you can help, thank you. Swim time table available on website. If you would like to swim with your child for any of these final sessions, you are welcome.

Reception parents – if you really feel your child is not ready or happy about swimming at the moment please inform the class teacher. We will need helpers 10 minutes before each session to help supervise the children getting ready.

We are gathering parent’s views on swimming via a ‘Survey Monkey’ on our website. Thank you for your feedback so far. I will be sharing responses after half term so there is still time to respond.

Snack arrangements - The school provides a piece of fruit or vegetable through the ‘fruit for schools’ initiative **but if your child would prefer to bring their own then they certainly can. Please also provide a bottle of WATER every day which children can top up during the day with our cool water fountain. We are also offering a milk drink during morning break and we will be asking you for a contribution for this.**



Harvest Assembly – Friday 20th October, 9.30am at St Georges Church (40 mins approx)



The whole school will be welcoming you to St. Georges for our Harvest Assembly. Each year group will perform a song and the Year 2 children lead the narration and play musical instruments. This year we will be making some coin collections for two charities:

1. ‘Jeans for Genes’, a charity which supports children affected by a genetic disorder in the UK. We will be asking Barnett Wood children and families to bring a coin contribution to school on **Friday 22nd September, ‘Jeans for Genes Day’**, when they can wear their **normal school top** with their choice of skirt/trousers. Don’t worry if you do not have denim, the children may wear an alternative.
2. ‘Water Aid’, a charity who work to provide clean water for people in some of the world’s poorest countries. St Georges Church are providing us with ‘jerry cans’ used for collecting water from wells and the school community can drop coins into the cans any time during this half term.

We will reveal our total for the two charities at the Harvest Assembly. **At the church, the first 3 rows of chairs are always reserved for Yr 2 parents, thank you. You may take photos and videos for your own home use and not for social media.**

Dropping off and collecting children

After the first few days of term we ask Yr 1 and 2 parents to say goodbye to your child on the playground. There is always an adult in the cloakroom to provide help if needed. Please let the office know if collection arrangements change. The sea of parents at the end of the day can be daunting for the children so please stand by your classes designated pick up area as follows:

Reception parents please take your children in through the pencil gates and through the side door. Please collect from outside the back classroom door, again using the pencil gate entrance. Thank you.

On wet PE days we need to keep the hall dry and we will ask Reception parents to say goodbye in the cloakroom.

Collection arrangements continued:

Yr1 – Roses - On the 100 square

Yr 1- Orchids - By the large garden planters

Yr 2- Alliums - By the Yr1/2 entrance door

Yr 2- Tulips - Outside the class door.

Communication – Our website is updated EVERY week (usually Friday). This includes an update by the teachers reporting on significant events in the classroom. All documents are published on the site. We aim to keep paper correspondence to a minimum and from this term, letters will go in book bags **every other Friday**. Our ‘parent mail’ contact system is used to send reminders and information using your email address. We also have a school app and the ‘Welcome board’ at the front of school gives weekly updates and reminders.



Please make sure you inform the office if your contact details change in any way.

Term Dates for 2017– 2018 - We ask parents not to request holidays during term time. Authorised absences will only be considered under exceptional circumstances.

The term dates for this academic year are as follows:

Autumn Term 2017 – 4th September – 21st December (half term 23rd – 27th October)

- INSET 4th and 5th September

Spring Term 2018 – 4th January – 29th March (half term 12th – 16th February)

- INSET 29th March

Summer Term 2018 – 16th April – 23rd July (half term 28th May – 1st June)

- INSET – 4th June and 23rd July. Last day of summer term is Friday 20th July.

Chickens – We have 2 chickens, Popcorn and Cotton. They belong to the whole school. If you would like to help look after the chickens by feeding or cleaning their cage then please sign our rota in the office area. We have full instructions. We have calculated that if everyone gave a voluntary 50p this would keep our chickens fed for the year. Contributions to the office please.



Reminders

Please label all your child’s items. Children become very upset when we cannot find their things.



Alert

Book bags, key rings and toys – Children may have one key ring attached to their book bag and can change this when they like. A pocket toy may be brought to school to play with at play time and if your child collects cards they may bring a maximum of 5. Toys and cards cannot be swapped.

Gardeners - If you are a keen gardener and would like to help keep our planters looking welcoming, please see Mrs Penny.

Please use the office **silver post box** whenever you can for returning messages, letters etc.

Please **close all gates** – it is everyone’s responsibility to keep our children safe.

Please use the community centre car park if you need to use your car at drop off and pick up times. For everyone’s safety please DO NOT PARK IN THE STREETS OPPOSITE SCHOOL.

No dogs allowed on Surrey school premises .You may however leave your dog in the staff car park.

NO PHOTOS OR VIDEOS TAKEN ON SITE MAY BE USED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Finally we get through a tremendous amount of tissues and kitchen rolls. If you would like to support us and provide a box during the year, it would be very much appreciated.



Thank you to:

All our fantastic parents for their continued support, Our Friends Committee who organise such fun events, The class reps who make things happen, The swimming pool teams without whom we could not run our wonderful pool, Our magic gardeners who make our school look so welcoming, Everyone who parks responsibly, Our Governors who work so hard behind the scenes, Our lunch time staff who do a wonderful job looking after the children so sensitively, AND OF COURSE - The children who are so well behaved, great fun and keen to learn.

I enclose dates for the term.

Norma Penny, Headteacher

DATES AND EVENTS FOR AUTUMN TERM 2017

Date	Time	Event
Monday 4 th and Tuesday 5 th Sept	All day (INSET)	In Service Educational Training for staff
Wednesday 6 th Sept	8.45am	Years 1 and 2 return to school
Friday 8 th Sept	3.00pm to 3.30pm	Yr 1 and 2 – A welcome back to school free ices after school from our caravan.
Monday 11 th Sept and Wednesday 13 th	Morning	Reception staggered start All Reception children start full time from Monday 18 th September. Weather permitting, Reception will be offered a fun swim session on Friday 15 th Sept. Parents are welcome to swim with their child. You will be allocated a time slot.
Week 11 th Sept	Various times	Swimming for children, weather permitting. See swim time table on website.
Wednesday 20 th Sept	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Meet the teacher evening Reception, Yr 1 & 2.
Thursday 21 st Sept	8.00pm	Friends AGM. Come along and support our committee, join the team, bring new ideas.
Friday 22 nd Sept	All day	Coin collection for our charities -‘Jeans for Genes Day’ and ‘Water Aid’. Children may wear normal school top with their choice of skirt/trousers.
Wednesday 27 th Sept	9.00am and repeated at 2.30pm	Mrs Penny coffee morning presentation on How we teach reading at Barnett Wood. Information about The Friends and Class reps. Times are planned to fit around drop off and pick up times for reception.
Thursday 5 th Oct	Morning	Individual photos
Saturday 14 th Oct	10.00am – 12.30	Bake and taste Coffee OPEN MORNING at school.
Thursday 19 th October	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Governors Meeting. If any parent would like to attend as an observer please see Mrs Penny.
Friday 20 th Oct	9.30am	Harvest Assembly at St Georges Church. Yr 2 children will lead the assembly with each year group singing a song. The first 3 rows are for Yr 2 parents. Photos and videos may be taken for home use NOT SOCIAL MEDIA
Friday 20 th Oct	3.00pm	Tulips Cake Sale
Monday 23rd Oct to	Friday 27th Nov	HALF TERM
Friday 3 rd Nov	All Day	MUFTI DAY in return for a new toy for the Christmas Fair.
Tuesday 7 th Nov Thursday 9 th Nov	3.30 – 6.30pm 6.00pm – 9.00pm	Parent Consultations for all classes. Time table to book an individual time with the class teacher will be available from 19 th October. Arrive 10 minutes before to view your child’s work. To book an appointment please call after 9.30am.
Friday 10 th Nov	9.30 – 11.30am	OPEN MORNING for prospective parents
Friday 17 th Nov	3.00pm	Alliums Cake Sale
Tuesday 21 st Nov	7.30pm	Maths workshop for Yr2 parents
Wednesday 29 th Nov	All day Book a time – morning or afternoon	Art and Design Technology Day. Parents are invited to work with the children making Christmas decorations, cards, etc. Our classrooms will look festive for December.
Saturday 2 nd Dec	11.00am to 2.00pm	Christmas Fair. We need lots of help and support please.
Monday 18 th Dec	From 1.15pm	Dress rehearsal at St Georges Church. If you cannot make the performance tomorrow you may attend the rehearsal. PLEASE DO NOT COME TO BOTH.
Tuesday 19 th Dec	9.30 – 10.30am (approx)	School Christmas Celebrations at St Georges Church for all the family. Please keep first 3 rows for Yr 2 parents.
Wednesday 20 th Dec	All day	Christmas parties. Children come to school in party clothes and have a day of fun activities. Parents provide party food.
Thursday 21 st Dec	2.00pm	End of Term – Return Thursday 4 th Jan 2018 Merry Christmas

More information about Christmas celebrations and arrangements to follow after half term.