



09.01.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first newsletter of 2026 and I am delighted to welcome the new year in with a calm and positive week.

This week Mrs Callaghan and myself submitted our first submission to the Arts Council with the expressed purpose of Barns Green ultimately receiving a reward for its commitment towards the arts. Within this lengthy document we had to outline the vision and purpose for our application. Whilst we were pleased to recognise many aspects of creativity and a commitment to the Arts already embedded within the school it was helpful to outline a vision for the school moving forward.

A school that is vibrant with creativity, where a commitment towards excellence in the arts is apparent the moment you set foot upon the school site. Where staff are empowered and have the skills to be creative with Art, Dance, Drama, Music and digital creativity. We wish to challenge our children and take them beyond their lived experiences in a leafy West Sussex village, to give them experiences that they will not necessarily have had. Challenge thoughts and expectations, ultimately increasing cultural capital.

This is aspirational, but we are never ones to stand still here at school and we are already excited by our next steps. I hope children and families will be too!

Our trip to the Chichester Festival Theatre next week is part of this. What a delight for the whole school to be attending this rich and varied experience!

Have a great weekend and take care with whatever the weather throws at us next!!

Mrs Newbold

### Celebration of Attendance

We ended last term very positively in terms of attendance. I was delighted to give out certificates for 97% plus attendance and a prize draw of small prizes for those with 100% attendance. Well done to all these children and a special thank you to those families.

The challenge is now to build upon this and potentially increase attendance this term.

Our school has enjoyed the most amazing academic results over quite a period of time now. Looking towards the future some of our cohorts in the middle of school demonstrate signs of weakness. Each term the teachers record assessments of children. It is interesting to note that some of the children who are potentially not achieving their potential also have weaker attendance.

Regular attendance really does make a difference, academic performance is important as it is a golden ticket to a successful transition to secondary school and ultimately life!

## Pupil Progress meetings

As I mentioned above each half term teachers record their assessment of children's progress via our internal tracking systems. This successful approach ensures that we track the children very closely and ultimately contributes significantly to our sustained excellent results as a school.

Teachers make a judgement based upon their knowledge of each individual child, the independent work they produce and a child's performance in the NFER tests twice a year. These judgements are against the expectations of the national curriculum.

I hold pupil progress meetings with teachers each half term. Next week we will be discussing next steps for children who are not quite working at the expected standard. Please do support your child and teachers with any next steps identified.

If you ever have any questions regarding the progress your child is making please do discuss this with your child's teachers.

The progress all our children make is very important and this progress is enhanced through effective partnership.

## Let's Dance

We are taking part in Let's Dance at the Brighton Dome for the first time this year. Well done to all the children who have volunteered and to Mrs Knight for taking a lead. I have attended this event in the past and it is often spectacular. I look forward to the event enormously.

## Otter Class

It seemed a little strange coming back to school this week without Mr Griffin. A special thank you to Mrs Nicholson, Miss Harris and Mrs MacDonald who have ensured a smooth transition and a very positive week for Otter Class.

It all looked very calm and focused with some excellent opportunities for learning.

This week, Otter class kicked off their new Geography topic by learning about the different layers of the Earth.





## Dates

### January

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Whole School Chichester Festival Theatre visit

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Yr 5 + 6 Tag Rugby Festival at The Weald

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Young Voices choir at the O2

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Yr 5 + 6 Talented Athletes event at The Weald

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – My Digital Child Parent workshop with Rachael Highfield at 9.10am in the community room

### February

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Break up for half-term at 3.20pm

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – INSET day (no children in school)

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Children back in school

### March

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Year 5 Bikeability session (details to follow)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> - KS2 trip to Chichester Festival Theatre to see the BFG (details to follow)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Class photos

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Break up for Easter

### April

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Children back in school

### May

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Break up for half-term at 3.20pm

### June

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – INSET day (no children in school)

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Children back in school