



19.12.25

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our last newsletter of 2025, where does time go?

This has been a week of enjoyable and enriching activities at school. Year 6 has celebrated VE day and the children in Dormouse and Hedgehog classes celebrated their own special people.

On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon the whole school came together to celebrate a 'Christmas Through the Ages' through music and wonderful singing. As a community we demonstrated aspects of true Christmas spirit, where joy, love and peace are values to celebrate and shine.

Yesterday the youngest children had a very special visitor and all of the children enjoyed class parties and fun activities. All around the school there was a great deal of fun, laughter and excitement. (Potentially as a result of copious amounts of sugar consumed).

All that really remains is to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas from everyone here at School. We really do hope that you have an enjoyable time with families and friends and that the dreaded coughs, colds and flu stay away.

#### Celebration of Attendance

Our attendance as a school was 94.6% over the course of the Autumn Term. This is a positive step in the right direction, thank you.

A special congratulations to Otter class who have the highest attendance - 96.2% followed closely by Hedgehog class who have attendance of 95.6%.

So a challenge to Fox, Squirrel and Dormouse classes. Let's see if they can beat Otter and Hedgehog next term!

Please do value school attendance and avoid absence unless completely necessary!

Having seen the most recent teacher assessments it is amazing how closely attendance often mirrors a child's progress and attainment. For our youngest children it is vital that they get the best opportunities for a positive start to school. Likewise year 6 need to be here, preparing for transition to secondary school!

So many children attend brilliantly and we will be celebrating those children in assembly today with a new certificate for children with attendance of 97% or above. We also have a raffle draw with small prizes for children with 100% attendance.

With all of this said, as a mother myself I do understand children become unwell. I know you have to do the right thing for your child when this happens. As a school we have to tackle those avoidable absences!!

Perhaps, the certificates and raffle will help!

## Reading Leaves

I am never apologetic for our passion for reading here at school. It is lovely to see children achieve reading leaves each week in assembly. A reading leaf can be achieved by demonstrating a positive attitude towards reading, super entries in reading records and positive contributions in class. These leaves make for a wonderful display. Again, children's names go into a small prize draw to reward, encourage and promote.

## The Start of Term

School begins again on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of January. The gates will open at 8:45am and we would ask that as part of any New Year's Resolutions you arrive in good time for the children to begin learning as they enter class.

Please ensure all jumpers and books are clearly named. I have recently seen so many small jumpers where names have washed off!!

We also remind you all that the children will need to be wearing their new house colours for PE days and that PE uniform consists of the grey hoody and plain black jogging bottoms / shorts.

## Thank you

There are many thank yous to add at this time of year.

Thank you to all parents who volunteer their help and support. This may be through listening to readers, accompanying children on trips or coming into class to speak to children. This makes a difference and your help is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank our newly formed Friends of Barns Green, they have made such a positive start organising and running the Christmas raffle and providing refreshments at the Christmas Shows. It is great to know we have the support of the group and I look forward to working closely with them in the New Year to raise funds for our school and children.

I would also like to thank our dedicated Governing Body who at all times work tirelessly to support the school.

Finally, thank you on behalf of the staff for all your well-wishes, cards and gifts.

Take care and Merry Christmas.

Mrs Newbold

## **Friends of Barns Green**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the hampers, donated things and bought tickets, we have raised £420. Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from the Friends of Barns Green School.

### **Dates**

#### **January**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Children back in school

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 (details to follow for selected children)

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 (details to follow for selected children)

#### **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