Barns Green Primary School

Newsletter dates

27.11.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been good to be back on the gate the last few mornings after an absence of a few days. Over the last few weeks I have been lucky to have attended several informative and inspirational conferences. I had a very interesting day at RHS Wisley, where the focus was upon Learning Outside the Classroom and this was closely followed by a Virtual Education Conference at the AMEX stadium where the theme was the use of AI within education.

Time away from school is always a good opportunity to reflect and consider priorites and next steps to enhance the experience of both children and staff.

We will build upon our learning and are excited to be considering ways to develop our school grounds further. We have recently had the school 'pond' filled and are currently developing plans for this space. We are also looking forward to the work installing a shelter outside Hedgehog class beginning next week. The intention is to enhance opportunities for learning for all children in years 1 and 2. In terms of technology it is pleasing to hear that our school systems and procedures are recognised as strong. I would like to thank Simon Gale, one of our school Governors for his work with the school in this area. We are in a good position and recognise that technology offers huge potential, it goes without saying that things are evolving rapidly and it is important that we do not allow ourselves to be left behind, if at all possible!!

Tracey Newbold

Parent/Teacher Questionnaire

Responses to our recent parent questionnaire are very interesting. We value your input and will be scheduling a follow up meeting in the Spring term.

I would like to say that responses were overwhelmingly positive with parents recognising that their children are well-provided for here at school. A small sample of comments includes:

Enjoy coming to school, feel part of community

Teachers have good understanding of needs

Lots of opportunity to discuss

Really happy with progress socially, emotionally and academically

School has helped a lot with my child who struggles with anxiety

Staff seem to be very invested



It is always lovely to read positives and feel that our hard work and dedication is recognised. Thank you.

Of course, parents have been honest, and we recognise some concerns. Main trends for next steps relate to areas such as communication, transport and academic expectation. With some more isolated concern relating to behaviour and wraparound care.

It is good that we are aware of these issues, be they trends or more isolated concerns. Please continue to communicate with us to ensure that we can address any issues that matter to you. I cannot wave a magic wand, but we will always use our best endeavours. I would like to look at these issues with you in the Spring Term.

I also encourage you to trust our professionalism and experience. In terms of academic expectations, I agree that high expectations for academic progress and achievement are imperative. Our results over the past few years are proof of the school's ongoing commitment to this. Out of 280 primary schools in West Sussex our school is consistently within the top few schools for academic attainment. This does not happen by chance, our children are not magically gifted, we do not hot-house or narrow the curriculum. It happens because of our drive to ensure all children thrive academically. As teachers we know how to ensure this happens and work with you to ensure no stone is left unturned so that by the time children leave us they are absolutely ready to flourish in the next stage of their education.

Please do speak to class teachers if you have concerns about your child's academic progress.

Horsham Christmas Lights Switch on Event



What a wonderful event, a massive thank you to Mrs Callaghan, the performance choir and all of the staff who joined us in the bandstand last Friday evening. I believe we did our small school proud!



Horsham Football League

Good luck to our school football team who are playing their first match in the Horsham league on Monday. An away fixture against Heron Way. A massive thank you to Mr Coxon who has been working so hard training this group of children. We are young, inexperienced but excited to be taking part!

Switch off Afternoon

This week, children and staff across the school took part in a Switch Off Afternoon to save energy and help tackle climate change. Classrooms switched off lights, screens, and unnecessary electrical equipment for the afternoon. Everyone worked together to spot wasted power and build good habits we can keep up every day. Small actions like flicking a switch at break times or turning off monitors add up to lower energy use and fewer carbon emissions. Thank you to all our pupils and staff for getting involved—try spotting things to switch off at home too!

Mrs Knight

Parking and car park

In response to recent feedback and concerns relating to the use of the car park and dangerous parking outside of school we will be closing the school car park to unauthorised vehicles during school hours 8:30am- 3:40pm from Monday 30th November.

We have also purchased parking reminders - please do not park close to them. They will be positioned by the double yellow lines as a reminder not to park. Of course we all know it is illegal to park on double yellow lines close to a junction!!

I hope an accident is not needed to encourage all of our community to take care.



PTA AGM

Please do come along and support your PTA at 3:30pm on Tuesday 1st December. This is also an opportunity to sample free childcare and bookings can be made via the Premier Education link.

After School Wraparound Care taster – 1st December

After School Clubs and Wraparound Care

Please can I encourage you to keep using this provision. I really do believe that the provider has taken on feedback and is committed to providing a much-improved offer. With your support this will go from strength to strength.

Clubs for the Spring Term are now available and open to all year groups. We have a new offer of basketball!

Please follow the link to sign up, following our school's name, alternatively scan the QR codes outside the community room!!

www.premier-education.com

Star of the Week and Reading leaves

Well done to the following pupils -thank you for your hard work and commitment to your learning and school community.





Spelling Bee



Sign-up sheets are now up! Please do encourage your child to take part if they are in years 2-6.

You can support your child with this by helping them to learn the non-negotiable words and high frequency/ common exception words for their year group and even above!!

The following links may help!

https://parentshomeworkhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/First-100-HFW.pdf

https://parentshomeworkhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Next-200-HFW.pdf

https://parentshomeworkhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Y2-Common-Exception-Words.pdf

https://parentshomeworkhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Y34-Common-Exception-Words.pdf

https://parentshomeworkhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Y56-Common-Exception-Words.pdf

These are helpful even if children are not taking part!

https://parentshomeworkhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/HFW-list-download.pdf

Dates

December

Tuesday 1st – Friends of Barns Green AGM 3.30pm

Wednesday 2nd – Otter and Squirrel trip to the Weald and Downland Museum

Thursday 3rd – Fox Class trip to Brighton
Otter class assembly at 2.45pm

Monday 7th – Rocksteady Christmas performance 2.20pm

Tuesday 8th – Nativity 2.30pm

Wednesday 9th – Nativity 9.30am

Friday 11th – Dormouse and Hedgehog drop and read 8.45-9.15am (please come in and read with your child if you can)

Monday 14th – Carol concert 2.30pm

Tuesday 15th – Carol concert 9.30am

Wednesday 16th – Easy Lunch Christmas meal –

Christmas jumper day - children invited to wear Christmas jumpers with school uniform

Dick Whittington panto in school

Friday 18th – Break up at 1.30pm

January

Monday 4th – Children back in school

February

Thursday 11th – Break up for half-term at 3.20pm

Friday 12th – INSET day (no children in school)

March

Thursday 25th – Break up

April

Monday 12th – Children back in school

May

Monday 3rd – Bank Holiday

Friday 28th – Break up for half-term

June

Monday 7th – INSET day (no children in school)

Tuesday 8th – Children back in school

July

Friday 2nd July – INSET day (no children in school)

Wednesday 21st – Break up