

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

As we reach the end of another busy academic year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared and to thank you for your ongoing support. The connection between families and school remains at the heart of everything we do, and it's this collaboration that helps our children flourish both personally and academically.

This newsletter gives us a chance to update you on the role of the governing body, celebrate the school's achievements, and look ahead to the plans we have for continued growth. Our shared commitment to each child's wellbeing and success continues to guide every decision we make.

Thank you for being such a valued part of our community. We wish you a restful and happy summer break.

*The Governors*

**Small school hub of excellence**

We are incredibly proud of how Barns Green has built on the success of our recent Ofsted inspection. Our reputation as a 'small school hub of excellence' continues to grow, and we are now supporting other local schools in several key areas of development.

**Mr Griffin** is training to become a Maths Hub Leader, sharing our approach to adapting the maths curriculum for mixed-age classes and promoting high-quality Maths Mastery teaching across similar schools.

**Mrs Al Tarafi** is also working closely with schools that have mixed Reception and Year 1 classes, helping them to deliver both the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum effectively and cohesively.

Our carefully sequenced curriculum ensures that every child receives their full entitlement to a broad and balanced education. This is testament to the hard work of the leadership team and all the staff, who continue to drive excellence not only in our school, but across the wider educational community.

## **Pupil Premium – Can you help?**

One of the most significant ways families can support Barns Green Primary is by checking their eligibility for Pupil Premium funding. This government grant brings an additional £1,480 per eligible child into the school budget each year—and the child doesn't need to take the free school meal if they prefer packed lunches. Even if your family's financial circumstances are only temporary (e.g. after redundancy), once awarded, the funding continues for six more years. It can also provide free music lessons, help with school essentials like uniform, and support broader opportunities.

Children who are in care, or previously in care, attract a higher premium of £2,570, and children from Forces families attract £340. This funding strengthens school resources for everyone. Parents in receipt of certain benefits (including Universal Credit and Income Support) can apply via the West Sussex Parent Portal. A full list of eligible benefits is available on the council website.

Although all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 receive universal free school meals, families must still register on the portal to unlock this additional support. It's simple to apply, confidential, and makes a big difference to your child's school.

**Please visit here for information** [Free school meals - West Sussex County Council](#)

## **Solar Panels**

Since January 2025, our solar panels have generated 13.5MWh of electricity—39% of the school's total usage of 21.9MWh. A further 37% of what we produced was exported back to the grid. The environmental and long-term financial benefits are already clear. With an investment of around £8,000 to expand the array, the school could save over £2,000 more each year, paying for itself in under four years and providing ongoing savings beyond that.

## Celebrating Results

As a governing body, we are so proud to celebrate the hard work of the Year 6 pupils under Mrs Bishop's guidance. The results demonstrate such high attainment against the national standards.

*We wish the Year 6's all the very best for their onward educational journey.*

	% Met the Expected Standard for the End of Y6	% Achieved the Higher Standard for the End of Y6
Barns Green Reading 2025	95%	42%
National Reading 2024	74%	29%
Barns Green Writing 2025	89.4%	10.5%
National Writing 2024	72%	13%
Barns Green Maths 2025	100%	36.8%
National Maths 2024	73%	24%

## Celebrating Inclusion – The Rainbow Flag Award

We are deeply committed to celebrating inclusion in all its forms and preparing our children to thrive in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world. This year, we were proud to extend that commitment to our governance, with bespoke Governor training delivered by Mrs Bishop on the importance of inclusive practice across the whole school community as part of the application for the *Rainbow Flag Award status*.

The session challenged us to consider how education can empower young people to understand difference, challenge inequality and approach the future with empathy, curiosity, and confidence.

The Rainbow Flag Award is a national framework aimed at promoting LGBTQ+ inclusion and visibility in schools, helping to combat bullying and create a supportive environment for all students.

## Governor Impact

Part of our role as Governors is to ensure that your children are safe and healthy while at school. During recent monitoring visits when we were chatting to groups of children, some of the older children told us that they do not eat breakfast before coming to school and often do not eat mid-morning healthy snacks either. Developing brains need fuel and we hope that parents will ensure that their children have both plenty of sleep and a good breakfast to start the school day ready to learn. The children also told us that many of them do not like school dinners. Governors are exploring opportunities to improve our school lunch offer when the current contract expires in July 2026. Although this is a whole year away, the lead times for these contracts are over a year long. Back in March, our current school dinner providers were asked to set up a food tasting session for parents at 3.20pm on 20th March 2025 so that parents could witness their offer first hand and also ask any questions they may wish to. Governors continue to investigate alternative providers and Mrs Newbold will communicate any decisions with parents in the future.

## Screen Time

In addition to the above, another concern that arose from chatting with pupils is that, at home, some are accessing online games and chat rooms that are designed for much older children. As a result of this, Governors asked Mrs Newbold to set up a Parents' Information Evening on 'Keeping your Child Safe Online' in the Spring term. It was wonderful to see parents representing about a third of the pupils at the school attend and we hope that this will spark further conversations about this important issue. For those of you who were unable to make it, further information is available at [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org).

There is a great deal of scientific research that warns of the negative impacts that screen time can have on young minds. As a governing body, we think it's important to share with parents the importance of healthy minds, especially before the long Summer break. With the wonders and progress of modern technology, young people must be learning how to use this technology in the right way so that it helps to shape rather than hinder their futures.

*Thank you for your ongoing support of the school. Have a wonderful Summer.*