

Barnett Wood

Infant School



February 2025

NEWSLETTER



Kind, Confident, Successful Learners

Barnett Wood Infant School

213, Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted KT21 2DF

Message from Mrs Gibbard



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had wonderful half term break. The children have returned this week with renewed energy, and I think the longer days and sunshine are lifting everyone's spirits too! We are excited to dive into the next phase of our school year with lots of exciting learning and events coming up.

This week saw the return of Mr Rae, our dance teacher who has been a regular visitor to Barnett Wood for over 10 years. I hope you managed to see the video of our first lessons this week on Instagram. Tuesdays are our new favourite day of the week!



Staffing Update

On Wednesday, we said Goodbye to our lovely Squirrels teacher Mrs Christofi, as she begins her maternity leave before baby number two arrives. We would like to send a heartfelt Thank You to Mrs Christofi for all her hard work over the last 3 years at Barnett Wood. Her dedication to nurturing our pupils' love for learning and her commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive classroom environment have truly enriched the educational experience of our children.

We are really looking forward to meeting the latest addition to the family! We wish her and all her family all the very best as she prepares for this special time.



In Mrs Christofi's absence, I will be stepping into the role of Squirrels class teacher Monday - Wednesday from Monday 3rd of March until the end of the school year. While I will be taking on this teaching responsibility, please rest assured that the leadership and management of Barnett Wood will continue to be my priority. I will work closely with our dedicated staff to maintain our high standards and ensure that all aspects of school life run smoothly. While I am committed to providing support in the classroom, please understand that this arrangement may affect my availability as Headteacher. I will do my best to balance my responsibilities in both roles; however, there may be times when I am not as accessible as usual for gate duties, meetings or communications. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Kind regards,
Mrs Gibbard



News from the Classrooms...

Don't forget to check your child's year group page every Friday for news straight from the classroom. Click the pictures below for the relevant year groups:



Year R
Hedgehogs and Squirrels



Year 1
Owls and Rabbits



Year 2
Badgers and Foxes

Attendance- A message from Mrs Theobald



We firmly believe that all children benefit from regular school attendance and that

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

School Matters!



Whole school attendance
To date our whole school attendance figure is

95.6%

Class attendance for September to February 27th

| Reception | | Year 1 | | Year 2 | |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-----|
| | | | | | |
| 96.1% | 95.8% | 94.7% | 95.5% | 95.6% | 96% |

Whole school attendance has crept up slightly and we are hoping to see some more green percentages soon!



Congratulations to Hedgehogs for having the highest attendance so far this year!



Fines for absence

Please ensure you take some time to read section 8.2 of our Attendance and Absence Policy about fines issued by the Inclusion Service on behalf of Surrey for unauthorised absence from school

Attendance and Absence Policy

| What does this look like in terms of number of days absent? | 100% | 97%-99.9% | 93% - 96.9% | 90% - 92.9% | Below 90% |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Attendance Superstar! | Well done, excellent attendance! | Be careful! | Improvement needed. | Persistent absentee. |
| Sept-Feb Half term | 0 days | 2 days | 5 days | 7 days | 7 days |
| Academic year Sept-July | 0 days absent | approximately 4 days absent | approximately 10 days absent | approximately 15 days absent | approximately 19 days absent |

Absence Update and Thank you

Now that we are starting to see some signs of Spring with the weather warming up, we're hopeful that we're over the worst of the illnesses for the academic year, and we've certainly been inundated with various ones this winter! We're half way through the school year, where on average we would typically expect pupils to have had no more than 2 days absent from school.



20

children have had 2 days absent from school

10

children have had 1 day absent from school

33

children have had 0 days absent from school, 100% attendance!!

LET'S CELEBRATE

Thank you to all of our parents/ carers whose children have been in school for at least 98% of the school year so far!



Following half termly monitoring of attendance, class teachers will be sharing with parents Early Concern Letters during Parent Consultations in March if their child's attendance has fallen below 95%

Parent Governor Vacancy



We wrote before half term to inform parents that we are currently seeking enthusiastic and dedicated parents to nominate themselves for the role of Parent Governor on our governing board. Serving as a Parent Governor is a rewarding opportunity that allows you to play a vital role in shaping the future of our school. Our departing Parent Governor Sophie Bloxam, shares her insights into the role:

What it's like to be a parent governor

I'm Sophie Bloxam, Mummy to Jonny in Badgers. I'm about to finish my four-year post as Parent Governor at Barnett Wood and wanted to share some insights into what it's like. For anyone interested, the deadline to apply is 7th March.

I'd always wanted to get more involved in the school. My background is in public relations, so I was keen look at ways to improve communications but also understand more about the strategy in how any infant school ensures its long-term survival with many other schools in the area and a lowering birth rate.

Being a governor means attending six meetings a year, with an hour's reading ahead of each one, plus one or two school visits. I've been part of pay committees, reviewed the website, brainstormed fundraising ideas, prepared for Ofsted and acted as Community Partnerships Link Governor (a role I will continue as an Associate Governor). The meetings are well organised, collaborative and valuable, making me feel like I'm contributing to something important for our local community.

I encourage anyone who wants to understand more about their child's education and know that their opinion matter – regardless of their professional background – to apply.



If you have any further questions about the role, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office.

Parent and Pupil Survey



As part of our ongoing commitment to improve the educational experience for all pupils at Barnett Wood, we typically conduct a parent and pupil survey at this time of year. However, as you may know, we had an OFSTED inspection during the autumn term, and we have received valuable insights from the Ofsted Parent View survey.

While the feedback from the Parent View survey is important, we recognise that there are specific areas we need to address further. One such area is the concern regarding bullying, which has been highlighted in the survey results. We take this issue very seriously and are committed to ensuring that our school remains a safe, happy, and supportive environment for all our children.

To gain a deeper understanding of your perspectives and experiences regarding bullying at our school, we would like to invite you to share your thoughts through a short survey. Your feedback will be invaluable in helping us identify the underlying issues and develop effective strategies to address them.

We would also love your feedback on our extra curricular offer and would welcome suggestions on how we can improve this further. You are welcome to use the survey to let us know about any other areas you think we do well on or could do better!

All responses will be treated confidentially and used solely for the purpose of improving our school environment, however please don't hesitate to contact us via the school office if there is a specific issue you would like to discuss.

Parent Survey 2025



Introducing our new Future Leaders!



School Council

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Dexter & Isla | Hedgehogs |
| Ollie & Grace | Squirrels |
| Sienna, Megan & Aurora | Owls |
| Freddie & Luke | Rabbits |
| Bella & Jaxon | Bagers |
| Alana & Olive | Foxes |



Reading Leaders

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Sofia & James | Hedgehogs |
| Bonnie & Reese | Squirrels |
| Jessica & Theodore | Owls |
| Isabelle & Jack | Rabbits |
| Harriet W & Oliver | Bagers |
| Ethan & Rachel | Foxes |



Eco Leaders

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Ajay & Libby | Hedgehogs |
| Daisy & Lenny | Squirrels |
| Indy & Zachary | Owls |
| Ella & Roman | Rabbits |
| Ethan & Jonny | Bagers |
| Dexter & Leo | Foxes |

Our new Future Leaders groups were democratically elected this week and will be in position for the rest of this school year. Our Reception classes have joined the groups too!



Lunchtime Leaders

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Jamesdean Panos Ottillie Ivy | Bagers |
| William Emilia Dylan H Annabel | Foxes |



Wellbeing Leaders

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Joshie & Harry | Hedgehogs |
| Ruby & Thomas | Squirrels |
| Johnny & Willow L | Owls |
| Olivia & Molly | Rabbits |
| Amelia, Tom & Marty | Bagers |
| Lara & Ella | Foxes |

Each of our groups will be keeping us updated on their projects through the website and Newsletters - watch this space for some exciting developments!

Book Week at Barnett Wood

We are very excited for Book Week next at Barnett Wood! It's a wonderful opportunity for our children to immerse themselves in the joy of reading and explore the magical world of books. We have planned a variety of exciting activities that will engage and inspire our young readers:



Whole School Book Quiz

Get ready for some friendly competition! The whole school will participate in a fun-filled book quiz, testing their knowledge of stories and characters. This is a fantastic way for them to showcase what they've learned and enjoy some literary trivia.

Mystery Reader Visits

Throughout the week, we will have special 'mystery readers' visiting classrooms. These surprise guests will read their favourite stories, sparking curiosity and excitement among the pupils. Who will it be??



Paired Reading Across the School

To promote a love of reading and foster friendships, we will pair older pupils with younger ones for shared reading sessions. This initiative not only enhances reading skills but also builds a sense of community within our school.

Author Visits

We are delighted to be welcoming two talented authors to our school! Mary Petley and Bella Swift (who some of you might be familiar with!) will share their stories, discuss their writing processes, and inspire our children to explore their creativity. This is a unique opportunity for our children to interact with authors and learn about the world of writing.



Bella Swift



Mary Petley

World Book Day

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025

World Book Day aims to inspire children to connect with books in a positive and creative way. On Thursday March 6th, the children are invited to come to school dressed as one of their favourite characters from their favourite book! We can't wait to see all the fantastic costumes!



NEWS ALERT!



CHOOSE A BRILLIANT BOOK FOR FREE WITH YOUR
WORLD BOOK DAY £1/£1.50 BOOK TOKEN

All children have been given a £1 book token in their bookbag today, that can be redeemed against any book in book shops, or exchanged for one of the special £1 World Book day books. See more information: www.WorldBookDay.com

Scholastic Book Fair 3rd - 7th March



We are very excited to announce Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school next week - just in time for World Book Day!

The pop-up book shop will be open every day Monday to Friday after school. Our school earns rewards for every book purchased - which means more books for our school too!

If you would like to purchase a book, both electronic and cash payments can be made. Electronic payments can be made using the QR code, which will be displayed when purchasing. You can also use your World Book Day £1 voucher to redeem against any books.

For more information, including browsing the books that will be on sale, please visit:

[Parents - Scholastic Book Fairs](#)




Girls' Football

Following the success of last year's 'Let Girls Play' event, we will once again be taking part in this national fun day of celebration designed to inspire and empower the next generation through girls' football at school.

Coach Jack from Kiko will be running special sessions for our girls on the morning of Friday 7th March.

We believe that every child should have the opportunity to explore their interests and talents, regardless of gender.

We are excited to be part of this nationwide celebration, highlighting the importance of inclusivity in sports, and showing pupils in our school that girls belong in football.




#LETGIRLSPLAY!

We have signed up to take part in the Barclays Girls Football School Partnerships Event - #letgirlsplay. The aim of the event is to get as many girls playing football as possible. Last year over 285,000 girls took part!

Reception - 9.45am - 10.15am
Year 1 - 10.40am - 11.15am
Year 2 - 11.15am - 12pm

Aim of the Day:
To provide opportunity for all Girls to play Football!




WE'RE TAKING PART IN THE **BIGGEST EVER FOOTBALL SESSION**
7th March 2025

#LETGIRLSPLAY

BARCLAYS GIRLS FOOTBALL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

For more information please click below:
[Click Here](#)





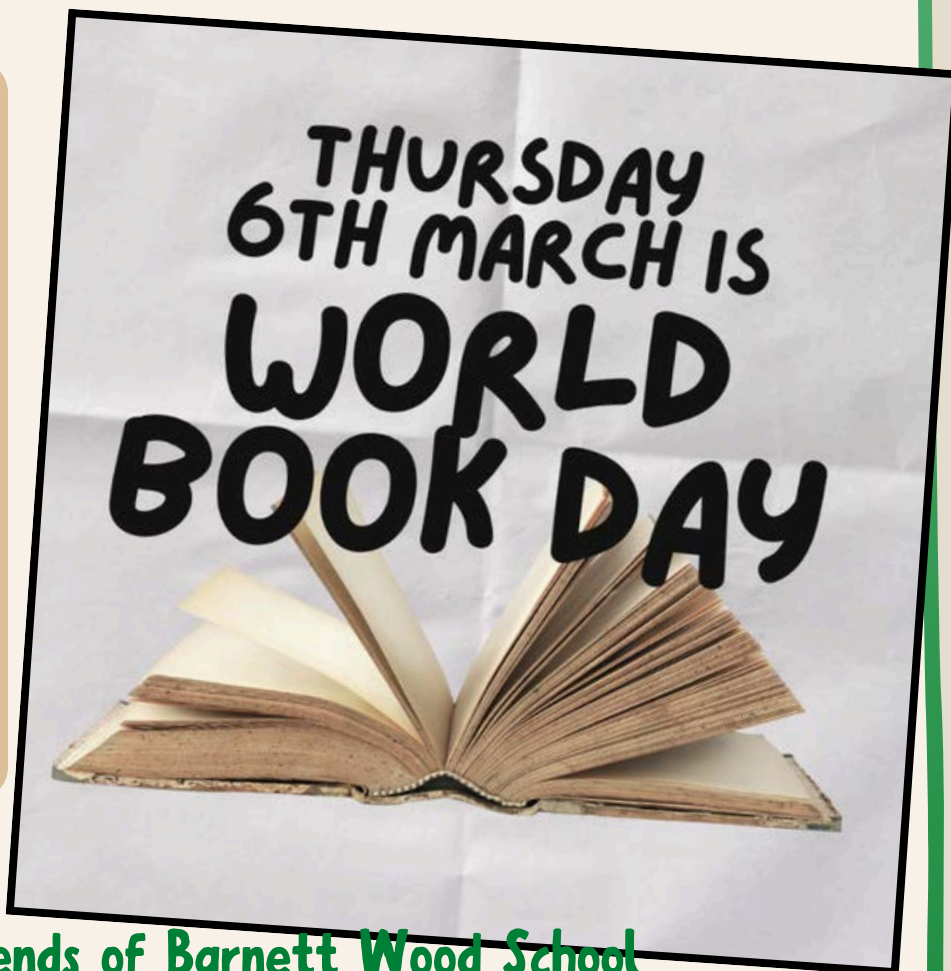
Friday 7th March

4.15pm and 5.15pm

We've targeted ourselves to get the whole school to raise over £400 to buy more reading books for the children to enjoy.

We have already raised £100!

If you would like to donate, will be doing a coin/contactless collection on the morning of World Book Day, or you can donate through our SumUp Store below:



The Friends of Barnett Wood School

SumUp Store

Thank you as always for your support!



Swimming Pool – last call for volunteers!



A big thank you to everyone that came to the information session this week and to those that have signed up to volunteer on teams that help run our pool and swim scheme this year, so far we have a total of 26 volunteers.

The more volunteers we have on each team, the less time commitment needed from each team member. At present, we have the following numbers on each team:

Pool Maintenance team - 8

Pool Checkers team - 8 (ideally need 12-15)

Pool Supervisors - 10 (ideally need 12-15)

It's not too late to add your name to one of the teams, simply complete the form below to sign up. We really can't run the pool and swim scheme without the support of our parents, so thank you in advance for all your help!

[Swimming Pool Volunteers Form 2025](#)



General Reminders



- **Timings:** Gates open at 8.20am, classroom doors open at 8.30am. Gates/doors close at 8.35am and collection for all at 3.05pm.
- **Snacks:** Children are provided with a piece of fruit/vegetables at break time. Please be aware that a number of our children have severe allergies and therefore we are a nut free school - please respect this and ensure no products containing nuts are included in packed lunches or snack boxes.
- **Named water bottles to be in school daily** - no squash or juice please!
- **Absence** – please phone (01372 272701) or email (info@barnett-wood.surrey.sch.uk) school as soon as you know that your child will be unable to attend school that day.
- **Sickness / tummy bugs** – please remember that children cannot come into school until 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea, in order to prevent spreading the infection.
- **Named clothing and personal items** – please ensure that all items are named as we cannot guarantee lost unnamed items are returned to the owner
- **Coats** – please remember that your child/ren need a coat suitable for the weather to be in school with them. Our outdoor learning spaces are used every day.



Our remaining INSET days for this academic year are:

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Monday 3rd - Friday 7th March | | Book Week at Barnett Wood Scholastic Book Fair after school every day. |
| Thursday 6th March | All day | World Book Day – dress up as your favourite book character or wear your own clothes and bring your favourite book! (non-uniform day) |
| Friday 7th March | Morning | Barclays Girls Football School Partnerships Event - #LETGIRLSPLAY |
| Friday 7th March | | Friends of Barnett Wood Magic Show |
| Wednesday 12th March | All day | Year 2 School Trip to Wisley |
| Tuesday 18th March & Thursday 20th March | 3.30 – 6.30pm 4.00- 7.00pm | Parent Consultation Evenings |
| Friday 21st March | All Day | Non-Uniform day for Comic Relief |
| Tuesday 1st April | 2.15pm | Whole School Dance performance for parents |
| Tuesday 1st April | 4-6pm | Full Governing Body Meeting |
| Friday 4th April | 1.30pm | End of Term – Honeybees After school club closes at 4.30pm. |
| Sunday 6th April | TBC | Friends of Barnett Wood Family Easter Egg Hunt |
| Monday 7th April to Friday 18th April EASTER HOLIDAYS | | |
| Monday 21st April | All day | BANK HOLIDAY - school closed |
| Tuesday 22nd April | All day | INSET DAY - school closed |
| Wednesday 23rd April | 8.30am | Children return to school |