

Barnett Wood

Infant School



January 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,

We hope your 2025 has started off well. January often feels like a long month, doesn't it? Nevertheless, the children have been working hard, showing remarkable determination and resilience each day. With the arrival of the Spring term (and hopefully some Spring-like weather soon), we can truly concentrate on learning without distractions like Christmas or hot weather! Our staff are excited to see the impressive progress the children have already made this term, even in just the past four weeks.

It has been a busy month, with visitors and class assemblies and lots and lots of learning! Please do read our Newsletter to find out what we have been up to and what is coming up.

As we move through the winter months, it's important to address a common issue many schools encounter during this time – an increase in illnesses. The colder weather, combined with the spread of seasonal viruses, can result in higher sickness rates among both children and staff. According to NHS guidance, it's acceptable to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. However, if they have a fever, please keep them at home until it subsides.

We are committed to minimising the spread of germs within our school. We've been reminding all children about good hygiene practices, such as coughing into their elbow, using tissues to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it', and maintaining regular handwashing. Our cleaning team ensures that all surfaces and high-touch areas are routinely disinfected.

While prioritising the health and well-being of our children is essential, we also recognise that consistent school attendance offers numerous benefits for their academic and social growth. We understand the challenge parents face in balancing attendance with ensuring their children's health and safety. Please reach out to us if you need further guidance.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,

Kind regards,

Mrs Gibbard



News from the Classrooms...

Don't forget to check your child's year group page every other 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

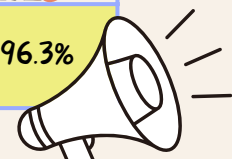
School Matters!



Class attendance for September to January

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
95.8%	95.8%	94.6%	95.8%	94.1%	96.3%

Whole school attendance update
 To date our whole school attendance figure is
95.3%
 which is up slightly from December. Thank you for working with us to instil positive attitudes towards attending school in your children. A reminder that our target is 97%.



Congratulations!

A HUGE well done to Foxes for maintaining the highest attendance for the academic year so far!

What an achievement!



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



Illness

A reminder to please use this guidance:

'Is my child too ill for school'

from the NHS to determine if your child is well enough to attend school.



The importance of Punctuality

We have noticed that we still have a significant number of children coming into school after the doors close each morning. Being punctual to school is not just about being on time; it's about instilling a sense of responsibility, respect, and discipline that will benefit your child throughout their lives.

Here are a few reasons why being on time to school is so important:

- establishing good habits - by arriving on time, pupils develop a routine that prepares them for future commitments and responsibilities
- maximising learning time - pupils can fully participate in lessons and engage in their learning.
- fostering a Respectful Culture: Punctuality demonstrates respect for teachers, peers, and the learning process itself. It creates a positive classroom environment where everyone can thrive.

If as a family you are finding it a challenge to get to school on time, please reach out to myself or Mrs Gibbard so we can work together and provide the necessary support.

A reminder that the school gates open at 8:20am, doors open at 8:30am for registration. If you arrive after this time you will need to sign in at the office.



Ensuring a Sustainable Future at Barnett Wood



We are excited to share a new initiative that our school is embarking on to work towards a sustainable future at Barnett Wood.

As part of our commitment to creating a happy, caring, and inspiring environment for our pupils, we recognise the importance of taking action to protect our planet for future generations.

On Monday this week, Mrs Murphy and Mrs Gibbard took part in a Carbon Discovery Workshop with a company called Auditel who provided their services free of charge. The purpose of this workshop was to brief leaders on Carbon, Carbon Neutrality and Net Zero, and help us to understand how these impact our operations and future strategy. This included an introduction to the Green House Gas protocol as well as advising the school on how to prepare for creating a Carbon Footprint Report (CFR).



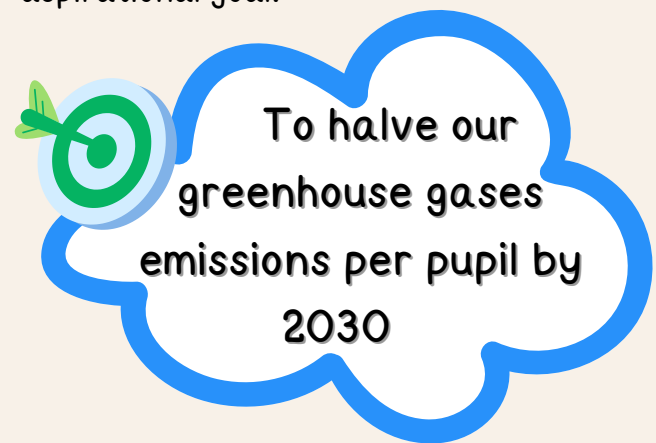
Our next steps are to gather data to create our Carbon Footprint Report, which will come from a range of sources such as:

- Energy Consumption: data on electricity, gas, and other fuel usage.
- Transportation (staff and pupils): data on vehicle mileage, fuel consumption, and business travel.
- Waste Management: amount and type of waste produced and how it is disposed of.
- Procurement: data from suppliers of goods and services about their emissions and practices.

Once we have this data, we can then look at ways of reducing our emissions as a whole community.

Our new initiative will focus on reducing carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of sustainable practises. This project aligns with our school's vision of fostering responsible and active citizens who are prepared for life in the world beyond.

During the workshop, we set ourselves an aspirational goal:



We invite all members of the Barnett Wood community to participate in this exciting initiative. Whether through sharing ideas, volunteering for projects, or simply adopting greener practises at home, every effort counts!

We firmly believe this is more than just a project; it is a commitment to a sustainable future for our children and generations to come. Together, we can make a significant impact on our environment and ensure a brighter, greener future for our children, and set an example for other schools to follow.

We look forward to sharing updates on our progress and celebrating our achievements as we embark on this important journey.

We would like to thank Guy Bailey (parent and Chair of Governors) and his business partner Ed Browning from Auditel for giving their free time, advice and support to assist us with this project

Swimming Pool - Volunteers needed!

★ WE NEED ★

your

★ SUPPORT! ★

We are extremely fortunate to have our own swimming pool at Barnett Wood. The pool is open from May to September each year and all children receive 2 swimming lessons a week and some fun class swims at the beginning and end of term.

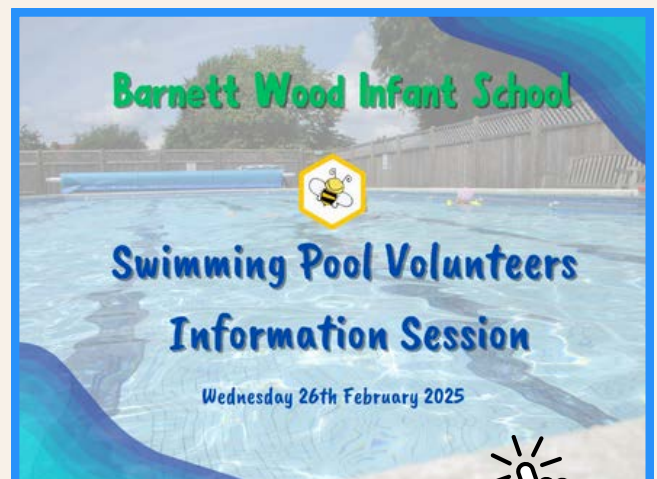
We also open our pool to families to enjoy at weekends (from June) and over the summer holidays through our Family Swim Scheme, where, for a small membership fee, families can use the pool every day during the summer break.



However, the pool is only sustainable with the financial assistance of the Friends of BW and of course, our lovely parents and carers to volunteer throughout the swim season. Without you all, our pool simply wouldn't run.

As always, we will be asking parents to volunteer for the team of helpers. There are various roles that you can get involved in, from maintenance to pool checkers to swim scheme session supervisors. For swimming lessons to go ahead, we also need parent/carer helpers to assist children in the changing rooms getting ready for their lessons.

If you are considering volunteering or one of the teams that run the pool (swim change volunteers will be organised by class reps closer to the time), please take a look at the presentation for more details of what each role entails. We will be holding 2 information sessions on Wednesday 26th February in the Beehive (8.45am and 2.15pm) for parents carers to pop along and find out more. Please complete the form below if you can volunteer:



[Swimming Pool Volunteers Form 2025](#)

Future Leaders in action!



Our Future Leaders groups are coming to the end of their tenure which will end at half term. Take a look at what they have been up to this term:

Our School Councillors have had a busy term and a half! They have met with Mrs Ball several times to discuss main issues at school and have been part of the decision making process in events such as the Christmas Fair - they even ran a stall!

A highlight for them this half term was the visit by Epsom and Ewell MP Helen Maguire, who spent an hour at our school last Thursday. During her visit, Helen Maguire with our School Council Leaders, who were eager to share their thoughts and ideas about how to make our school an even better place for all children.



 **School Council**

The School Council Leaders presented their initiatives, including projects working alongside other Future Leader groups aimed at promoting kindness and respect among peers, enhancing our playground facilities, and encouraging more reading activities throughout the school.

They also brought the important topic of road safety outside our school to Helen's attention, and she had some very useful ideas for them to continue their campaign to make Barnett Wood safer.

The visit was not only an opportunity for our children to express their views but also a chance for them to learn about the role of an MP and the importance of working for your local community.



Helen was very complimentary about our children praised them for their enthusiasm and commitment to making positive changes within our school and community. Well done School Council Leaders!



 **Lunchtime Leaders**

Our Lunchtime leaders have done a terrific job at helping to ensure our lunch times are safe and happy for everyone. They are brilliant helpers in the servery and make sure the children are doing 'positive play' on the playground. The leaders have been involved in discussions regarding our condemned Pirate Ship and had some great ideas for the next project. They were very excited to learn that Barnett Wood has recently had a donation from Ashted Rotary which we will be using to purchase new playground equipment, and will be helping to choose items very soon!

Future Leaders in action!



Since being elected in the Autumn Term, our Year 1 and Year 2 Reading Leaders have had the opportunity to share their favourite books with the rest of the school in our special 'Reading Leaders' Recommended Reads Assemblies'. As well as this, they have helped to manage the reading areas in their classrooms and around the school, keeping them tidy and well-organised for everyone.

We have also had meetings to discuss our ideas for celebrating World Book Day and Barnett Wood Book Week.



Reading Leaders



Eco Leaders

The Eco leaders recently had a very successful meeting. We brainstormed lots of ways we consume energy within school and the children were then able to identify how we could conserve it, improve its use or even help to create more of it. The children have chosen two focus areas of electricity and water to try and conserve more mindfully. They have created posters and stickers to be displayed around the school to assist us all in being more considerate of turning off lights and switches, taps and turning down heating in empty rooms. The children are also keen to have a water butt for the playground to assist in watering plants, we will consider ways to achieve this including potential fund raising events.

Year 1 and Year 2 Well Being Leaders have looked after our Well Being areas around the school and their classrooms, keeping them tidy and well-organised for everyone. We talked about roles and responsibilities as a Wellbeing Leader and thought it would be kind to look after our friends who are hurt at playtimes. We have also had meetings to discuss our ideas for celebrating Children's Mental Health Week and chose to run a game for our class celebrating how unique we are.



Wellbeing Leaders



We will be holding elections for new Future Leaders after half term for the second half of the academic year. Reception children will also be joining the groups. Which group would your child like to join?!

Our Values



Kindness

We treat others how we would like to be treated



Respect

We are thoughtful and considerate to ourselves, others and the world around us.



Resilience

When things are tough, we **persevere** and are **determined** - we don't give up!



Aspiration

We embrace challenge and aim to be the best we can be!

Our value of this half term is...

♥ We are honest and responsible



♥ We are reliable and show we can carry out our roles or tasks when asked

♥ We accept responsibility for our own actions

Trust

♥ We always tell the truth

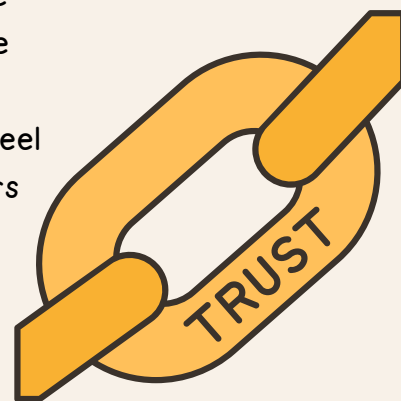
♥ We do the right thing, even when no one is looking

♥ We are resourceful and independent, but know to ask for help if we need it

Throughout this half term, we have discovered that being trustworthy not only strengthens our relationships with others but also fosters our self-respect and integrity.

In our assemblies and class discussions, we have explored numerous ways to show trustworthiness. We've emphasised the significance of being honest when we make mistakes, even when it involves facing consequences. We have learned about the importance of honouring our promises and commitments, as this builds trust and respect with those around us.

In addition to being trustworthy ourselves, we have also explored the importance of trusting others. As a school we strive to create a safe and supportive environment, establish clear expectations and boundaries, and consistently follow through with them. When children feel safe and supported, they are more likely to trust the adults and peers around them.



Safeguarding - Online Safety

As part of our commitment to safeguarding, it is important that we ensure that parents/carers are as informed as possible about online safety.

Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over 170 countries worldwide and aims to create a safer and better internet for everyone. This year's theme is "Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Scams Online". The focus will be on educating our young learners about the importance of staying safe online and recognising potential scams. Click the link below for more information:

About Safer Internet Day

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at Barnett Wood, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. We will hold assemblies and every class will be having specific lessons throughout the week considering how we can stay safe on the internet.

Safer Internet Day is also a great opportunity for parents to focus on online safety with their child or children, whatever their age. The UK Safer Internet Centre have created a range of pages to help you talk about these issues and ideas with your child, no matter how much time you have and in an age-appropriate way:

Top Tips for Parent and Carers



The DSLs can be contacted via the school office on 01372 272701 or via email: dsl@barnett-wood.surrey.sch.uk

Safer
Internet
Day 2025 | Tuesday
11 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

These advice pages answer some of the most common questions or concerns that parents and carers might have when it comes to thinking about managing influence or navigating change online.

Topics covered include:

- 'Things change so fast online, it's hard to keep up with what my child is doing.'
- 'My child is asking to play a game or download an app that I don't know about, what can I do?'
- 'My child is asking for a new device and I'm not sure they're ready for one.'
- 'I'm not sure if the content my child is watching is a good influence on them; what can I do?'
- 'What does an influencer do and how can they affect children's behaviour?'

You'll also find information about how to make a report on an app, game or website, and links to resources and advice about a wider range of issues.

Don't forget you can always visit our Online Safety page on our website for further videos, tips and advice. Or speak to a member of staff if you have a concern around online safety.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting online safety and empowering our children to become responsible digital citizens.

Parent Drop In Session - Online Safety

Do you need further help or advice with how to keep your child and family safe online? We are holding an informal drop in session for parents and carers with Miss Charlton and Mrs Gibbard on **Wednesday 12th February 8.45 - 9.30am**. Key topics will include:

- Understanding online risks and how to mitigate them.
- Tools and strategies for setting up parental controls.
- How to talk to your children about their online activities.
- Resources for reporting and addressing online issues.



Pop along for a tea/coffee and opportunity to share your experiences and concerns with other parents and staff. There will be lots of handouts and links to helpful websites for ongoing support.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Next week we will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week 2025. Place2Be launched the children's mental health awareness week in 2015 to empower, equip and give a voice to every child in the UK. This year's theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself': *"We want to equip and empower children, young people, and the adults who surround them to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them"*.

Place2Be's
**CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK**

3-9
FEB
2025

The theme of the week ties in very well with our current My Happy Minds topic called 'Celebrate', where children are learning what character strengths are and how they make us unique and special, and about how to recognise the character strengths in themselves. The children learn that when we use our character strengths, we can be our very best selves, that we all have our own unique set of strengths and we are all different. The five main character strengths the children learn about are:



Love and Kindness



Bravery and Honesty



Exploring and Learning



Teamwork and Friendship



Love of Life and Our World

Parents can find out more about Children's Mental Health Week here:

[Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week - Official site](#)



Don't forget you can also download the parent MyHappyMind app and join using our school code: **124982**

We have a range of activities planned for the children throughout the week including assemblies, mindfulness sessions and even well being bingo!

On Friday 7th February, there will be a non-uniform day for all children, with a theme of 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. This could be anything, from wearing something with a picture of something that grows, sharing their favourite character strength like exploring or teamwork, or it could just be coming in as themselves!

Mental Health and Wellbeing

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.



2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.



3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.



4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.



5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.

6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.



7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.



8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.



9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.



10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.



Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Friends of Barnett Wood



**A huge Thank You to everyone who made our disco happen!
It was a very successful evening, raising nearly £300.**



We have made a few changes to published dates for upcoming events. These have now also been updated on the school website calendar, so please ensure you check this and keep an eye out on Whatsapp messages from class reps. We don't want anyone to miss anything!

Upcoming events:

Year 1 Family Bingo Night – Friday 7th February 5.00 – 6.30pm

Entertainment Show – Friday March 7th (time TBC)

Year 2 Family Bingo Night – Friday 28th March 5.00 – 6.30pm



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.

Dates for Diaries



Our remaining INSET days for this academic year are:

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

Next 3 weeks:

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th February		Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
Monday 3rd February	All Day	Year 1 Victorian Day
Friday 7th February	5.00 - 6.30pm	Friends of Barnett Wood Year 1 Family Bingo Night
Friday 7th February	All day	NON-UNIFORM DAY for Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 11th February	All Day	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11th February	4.00-6.00pm	Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 12th February	8.45am	Parents Drop In Information Session Online Safety
Monday 17th - Friday 21st February Half term		
Monday 24th February	8.30am	Children return to school
Wednesday 26th February	8.45am AND 2.15pm	Information meeting for new Swimming Pool Volunteers



[Barnett Wood School Calendar](#)

[Subscribe to our Calendar](#)

