Newsletter

Barnett Wood Infant School

October 2026







October













Message from Mrs Gibbard

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of our first half term! What a busy, exciting and wonderful few weeks it has been at Barnett Wood!

What a lovely way to end the half term with our Harvest Festival on Tuesday. The Year 1 and 2 children performed brilliantly and made us all very proud. Thank you to all the parents and families who came to support on the day and for your kind contributions to the collection for Epsom and Ewell Foodbank. The donations were picked up today and the team from the foodbank want to send their thanks too.

Our Reception children had a wonderful afternoon yesterday, sharing their first half term of learning with their parents and carers. They sang beautifully in the hall before excitedly showing their families around their classrooms and proudly sharing their achievements!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us. It was lovely to see the children's enthusiasm, confidence and beaming smiles as they showed off all they have been learning!

Next half term is always a busy one and we are looking forward to the excitement and festivities of the season! As always, please keep an eye on the calendar, Weekly Bulletins and Year Group pages to keep up to date with what is happening at Barnett Wood.

Have a fabulous half term break!

Kind regards,

Mrs Gibbard

Dates for Diaries

Monday 19th October - Friday 30th October

School closed for 2 week half term

Monday 2nd November

Children return to school

Tuesday 3rd November 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Parent Consultation Evening

Thursday 5th November 4pm - 7pm

Parent Consultation Evening

Friday 13th November

Children in Need day - Non Uniform day in exchange for donation

Friday 13th November

FOBW Quiz Night 7pm

Monday 16th November

Odd Socks Day to start Anti-Bullying Week (no charitable contributions)

Tuesday 17th November 9.30am – 10.30am

Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Friday 27th November

FOBW Non Uniform Day in exchange for Christmas Fair donations.

Wednesday 2nd December

Art and Design Technology Morning. Parents are invited to work with the children making Christmas decorations, cards, etc. to make our classrooms will look festive for December.

Year Group News



Year R

Hedgehogs and Squirrels



Year 1

Owls and Rabbits



Year 2

Badgers and Foxes

Attendance- A message from Mrs Clements

School Matters!
Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

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

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

This year, one of our school development priorities is to maintain attendance and punctuality and to reduce the percentage of persistent absentees. Please take some time to read our updated Attendance and Absence Policy which can be found here: Attendance and Absence Policy

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
					
98.6%	98.1%	99.3%	98.8%	96.3%	97.4%

Our whole school target is at least 97%
Take a look at the class attendance figures so far this year!

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

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



Illness

As we head into the stage in the school year where we usually begin to see a rise in absences due to illness, please please use this guidance to inform your decision on if your child is well enough to come to school:

'Is my child too ill for school'

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



Arbor

We'd like to remind you that you can check your child's attendance data by logging into your account on Arbor!
It is a concern when your child's attendance drops below 95%.

In line with our policy, attendance is monitored half termly. This will be done the first week back after half term. Following this, if your child's attendance is below 93% an Early Concern letter will be in your child's bookbag in the second week back.

A reminder to familiarise yourself with our Attendance and Absence Policy in line with the 'Working together to improve school attendance' DfE guidance.

Attendance and Absence Policy

A reminder that requests for holiday during term time will not be authorised and may inccur a fine if your child has 10 of more unauthorised sessions (equivalent to 5 days)

Harvest Festival



On Tuesday this week, our Year 1 and Year 2 children came together at St George's Church for a very special Harvest Festival celebration.

The children sang and presented beautifully, filling the church with their wonderful voices and reminding us all of the importance of being thankful, sharing and helping others. We were incredibly proud of their confidence, enthusiasm and brilliant performances. Even an unexpected fire alarm couldn't faze them! They remained calm and took it all in their stride – true professionals!



A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for this special occasion. It was lovely to see so many of you there, supporting the children and celebrating with us.

We would also like to say a big thank you for your incredibly generous donations to Epsom and Ewell Foodbank. Your kindness will make a real difference to local families in need.

The donations were collected today, with our wonderful School Councillors lending a helping hand – a fantastic example of our children putting kindness and community spirit into action.





Reading at Home

The Power of Reading at Home: Building Lifelong Learners

The Importance of Reading at Home

At Barnett Wood, we firmly believe that reading serves as the cornerstone of all learning and is essential for unlocking your child's full potential. Sharing reading time at home is one of the most effective ways to nurture your child's growth, not only in academics but also emotionally and culturally.

Why Reading at Home Matters

Research indicates that children who are read to regularly at home develop larger vocabularies and stronger comprehension skills. The Department for Education's Reading Framework (July 2023) emphasises the significant advantages children gain from listening to family members read aloud. Maryanne Wolf, an expert in reading development, underscores the emotional and educational significance of reading:

"Those children might never reach their full potential as human beings if they never learned to read."

Children who are read to daily are exposed to nearly 300,000 more words by the age of five compared to those who are not read to at all. This exposure to language enhances children's understanding of stories, sharpens their attention skills, and fosters a lifelong love for books.



How to make reading at home effective:

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) recommends shared book reading as a central part of parental engagement. It's not just about reading the words on the page but engaging your child in conversations about the story, asking questions, and encouraging them to predict what might happen next. This kind of interaction deepens understanding and makes reading a joyful experience.

Practical tips for parents include:

- Create a special, quiet time for reading that feels like a treat.
- Show curiosity about the book: "This book looks interesting. I wonder what will happen next."
- Read with enjoyment and expression to bring stories to life.
- Encourage your child to retell stories in their own words.

We ask parents to spend time reading at home at least three times a week; this can be reading their Little Wandle Book together, reading to your child or taking it in turns.
Please remember to record each read in your child's Reading Record.



Our Reading Expectations Letter is attached to this Newsletter email to remind all parents!

Future Leaders

Introducing our new Future leaders, who were democratically elected earlier this half term and will be in post until February half term.



Eco Leaders

The children have shown wonderful enthusiasm and confidence in putting themselves forward for these important roles, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part in the elections.



Wellbeing Leaders



Lunchtime Leaders



School Council Leaders



Reading Leaders

We know our new leaders will be wonderful role models, demonstrating our school values and showing that even our youngest children can make a big difference!

Children in Need

Get ready to sparkle, Barnett Wood! This year, we are raising money for Children in Need by taking part in the Strictly 26 Step Dance Challenge - and we will be having a very sparkly non-uniform day on Friday 13th November.



Throughout the week, the children will be learning five new dance steps each day, building up to a fabulous whole-school performance on the Friday. To add some extra Strictly glamour to the occasion, we will also be holding a 'Strictly Sparkles' non-uniform day! We are inviting all children to come to school wearing their sparkliest, glitziest outfits in exchange for a donation to Children in Need through our JustGiving fundraising page (link to follow). We're quite confident that every child's wardrobe has at least one item with sequins lurking somewhere – and if ever there was a day to wear it, this is it! We can't wait to see Barnett Wood transformed into a sea of sparkle as we dance our way towards raising money for this wonderful charity! 🪩✨

Odd Socks Day

Odd Socks Day 2026 takes place on Monday 16th November 2026, marking the start of Anti-Bullying Week and encouraging everyone to wear odd socks to celebrate uniqueness.

By wearing odd socks, we send a powerful message that it's okay to be different and that we should celebrate our individuality.



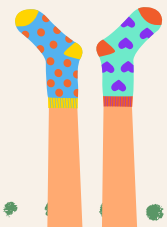
Why is Anti-Bullying Week Important?

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual event that aims to raise awareness about bullying and its impact on young people. It provides an opportunity for schools to come together to discuss the importance of kindness, respect, and inclusion. At Barnett Wood, we believe that every pupil has the right to feel safe and happy at school, and we are committed to creating a culture of respect and support.

Together, let's make Odd Socks Day a memorable event that highlights the importance of celebrating our differences and standing up against bullying.

We can't wait to see everyone's odd socks!





Friends of Barnett Wood

PTA

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all our wonderful Rabbits Class parents and carers for organising and supporting our very first cake sale of the school year!

What a fantastic way to kick things off! With an amazing selection of delicious homemade treats and generous support from our school community, you managed to raise over £200!

You have certainly set the bar high for the rest of the year!
We are so grateful to everyone who baked, donated, helped to sell and, of course, bought the cakes. Your kindness and generosity make such a difference to our school.





Well done, Rabbits Class – a truly sweet success!

Coming Up Next.....

Our quiz night promises plenty of fun, friendly rivalry and a great way to support the school

Max. teams of 6

Book your place on the FOBW Sum Up Store, link below:

FOBW
The Friends Of Barnett Wood School
Reg Charity no 1054361



Safeguarding



Through our Safeguarding curriculum, we regularly remind our children of what to do if they have a worry or if they are sad/upset. We encourage the children to talk to a trusted adult or a friend. All classes have 'Worry Monsters' or 'Chatterboxes' for children to let their teacher know if there is a worry or concern that they would like to share.

Our child-friendly Safeguarding posters are displayed in every classroom and around the school.

Please check that your child knows what to do if they are worried, sad or feel unsafe at any time in school.



Click here to find out more about our Behaviour and Safeguarding Curriculum.

We aim to develop excellent standards of behaviour through our 'Barnett Wood Way' behaviour curriculum. This curriculum carefully defines the behaviours and habits that we expect pupils to demonstrate, and is underpinned by our five values of Kindness, Respect, Resilience, Trust and Aspiration. We want to support our pupils to grow into adults who are kind, polite and respectful, and who put others before themselves. We believe that as pupils practise these behaviours, over time they become automatic routines that positively shape how they feel about themselves and how other people perceive them.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Mrs Anne Gibbard Headteacher	Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is: Mrs Becky Clements Assistant Headteacher	Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is: Mrs Leonie Theobald Senior Teacher
		

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

Coats and PE Kits

As the winter weather approaches, please ensure your child has a hooded, waterproof coat at school every day. We do try and get outside in most weathers, unless it is pouring down!

This includes PE lessons with Mrs Costello. We will be using our outside area as much as we can for games and physical activity. As well as shorts and t-shirt, please can parents provide black / navy tracksuit bottoms and top for their child's PE kit during the winter months.








General Reminders

- **Timings:** Thank you to everyone for working hard to be on time at drop off and collection so far this term. 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 and any subsequent days.
- **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.