



NEWSLETTER



Kind, Confident, Successful Learners

Message from Mrs Gibbard



Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, November has certainly been a busy and productive month! On the first day back after our half term break, we finally got the call that we have been waiting a long time for - Ofsted announced their long awaited inspection visit.

The inspection team evaluated various aspects of our school, including Leadership and Management, Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, and Early Years. We were thrilled to announce earlier this week that Barnett Wood Infant School received Outstanding ratings in all categories! This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our staff, pupils, and the wider school community.

Ofsted raising standards improving lives	
Inspection of Barnett Wood Infant School Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2DF	
Inspection dates:	5 and 6 November 2024
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Early years provision	Outstanding
Previous inspection grade	Outstanding



We want to extend our sincere gratitude to all staff, pupils, parents, and governors for their unwavering support and dedication to our school. This achievement is a testament to the collaborative efforts of everyone involved in Barnett Wood.

The timing of the inspection was fortuitous in that our lovely Assistant Headteacher Mrs Clements was leaving to start her maternity leave that week! Although there won't be many people who would choose to go through an Ofsted inspection at 8 and a half months pregnant, Mrs Clements was a superstar! Leading on Early Years, Phonics and Attendance, she had a busy time with the inspectors. We were so grateful for all her hard work not only through the inspection, but in the last 2 years in her role as Assistant Headteacher.

We are delighted to share another bit of fantastic news - on Tuesday 19th November, Mrs Clements welcomed a beautiful baby boy! Toby George Clements arrived safely and mother and baby are doing very well. So well, that they surprised us with a visit yesterday afternoon!



It's a busy last 3 weeks of the term, so please do check the dates at the end of this newsletter or the website calendar.

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!

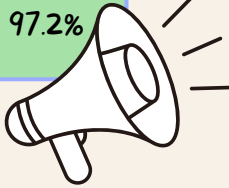


Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Class attendance for September to November

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
97.2%	95.7%	95.0%	96.6%	95.4%	97.2%

Whole school attendance update
 Currently our whole school attendance figure is
96.2%
 This has dropped slightly below our whole school target. We need your help to stay above our target of 97%, please!



Congratulations to Hedgehogs and Foxes 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

Persistent Absence

What is persistent absence?

A child who only attends school for 90% or less of the time is classed as a Persistent Absentee.

Did you know...?

If your child takes too much time off school they will become categorised as 'persistently absent' or PA. Children who take exceptional leave will often become PA for the entire academic year.

So why does persistent absence matter?

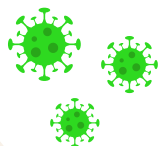
Missing school has a huge impact on how well a pupil gets on at school. The more school a child misses, the harder it is for them to get into a routine of attending regularly and catch up on the work they have missed.

What can I do?

1. Be honest. Every parent struggles at some point, no parent is perfect! If you're having difficulties with your child, seek help. School is a great place to start.
2. Engage. Professionals work with families because they want to help make things better, but they can only help if families talk to them, meet with them, and accept the help that's on offer.

At this time of year, there are plenty of bugs doing the rounds.

If you are unsure whether to keep your child off school, please talk to the School Office or you can visit the NHS Website links below.



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk>

Pets at School

As you may know, our reading dog 'Charlie' has been visiting Barnett Wood for the last few years. We have seen the huge benefit Charlie brings to our children, so have decided to extend visits from 4-legged friends! Meet Coco the Cockapoo!

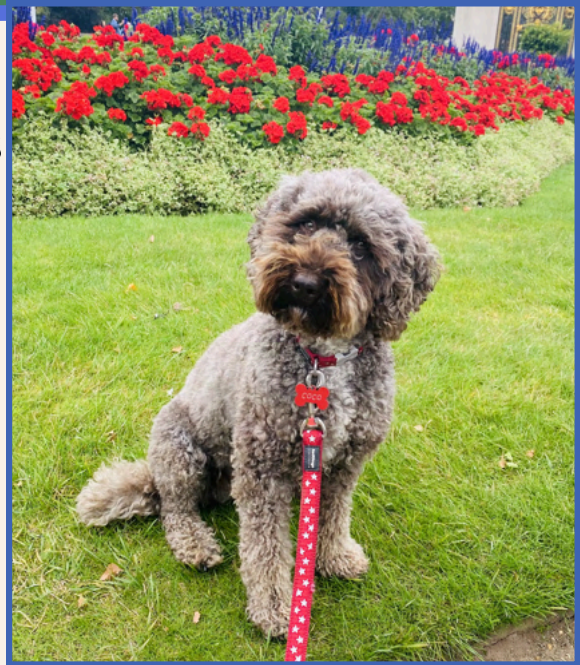
Coco is Mrs Gibbard's dog and has been in the family since she was 10 weeks old. She is now 7 years old, and being a cockapoo, has a friendly, accepting and gentle nature and lots of energy! Her breed are known for non-shedding and are hypoallergenic. Coco has been having trial visits to school and will be visiting once a week, usually on a Friday.



You may be aware that there is a growing movement in many schools to introduce the concept of school pets as a way of teaching all children responsibility and providing a source of pleasure and learning. Of particular interest, is the current move towards 'wellbeing dogs' or 'reading dogs'. These dogs provide a source of comfort and relaxation for children and adults who may need 'someone' to talk to or just someone who will accept them and offer comfort or a calming influence in their lives. There is much evidence that children who struggle with relationships or with managing their own emotions gain a great deal from spending time with a pet.

Academic research has shown that dogs working and helping in the school environment:

- benefit children's social and emotional development
- have a calming effect on pupils, particularly those with behavioural or learning difficulties
- improve behaviour and concentration, reduce stress and improve self-esteem
- encourage expression and participation in more withdrawn children
- foster a sense of responsibility
- motivate pupils to think and to learn, as children have a high level of natural interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of animals
- encourage respect and thereby improving pupils' relationships with each other, parents and teacher



- teach children to nurture and to have respect for life
- help children build confidence in reading
- reduce children's anxieties if they have a fear of dogs
- reading to dogs has been proven to help children develop literacy skills and build confidence, helping to nurture children's enthusiasm for reading.

Our school does have a 'no dogs' policy, however because Charlie and Coco are reading/wellbeing dogs, specific rules will apply to them.

Both dogs will be on a lead at all times when moving around the school property and will always be accompanied by an adult. Coco is also fully insured (public liability insurance) to carry out her role thus allowing her to be on the school site.

We understand that it is not possible for all families to have a dog and therefore we hope that this is an opportunity for children to share in a dog and gain from forming a relationship and contact on a regular basis. We hope you will join us in welcoming Coco to the Barnett Wood family and embrace all that she has to offer the school.

Coco stays mostly in Mrs Gibbard's office during her visits, but will occasionally spend time in classrooms or the playground. Our Dogs at School Policy and Risk Assessment are available on our website. We have added an extra consent on the Arbor Parent Portal for parents to complete. Please let us know if you have any further questions.



Remembrance Service



A big well done to our four Year 2 children who represented Barnett Wood at the Ashted Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Sunday 10th November. This significant event allowed our children to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



Participating in the Remembrance service not only allowed our pupils to show their respect but also provided them with a deeper understanding of history and the importance of remembrance. Well done Cillian, Harriet, Millie and William.



Sports News!



We are thrilled to share the highlights from the recent Year 2 football festival held at The Greville Primary School, where our talented squad of 10 pupils showcased their skills and sportsmanship in an exciting afternoon of football.

The festival featured matches against The Greville and West Ashted schools, providing our pupils with a fantastic opportunity to put their training into practice and experience competitive play.



In the first match against The Greville, our team faced an early challenge, falling behind 2-0. However, demonstrating remarkable resilience and teamwork, our team rallied together to equalise the score with two fantastic goals, ending the game in a thrilling 2-2 draw. Well done Jack R. for scoring both goals!

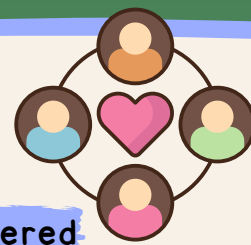
The second match against West Ashted was equally competitive. Our pupils continued to show their grit and determination, securing a 1-1 draw. The team's ability to maintain composure and adapt to the game dynamics was impressive, and they demonstrated great sportsmanship throughout the match.



Barnett Wood finished second overall, however the festival was not just about the scores; it was a celebration of teamwork, respect, and enjoyment of the game. Our pupils displayed excellent sportsmanship, cheering for one another and congratulating their opponents after each match. Well done everyone!



Curriculum Focus - RHSE



At Barnett Wood Infant School, we are committed to providing a well-rounded education that prepares our pupils not only academically but also socially and emotionally. One of the key components of this is our **Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RSHE)** programme, which plays a vital role in helping our pupils develop essential life skills and a healthy understanding of relationships.

What is RHSE?

RHSE is designed to equip children with the knowledge, skills, and understanding they need to navigate their relationships and health as they grow. The curriculum covers a range of topics, including:

- **Relationships:** Understanding friendships, family dynamics, and the importance of respect and kindness in all interactions.
- **Health Education:** Learning about physical health, emotional well-being, and the importance of making healthy choices.
- **Personal Safety:** Teaching children how to keep themselves safe, including understanding boundaries and how to seek help when needed.



We teach our RHSE curriculum through PSHE lessons using the Jigsaw programme. Jigsaw promotes a whole-school approach to PSHE, ensuring that RHSE is integrated across all year groups and subjects. This consistency helps reinforce key messages and values throughout the school community.

The curriculum is tailored to be age-appropriate, with specific lessons designed for each year group. This ensures that pupils receive relevant information that aligns with their developmental stage and understanding. Click the links below for more information:

[Jigsaw RHSE - A Guide for Parents](#)

[Jigsaw RHSE - Overview Map](#)

Key Topics Covered

Throughout the year, our children will explore several key topics within RSHE:

- **Friendship and Respect:** Understanding what makes a good friend and how to treat others with kindness.
- **Body Awareness:** Learning about the human body, including basic anatomy and the importance of personal hygiene.
- **Emotional Well-being:** Discussing feelings and emotions, and how to express them in healthy ways.
- **Safety and Consent:** Teaching children about personal boundaries and the importance of saying no when they feel uncomfortable.
- **Healthy Choices:** Exploring the importance of nutrition, exercise, and mental health.



Supporting Your Child at Home

We encourage you to engage with your child about what they are learning in RSHE. Here are some tips for supporting these discussions at home:

- **Ask Open-Ended Questions:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings about the topics they are learning. Questions like "What did you learn about friendship today?" can spark meaningful conversations.
- **Share Your Values:** Discuss your own views on relationships and health, helping your child understand different perspectives.
- **Be Approachable:** Let your child know that they can come to you with any questions or concerns they may have.

You can find out more about our RHSE curriculum, including our recently updated RHSE policy on our website here:

RHSE | Barnett Wood Infant School



BARNETT WOOD INFANT SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS

FAIR 2024

DEC 08

11AM - 2PM

2024

FREE ENTRY

- Market Stalls
- Santas Grotto
- Game Stalls
- Craft Room
- Bottle Tombola



RAFFLE ~ £1 PER TICKET

Top Prize: £200

Kindly Donated By:
Thirty Designs

Plus many more amazing prizes

Hot Food ~ Christmas Dogs

Create your own Christmas dog with delicious Christmas themed meats and fillings





Anti-bullying Week

11th - 15th November 2024

At Barnett Wood, we make every effort to provide an environment in which children and adults feel safe, secure, valued and respected. It is important to us that everyone feels confident to talk if they are worried, knowing they will be effectively listened to.

We celebrated anti-bullying week this year by wearing odd socks to school on Tuesday 12th November.

Wearing odd socks helps us to appreciate that we are all different and that being our unique selves is really important!







Our Anti-Bullying Policy is currently being updated and can be found on our school website. We also have a 'child-friendly' version of our Anti-Bullying Policy, which is easy for our pupils to understand and of which they can take ownership.



If you have any concerns about a child's safety, whether it's inside or outside of school, please contact any of our Designated Safeguarding Leads immediately.

The following staff members are Designated Safeguarding Leads at Barnett Wood:

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	Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is: Mrs Helen Ball Senior Teacher
			

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



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING



Courses like Bikeability are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began; there are Bikeability courses for adults, too. Cycle training teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, signaling and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.

2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE



Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to have children 'grow into' theirs by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try out a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.

3 TRY A CARGO BIKE



Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.

4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE



It's a good idea to do some routine checks on any bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The 'M check' is particularly useful: assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and saddle, working from front to back. Online tutorial videos can also teach you how to carry out basic repairs if needed. For more complicated fixes, head to your local bike shop.

5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR



Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any attachments for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly. If you're riding after dark, remember to fit your bikes with a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.

6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN

Take a smooth, flat route if possible, so it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an indirect but easier path as opposed to a shorter, busier one. Look out for the National Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.

7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS



For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding approximately a metre out will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.

8 AVOID PARKED CARS



When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just in case anyone inside opens a door unexpectedly or the vehicle itself starts to move. This precaution will also deter anyone driving behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.

9 START A 'BIKE BUS'



Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers, in case anything goes wrong along the way. Team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other folks asking to join you?

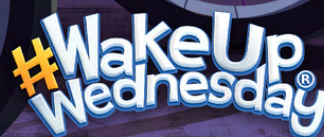
10 HAVE FUN!



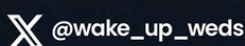
Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Ease children into the hobby by starting them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.

Meet Our Expert

Sophie Gordon is the campaigns manager at Cycling UK, a charity which inspires and enables people to start cycling. She has spent six years campaigning for safer roads and more protected cycle paths, while supporting communities to call for better cycling conditions where they live.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/teaching-cycle-safety>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.11.2024

Children in Need - Thank you!



A huge Pudsey



to all of our families for their donations to Children in Need this year. The children had a wonderful day dressed up!!

We raised an amazing

£306



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:

Monday 6th January 2025

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

Next 3 weeks:

Wednesday 4th December	8.45 am - 11.30am	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.
Sunday 8th December	11am - 2pm	Friends of Barnett Wood Christmas Fair
Wednesday 11th December	1.30pm	Dress rehearsal for Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas celebrations at St Georges Church. If you cannot make the performance tomorrow you may attend the rehearsal. PLEASE DO NOT COME TO BOTH!
Thursday 12th December	9.15am	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Celebrations at St George's Church for families
Friday 13th December	All day	Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 18th December	2.30pm	Reception Classes 'Music and Mince Pies' Christmas celebration for parents
Thursday 19th December	All day	Christmas parties. Children come to school in party clothes and have a day of fun activities.
Friday 20th December	1.30pm	Last day of Autumn Term - school finishes at 1.30pm. Honeybees finishes at 4.30pm
23rd December - 3rd January 2025 Christmas Holidays		
Monday 6th January 2025	All day	INSET DAY - School closed
Tuesday 7th January	8.30am	Children return to school