

Barnett Wood

Infant School



October 2024

NEWSLETTER



Kind, Confident, Successful Learners

Barnett Wood Infant School

213, Barnett Wood Lane,

Ashted

KT21 2DF



Message from Mrs Gibbard

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well we've made it to the end of the longest half term in history! A huge well done to all the children and staff for showing such determination and resilience to keep giving 100% right up until the very end!

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. Your kindness will make a significant difference to families in need within our community.

Our Reception classes had a lovely afternoon yesterday sharing their half term learning with their parents and carers, including a couple of songs in the hall. Thank you to all the parents that attended, it was joyous to see the children so excited to show their classrooms and learning to you!

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.

Thank you once again for your support and involvement in our school community. Your contributions, whether big or small, make a significant impact on the experiences we can offer our children. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the next exciting chapter of the school year!

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 Clements



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

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



Keeping up to date with your child's attendance

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%.

We have completed our monitoring for this half term. If your child's attendance is below 95% an Early Concern letter will be shared with you at your parent consultation appointment in the first week back.

As you are aware, I will be starting maternity leave during the first week back after half term.

Mrs Gibbard and Mrs Theobald will continue to lead Attendance in my absence. Please reach out to them if your family need support with any barriers that are having an impact on getting your child into school.

A reminder to familiarise yourself with our updated 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 incur a fine if your child has 10 or more unauthorised sessions (equivalent to 5 days)

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
97.82%	98.59%	97.32%	97.05%	96.69%	98.79%

Whole school attendance update

In our last newsletter I shared with you that our whole school attendance target for this academic year is to reach at least 97%. Currently our attendance figure is 97.69% Thank you, let's keep it up!



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

	100%	97%-99.9%	93% - 96.9%	90% - 92.9%	Below 90%
What does this look like in terms of number of days absent for my child?	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

Future Leaders

Our Future leaders groups were democratically elected earlier this half term and will be in post until February half term. They have already had their first meetings and are busy planning their manifestos for the coming months!



School Council Leaders



Eco Leaders

Our Reading Leaders led their first assembly this week, sharing their recommended reads and promoting a love of reading!



Reading Leaders



Wellbeing Leaders



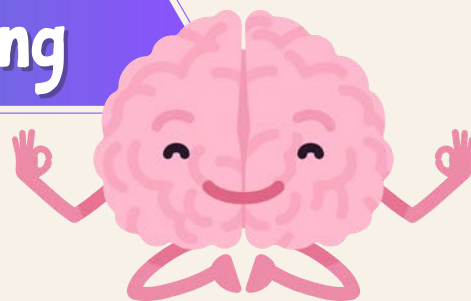
Lunchtime Leaders



Mental Health and Wellbeing



Mental Health and Wellbeing continues to be a priority at Barnett Wood this year.



We will be raising the profile further of how we can support mental health in our school community and provide pastoral support that improves well-being and strengthens resilience. We will also continue to train staff to identify where pupils mental health may need some support, both from our own staff or from external agencies where necessary.

Mental health is as important as physical health, and it plays a crucial role in how our children think, feel, and behave. By prioritising mental well-being, we can help our children develop resilience, manage stress, and build positive relationships with their peers and teachers. We firmly believe this foundation is essential for their overall development and success in school and beyond.



As part of our commitment towards this goal, we are delighted to let you know that Mrs King (Year 2 LSA) is currently undertaking training to be a qualified Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. You can read more about our ELSA support on our website here:

[Emotional Literacy Support | Barnett Wood Infant School](#)

There are lots of free resources that families are also able to access on the ELSA Support website linked below. Great for a rainy day in half term!

[Free Resources Archives - Elsa Support](#)

As part of our whole school approach to mental health, we have been looking at ways of integrating more opportunities for wellbeing into our curriculum and daily activities. This includes teaching our pupils about emotional health, resilience, and respectful relationships.

To this end, we are very excited to share that we have invested in a new programme called 'My Happy Mind' which we will be launching after half term.



As a whole school programme grounded in science and dedicated to building positive mental wellbeing, My Happy Mind helps children understand how their brains work and creates a culture that helps to build children's resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. The programme also teaches the children how to self-regulate and manage their emotions in stressful times, allowing them to be their very best selves!

We will be sharing lots more information about the programme next half term, but in the mean time you can click the link below for an introductory video:



Odd Socks Day



Odd Socks Day

We'll be wearing our odd socks this Odd Socks Day, will you?

Tuesday 12th November 2024



Odd Socks Day is on Tuesday 12th November and is a fun and engaging way to kick off Anti-Bullying Week. It encourages everyone to wear mismatched socks to school, symbolising that we are all unique and should embrace our differences. 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 fostering 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!



Meet Charlie - Our Reading Dog



Charlie is a trained 'Pets as Therapy' dog who comes into school every Wednesday afternoon with his owner Sue, who is Benji in Year 2's grandmother. As you can see, he loves to hear children read! Charlie has been part of our school for nearly 3 years, and his visits always cheer us up. Reading to dogs develops children's confidence, interest and enjoyment in reading, and of course their literacy skills. Dogs are non judgemental and great listeners!

After half term we will be inviting Reception children to read with Charlie, but we will always gain parental consent before doing so. See our website for more information:

[Pets as Therapy | Barnett Wood Infant School](#)

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 Coach Harvey and Coach Peter. 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.



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.

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



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:

<p>Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Mrs Anne Gibbard Headteacher</p>	<p>Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is: Mrs Becky Clements Assistant Headteacher</p>	<p>Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is: Mrs Leonie Theobald Senior Teacher</p>	<p>Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is: Mrs Helen Ball Senior Teacher</p>
			

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

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgment. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.

2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."

3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now."

4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET

Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.

5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES

Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.

6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practicing calm communication.

7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.

8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions boosts confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.

9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES

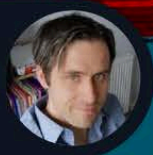
Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are!

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, which works with schools on improving their mental health provisions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Children in Need - 15th November



We are planning a 'Challenge Yourself to Dress Up' day for Children in Need.

We'll be once again raising money for 'Children in Need' and we need your support! On Friday 15th November, we want you to come to school in fancy dress - you can choose whatever you want to wear.

Be it a princess or a pirate, a super hero or super star, a pyjama day or even take inspiration from Pudsey and dress in yellow with spots! Whatever you choose, wear something that will make your whole class smile!

We will be collecting money for Children in Need via our Go Fund Me page, details will be shared closer to the day.



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:

Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November HALF TERM		
Monday 4th November	8.30am	Children return to school - first day of Autumn Term 2
Monday 4th November	AM	School Nurses - Flu Immunisations
Tuesday 5th November	3.30pm - 6.30pm	Parent Consultation Evening for all classes
Thursday 7th November	4pm - 7pm	
Saturday 9th November	10am - 12pm	Friends of Barnett Wood Pre-loved baby and child table top sale
Tuesday 12th November	All day	Odd Socks Day for Friendship Week (no charitable contributions)
Thursday 14th November	9.30am - 10.30pm	Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Friday 15th November	All day	Children in Need day - 'Challenge yourself to Dress Up' Day!
Friday 29th November	All day	Non-uniform day for Christmas Fair Donations.
Friday 29th November	pm	Friends Christmas Wreath making event - school hall