



# NEWSLETTER



20/09/2024



We love to read!



**Kind, Confident, Successful Learners**

# Message from Mrs Gibbard



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first monthly Newsletter of the 2024-25 academic year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families joining us this year. The term has kicked off wonderfully, and it has been a pleasure to see everyone in the past few weeks. The children have smoothly adapted back into their routines, and it's a joy to see so many cheerful faces entering the school gates each morning!

We want to thank all the parents who have attended school events so far this year. We had a busy start with our 'Meet the Teacher' evenings, Parent Volunteer session, and our Barnett Wood Friends Association Annual General Meeting. We also shared our Phonics and Reading Information recording this week, thank you to Mrs Clements and Mrs Theobald for this useful presentation. We understand that it's not always easy to get time off work or organise childcare to attend such events at school. We always make sure that any information or presentations from school events are published on our school website to keep parents fully informed. Please check our Year Group Pages and Parent Information page for more information.

Our Diary Dates for the year ahead are published on our website calendar, which can be found here:

[Barnett Wood School Calendar](#)

You can also 'subscribe' to our calendar and add all important dates to your own online calendar here:

[Subscribe to our Calendar](#)

We also send reminders of upcoming events on our weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters and social media pages. 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



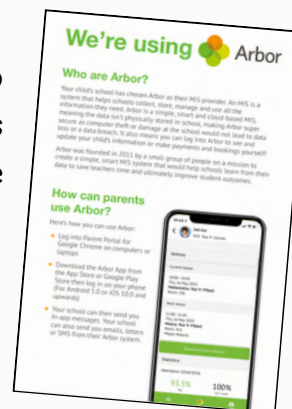
Year 2  
Badgers and Foxes



Our office staff sent an email this afternoon to remind all parents to log into the Arbor Parent Portal. Please ensure you check your child's details including emergency contacts are up to date as it is vital we have at least 2 emergency contacts for every child.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gibbard



# Pupil Premium Grant - are you eligible?



Did you know that registering for Pupil Premium means that our school could get extra money?

Pupil Premium is additional funding that the Government gives to mainstream and special schools in England to help children from low income families. The Pupil Premium Grant must be spent to help eligible pupils reach their full potential, both academically and socially, and the school will decide how best to spend this. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium Grant (sometimes known as free school meals), we want to encourage you to register them.

Children in reception, year 1 or year 2 get free school meals anyway through a different scheme. But if they are eligible for Pupil Premium/ Free school meals, we still really want you to register – see why below.

Children who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them if you prefer them to have packed lunches. But registering them is still important because for every child registered for free school meals, the school gets an extra £1,480 through 'pupil premium' funding. Every child registered for free school meals makes a big difference to the school.

## Is my child eligible for free school meals?

If you receive these benefits, your child may be eligible:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) if you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - but not if you receive Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, if your earned income after tax is £616.67 per month (£7,400 per year) or less.



There are also Premiums available to children of Forces Families and Looked After Children. Please let us know if this may apply to your child.

For more information, please visit:

If you think you may be eligible for Pupil Premium, please contact the school office  
by Monday 30th September.

# Parking / Road Safety



## A Request for Safe and Courteous Parking

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to kindly ask parents who are dropping off or collecting their children to park safely and with consideration for our neighbours and other pedestrians and road users. Double parking, parking on double yellow lines, obstructing driveways, and parking on pavements – especially on Church Road opposite our school – are all major concerns among local residents and parents alike. These practices pose a hazard to other motorists and pedestrians, particularly young ones.

We appreciate your cooperation and support in ensuring the safety of all our children and families, and showing respect for our neighbours. Thank you.

# Attendance- A message from Mrs Clements



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. As you are aware from our Meet the Teacher sessions, new statutory guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance' has been in place from August. Please take some time to read our updated Attendance and Absence Policy which can be found here:

[Attendance and Absence Policy 2024](#)

## A reminder about Penalty Notices:

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

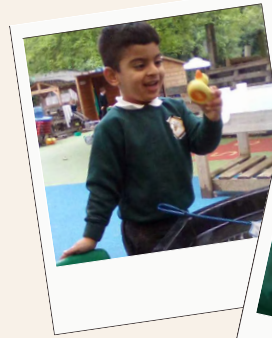
Our whole school target is at least 97%  
Take a look at the class attendance figures so far this year!

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
98.2%	97.9%	97.8%	98.2%	97.1%	95.2%

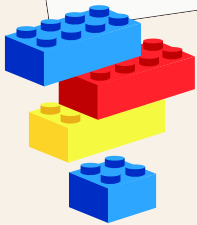
Congratulations to Hedgehogs and Rabbits for having the highest attendance so far this year!

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

# Our new Reception children













We are so proud of our new Reception children who have settled into school life at Barnett Wood really quickly. We've had a very busy few weeks making new friends and have already learnt so many new things!





Effective communication between school and home is a vital component of a successful school. Many (most!) parents have busy work and home lives and we want to ensure that all families of Barnett Wood are confident that they are receiving accurate and up to date information about key events, learning and school life. The table below sets out all the ways in which we communicate with parents:

<p><b>Emails from the school office</b></p> 	<p>Emails from the school office are sent via our Management Information System Arbor. We use emails to share monthly newsletters, letters and reminders. If you think you are not receiving emails from the office, please contact Mrs Burrows or Mrs Thorn in the school office.</p>
<p><b>Monthly Newsletters and Weekly Bulletins</b></p> 	<p>Our newsletter is sent out on the last school day Friday of every month and is our main source of up to date information, news, reminders and diary dates. Weekly bulletins are sent every Friday for reminders for the following week.</p>
<p> <b>School Website</b> <a href="http://www.barnettwood.co.uk">www.barnettwood.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Our website has a wealth of information, from info about our curriculum, to photos, school policies, clubs, term dates, newsletters and more. Our calendar page contains all school events and can be synced to your own digital calendar. We are continuously updating and populating our website pages.</p>
<p><b>School Website: Year Group Pages</b></p> 	<p>Our year group pages are updated every Friday with photos from the classrooms, a brief overview of the learning that has happened in each year group that week and information on upcoming learning. Teachers also post useful links that can be used at home to enhance your child's learning.</p> <p>Our year group pages are designed to inform parents of week to week learning and help steer those "What did you do at school today?" conversations!</p>
<p><b>Early Years Foundation Stage - Tapestry</b></p> 	<p>The 'Tapestry' online platform builds a very special record of a child's experiences, development and learning journey through their final year of EYFS in Reception. Parents that have registered with the app can see observations of their child's learning in class.</p>
<p><b>Reading Records</b></p> 	<p>Your child's progress in reading is recorded in their Reading Records at least once every week. Parents are also expected to record their child's reading at home at least 3 times per week.</p>

<p><b>Parent Consultations evenings and Annual Reports</b></p>	<p>We offer parents regular opportunities for finding out about their child's progress and attainment throughout the year. Parent Consultations Evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring Terms. Annual Reports are sent out in the Summer term.</p>
<p><b>Meet the Teacher events, Parent Workshops, Parent Forum Coffee mornings and Parent Surveys</b></p> 	<p>We provide opportunities throughout the school year for parents to attend information evenings about learning and school life, such as workshops on Phonics or Maths. We also regularly invite parents to contribute their opinions and ideas in our Parent Forums or Parent Surveys. As partners in your child's educational journey at Barnett Wood, we value your input and feedback into whole school development priorities.</p>
<p><b>First Aid/bumped heads letters and phone calls home</b></p>	<p>If your child has received a bump on the head during playtime, the class teacher will give you a bumped head note at collection time. If you are not around at pick up time, the school office and class teachers will ensure that any important information regarding your child is communicated with a phone call home.</p>
<p><b>Social Media:</b></p>  @barnett_wood_infants  @barnettwoodinfants  @BarnettWood	<p>We use social media to share photos and updates of learning from the classroom, as well as reminders or notices. Our social media pages are a secondary source of info, which means we will not use these as our first method of communication for important information, but more as a 'keep in touch' and reminders tool. Our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages are all interlinked, so you can follow us on your favourite one – or all three!</p>

There are also informal ways of keeping up to date, such as class Whatsapp groups or Facebook groups – these are useful for last minute reminders from class reps such as non-uniform days or cake sales!

It goes without saying that all of the above methods of communication do not replace good old face to face communication. There will always be a member of the staff on the school gate every morning or afternoon to answer any quick questions or queries. Our teachers are at the door at the end of every day. If you have an important message for the class teacher during the school day, such as change of pick up arrangements, please phone the school office. If you have a concern or would like to speak to your child's class teacher about any issues, please phone or email [info@barnett-wood.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@barnett-wood.surrey.sch.uk) for the attention of your child's class teacher or Mrs Gibbard. We cannot guarantee that emails will be read by teachers during the school day, but will ensure a response within 48 hours.

# Phonics and Early Reading

We hope that you found the Phonics and Early Reading presentation useful. Thank you to those of you who have given feedback and submitted any questions. We will collate all questions and sent out responses to these next week. It is particularly helpful for Reception Parents, or if you would like a refresher.

## Phonics and Early Reading Workshop September 2024

We will be presenting another one in the Spring Term to update Reception parents on the next part of our phonics and reading journey.

We're teaching every child to read with



A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education

# Group Reading and Expectations



Year 1 and Year 2 have already begun their group reading sessions this year. It's been wonderful to hear them read with prosody and confidence.

Reception will be starting group reading next week.

As part of our Home School Agreement, parents are expected to listen to their child read their group reading book 3 times at home and record this in their reading record.

A reminder that all group reading books must be returned every Monday so that they can be used the same day for another group of children.

If any books are damaged or lost, we will request that you replace them.

# Reading Raffle

We are continuing our Reading Raffle this year as part of our aim to continue to develop all children's love of reading.

For our new parents, each read, recorded in your child's reading record = 1 raffle ticket. Reading entries are counted on a Friday and a ticket is drawn during Achiever's Assembly. The successful ticket holder, gets to choose a picture book to take home and add to their own collection.



# Friends of Barnett Wood

Our Friends of Barnett Wood AGM took place this week where we welcomed some new members to the team. It's not too late to join our friendly committee or even to just offer your services for any of our fundraising events throughout the year. Contact [friendsofbarnettwood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbarnettwood@gmail.com) for more information or join their Facebook page here:

[Friends of Barnett Wood School | Facebook](#)

Our first fundraising event of the year is on Saturday 19th October when we will be hosting a cake sale and open morning for current and prospective parents - get in touch if you can bake some cakes or lend a hand!

## Open Morning Cake Sale

# 'Bake and Taste' Open Morning

Saturday October 19th

10.00am - 12.00pm



Come and join us for our annual cake sale and open morning for both current and prospective parents.

Donations of cakes or other baked goods (nut free please) for our sale are very much appreciated.

We would also be grateful of any cakes that are egg, gluten or dairy free too to cater for dietary needs.

Where possible please ensure ingredients are clearly labelled.

Please bring any donations to the school office on Friday 18th October.



# Clubs at Barnett Wood - Autumn 2024



At Barnett Wood we realise the importance of enriching our curriculum with extra-curricular activities, as they give pupils a broader perspective on life, higher self-esteem and help them to develop essential life skills such as teamwork, problem solving and leadership.

Our aim is to provide a variety of lunchtime and after school clubs for your child to take part in, with something to suit everyone, whether they want to develop an existing skill or try something new – no matter their ability. Our lunchtime clubs are updated every half term.

Our external sports coaches Kiko run 3 after school clubs during the week, which Year 1 and 2 children can join. Reception children can join these clubs after Easter. Our resident Yoga teacher Mrs Laho-McCormack also runs Yoga club after school on Tuesdays, this will start after the October half term. . Please see details below on how to book these clubs.

## Lunchtime Clubs

Our lunchtime clubs run by staff are free of charge and are open to all year groups and will begin in Autumn 2. Kiko coaches offer different sports to take part in on the playground during the lunch hour. Other clubs on offer next half term include Choir with Mrs Gibbard and a 'Walk and Talk' club.

Club	Day/Time	Booking details
Kiko Coaches - Multi Sports - open all year groups	Tues/Wed/Thurs 12.00-1.00pm	School funded club, no booking required.
Choir Club - open to Years 1 and 2	Thursdays 12.00 - 12.30pm	Teacher led club, no booking required.

## After School Clubs

Club	Day/Time	Booking details
Kiko - Year 1 and 2 Football	Mondays 3.05 - 4.15pm	<a href="#">Click to book - Kiko After School Clubs @ Barnett Wood</a>
Kiko - Year 1 and 2 Gymnastics	Tuesdays 3.05 - 4.15pm	<a href="#">Click to book - Kiko After School Clubs @ Barnett Wood</a>
Yoga with Mrs Laho-McCormack <b>(after October half term)</b>	Tuesdays 3.50pm - 4.35pm	email: <a href="mailto:claire@angelyogasurrey.co.uk">claire@angelyogasurrey.co.uk</a>
Kiko - Year 1 and 2 Multisports	Thursdays 3.05 - 4.15pm	<a href="#">Click to book - Kiko After School Clubs @ Barnett Wood</a>



Safeguarding our children is at the heart of everything we do at Barnett Wood. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

Our Safeguarding policy can be found on our school website.

If at any time you are worried about a child's safety, either in or out of school, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff 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](mailto:dsl@barnett-wood.surrey.sch.uk)



As part of our commitment to supporting parents with all matters to do with Safeguarding, our school subscribes to the National College Online Safety platform, which provides useful one page guides for parents on all sorts of topics. We share these in our monthly newsletters. Previous 'What Parents Need to Know About .....' guides can be found on our Safeguarding page on the school website.





Parents and families are warmly invited to  
join us for our



# Harvest Festival



Years 1 and 2 -  
Tuesday 22nd October  
9.15am  
at St George's Church



This year we will be collecting food donations for  
Epsom and Ewell Foodbank. We will send more  
details of items requested next week.



# Prospective Parents - Open Days



Do you know someone with a child starting school in September 2024? Don't forget to tell them about our Open Days!

## Barnett Wood Infant School



# OPEN DAYS



Are you looking for a school place for your child for September 2025?

Come and visit us on our open days:

Thursday 3rd October 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Saturday 19th October 10.00am - 12.00pm

Thursday 14th November 9.30am - 10.30am

To book your place,  
visit our school website:  
[www.barnettwood.co.uk](http://www.barnettwood.co.uk)  
or scan the QR code:



'Kind, Confident, Successful Learners'

## 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 and egg 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.



Our remaining INSET days for this academic year are:  
**Monday 6th January 2025**  
**Tuesday 22nd April 2025**  
**Monday 2nd June 2025**

## Next 4 weeks:

Thursday 3rd Oct	1.30 to 2.30pm	OPEN AFTERNOON for prospective parents
Tuesday 8th October	PM	Friends of Barnett Wood Event 'Show time' All year groups welcome!
Thursday 10th October	PM	Friends of Barnett Wood Event 'Show time' All year groups welcome!
Thursday 17th October	AM	School Photographer- Individual Photos
Friday 18th October	All Day	Non-Uniform Day Come to School with Crazy Hair!
Saturday 19th Oct	10.00am - 12.00pm	'Bake and Taste' Coffee OPEN MORNING at school - for current and prospective parents and families
Tuesday 22nd October	9:15am	Year 1 and Year 2 Harvest Celebration at St George's. Parents welcome
Thursday 24th October	2:30pm	Reception Classes 'Share their learning' with parents
Friday 25th October		Last day of Autumn 1 half term - normal school finish time 3.05pm
Friday 25th October	PM	Reception Family Bingo Night

**Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November**  
**HALF TERM**