

Message from Mrs Gibbard



Dear Parents and Carers,

November has been a busy month here at Barnett Wood Infant School, filled with meaningful events and exciting learning opportunities. We've come together to observe Remembrance Day with respect and reflection, supported the Children in Need charity through fun and engaging activities, and welcomed an inspiring author visit that sparked imagination and a love of reading across the school. Our pupils have been fully immersed in their learning, demonstrating kindness, curiosity, and resilience every day.

Looking ahead, December promises to be just as fun-filled and festive, with plenty of special events and celebrations on the horizon. Please remember to keep an eye on our school calendar and bulletins to stay up-to-date with all the key dates and activities planned for the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support in making Barnett Wood a happy, caring, and inspiring place for our children to grow and learn.

Kind regards, 
Mrs Gibbard

Year Group News



Year R

Hedgehogs and Squirrels



Year 1

Owls and Rabbits



Year 2

Badgers and Foxes

Dates for Diaries

Wednesday 3rd December

Art and DT Christmas Crafts Morning
8.45am - 11.50am

Thursday 4th December

Non uniform day - wear your pyjamas to school! Donations for bottle tombola and lucky bags please.

Friday 5th December

School closed for INSET day

Friday 12th December

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Saturday 13th December

Friends of Barnett Wood Christmas Fair
11am - 2pm

Monday 15th December

Dress rehearsal for Year 1 and Year 2
Christmas celebrations at St Georges Church.
1.30pm - 2.30pm

Tuesday 16th December

Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Celebrations at
St George's Church for families 9.15am

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas parties - children come to school in
party wear.

Thursday 18th December

Reception Classes 'Music and Mince Pies'
Christmas celebration for parents 2.15pm

Friday 19th December

End of Term - **Honeybees After
school club closes at 4.30pm.**

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. Please take some time to read our Attendance and Absence Policy which can be found here: [Attendance and Absence Policy](#)

Reception		Year 1		Year 2		Whole School
						97.04%
97.4%	96.3%	97.6%	97.9% 🏆	96.3%	96.7%	

Congratulations to Rabbits Class 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 Absenteeism?

Persistent absenteeism is when a pupil misses 10% or more of school sessions across the school year. This might seem like just a few days here and there, but it can have a significant impact on your child's progress and confidence.

Why Does Attendance Matter?

- Missing school means missing vital lessons and experiences that help children build knowledge and skills over time.
- Pupils who attend regularly tend to have improved social skills and build stronger friendships.
- Regular attendance helps children develop positive habits that last a lifetime.

How We Support Families

We understand that sometimes absence is unavoidable due to illness or other serious reasons. When absences occur, we ask parents to:

- Contact the school on the first day of absence to explain the reason.
- Keep us informed each day the absence continues.
- Work with us if your child is facing difficulties that affect their attendance.

For pupils who miss more than 10% of school, we will be in touch to offer additional support and discuss how we can help overcome any barriers to attendance.

Together, We Can Make a Difference

Your partnership is key to ensuring your child attends school regularly and on time. Please remember:

The school day starts at 8:30am and even a few days absence can add up an impact learning.

If you have any concerns or need support with attendance, please contact Mrs Clements, via the school office. We are here to help!

Thank you for your continued support in making Barnett Wood Infant School a place where every child belongs and succeeds.

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 incur a fine if your child has 10 or more unauthorised sessions (equivalent to 5 days)

Remembrance Service



A big well done to our three Year 2 students who proudly represented Barnett Wood at the Ashted Remembrance Service held at the War Memorial on Sunday, November 10th. This meaningful event provided our children with the opportunity to honor the courageous men and women who have served in the armed forces and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

By participating in the Remembrance Service, our pupils not only demonstrated their respect but also gained a deeper understanding of history and the significance of remembrance. Thank you Skylar, Lucia, and Luke!



Children in Need - Thank you!

A huge Thank You to all of our families for your donations to Children in Need this year. The children had a wonderful day dressed up and made us all smile.

Some of our Year 2 children even took over Achievers' Assembly on the day!



We raised an amazing

£441

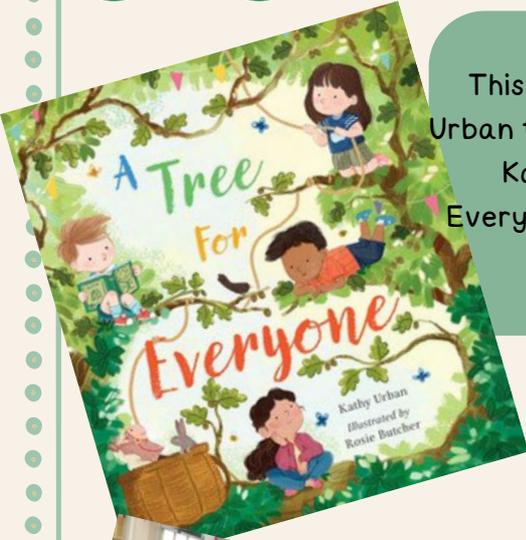
THANK YOU



Author Visit-Kathy Urban



This week we were thrilled to welcome author Kathy Urban to Barnett Wood for a special storytelling session! Kathy shared her enchanting story, *A Tree for Everyone*, taking our pupils on an immersive adventure filled with imagination and discovery.



The children were captivated as Kathy brought the story to life, exploring themes of kindness, community, and the magic of nature. They also learned fascinating insights about what it means to be an author—how stories are created and the joy of sharing them with others.

This memorable visit inspired our pupils to think creatively and sparked a love for storytelling and reading. A huge thank you to Kathy Urban for making the day so special and to Mrs Theobald for organising it.

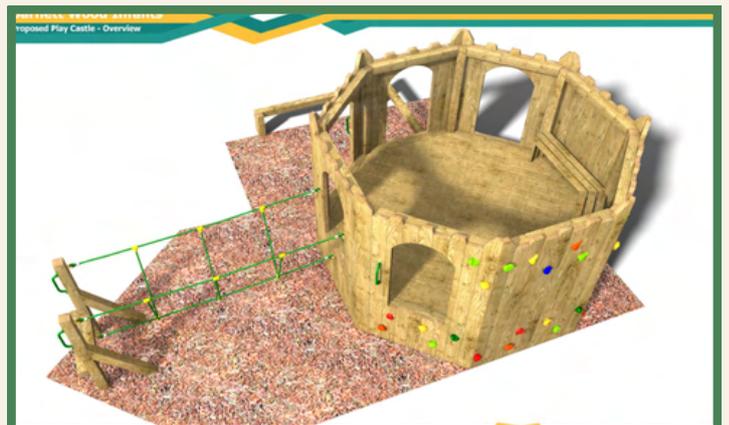


Playground News

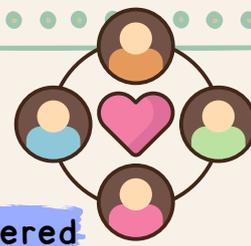
We were hoping to share some pictures of our new castle play area in this month's newsletter, but we are having to share the plans instead!

The installation was originally scheduled to begin last week, however the contractors have experienced some delays due to weather conditions affecting their other projects. We appreciate your understanding and patience as they work through these challenges.

We remain hopeful that the play castle will be in place by the end of this term, ready to spark creativity, teamwork, and imaginative play for all our pupils. We can't wait to see the children exploring and making wonderful memories in their new play area.



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



15 more sleeps to go.....

Friends Of Barnett Wood Infant School
Christmas Fair 2025
Saturday 13th December
11am-2pm

FREE ENTRY

- Games • Festive Food • Market Stalls •
- Bottle Tombola • Craft Room •
- Free Photo With Santa •
- Prize Room • Scavenger Hunt •

Online Raffle – Over 30 Prizes to be won!
TOP PRIZE £200
Kindly Donated By
MORGAN ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

With only 2 weeks to go until the fair we are full steam ahead with plans. Volunteer Rotas for each class have been sent out in group chats. If you are attending the fair, please consider doing one time slot or two. The fair wouldn't happen without our volunteers and we really appreciate all the help we can get.

The Raffle is now up to 30 prizes but as it our last Christmas fair as a committee we would love to go even bigger, so if any parents of the school can donate through a business you work for please consider donating a gift or voucher from your company.

Follow the link to get your tickets and be for a chance of winning £200 cash!

Non Uniform Day 4th December - Pyjama Day in exchange for Bottles & Lucky Bags - More info and bags went out in book bags yesterday

As it's our last year on the PTA (Chair, Vice Chair & Treasurer) we preparing to hand over to a new committee. Thankfully we have had some very enthusiastic new mums willing to take on the job but we still have one very important role to fill. We are looking for 1 or 2 more co-treasurers to help the Treasurer team. This consists of no more than a few hours work a month (some times a little more around big events) If you'd like to get involved with the committee and all the great things we get up to please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Safeguarding

NO
Bullying

Anti-bullying Week

10th - 14th November 2025

Anti
Bullying



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 marked Anti-Bullying Week this year by donning our odd socks at school on Monday, November 10th. Wearing odd socks encourages us to recognise our differences and the importance of embracing our unique identities!



Here are some key points and tips for you to support your child at home.



Open Communication:

Encourage your child to talk about their day and share any concerns they may have. Listen actively and provide reassurance.



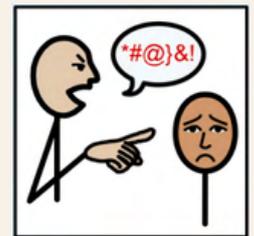
Teach Empathy and Kindness:

Reinforce the importance of treating others with respect and kindness. Discuss scenarios and role-play to help your child understand how to respond to bullying.



Monitor Online Activity:

With the rise of cyberbullying, it's essential to keep an eye on your child's online interactions. Set rules for internet use and discuss the importance of online etiquette.



Know the Signs:

Be aware of the signs of bullying, such as changes in behaviour, unexplained injuries, or reluctance to go to school. If you suspect your child is being bullied, contact the school immediately.

Please see our Anti Bullying page on our school website for and school policy and more information:

[Barnett Wood Infant School - Anti Bullying](#)

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

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:**

Friday 5th December 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 1st June 2026