

Barnett Wood
Infant School

NEWSLETTER

December 2025



Merry
Christmas



From everyone
at Barnett Wood

Message from Mrs Gibbard



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to the close of the first term of the 2025-26 academic year, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful children, dedicated parents, and committed staff for making this term such a successful and inspiring start. Your enthusiasm, support, and hard work continue to create the happy, caring, and inspiring environment that lies at the heart of our school.

A special thank you goes to the Friends of Barnett Wood, who have worked tirelessly to raise vital funds for our school. Their efforts have been truly outstanding, with highlights including the much-loved movie night, the creative wreath-making evening, and the popular pre-loved uniform sales - not to mention the fabulous Christmas Fair! These events not only raise essential funds but also bring our community closer together.

We are also deeply grateful to our Governors for their unwavering support and valuable input, particularly in securing a successful grant application from Surrey County Council. This funding has enabled us to install the new castle play structure in the front playground, which the children have been enjoying immensely.

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment. We look forward to an equally exciting and productive term ahead.

Kind regards,
Mrs Gibbard



Dates for Diaries

Monday 5th January

School closed for INSET day

Tuesday 6th January

Children return to school

Wednesday 21st January 8.45am

Yr 1 Rabbits Class Assembly to
Parents

Wednesday 28th January 8.45am

Yr 1 Owls Class Assembly to
Parents

Monday 2nd February

Year 1 Victorian Day

Tuesday 11th February

Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th February

Last day of Spring 1 half term -
normal school finish time

Monday 16th February to Friday
20th February

HALF TERM

Year Group News



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

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
						96.9%
97.5%	97.3%	97.3%	97.9%	95.7%	95.8%	

Congratulations to Rabbits Class 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

Thank you!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and carers for working with us to ensure that your child has the best chance at achieving their full potential by being at school.

We have compared the attendance data to this time last year and we have seen a great improvement, despite the number of illnesses going around. So thank you for working with us.

THANK YOU!

Support for anxiety around coming to school

We understand that anxiety around coming to school can be overwhelming for both the child and parent, and particularly heightened when returning after a school holiday. We are committed to supporting your child through these feelings by working closely with families and providing a nurturing environment.

To help you support your child at home, we recommend visiting these websites, which offer practical strategies and advice for managing anxiety and promoting emotional well-being.

[Young Minds: supporting your child with anxiety](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
[mindworks-surrey.org](http://www.mindworks-surrey.org)

[Anna Freud: seven ways to support children and young people who are worried](#)

Please always speak to your child's class teacher, myself or Mrs Gibbard if your child is experiencing anxiety around coming to school so we can work together.



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)

A Christmas message from our Governors



As we approach the festive season, the Governing Body would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our pupils, families, and staff. Christmas is a special time to reflect on the year gone by and celebrate the joy and togetherness that make our school community so unique.

We were especially delighted to see the wonderful creation of our new fort, which has brought so much excitement and joy to the children. This fantastic addition to our playground was made possible thanks to funding from Your Fund Surrey Small Community Projects, with the invaluable support of Richard Reid and the Ashted Residents Association. Their generosity and commitment to our school have provided our children with a space to play, explore, and create lasting memories.

Strategically, we recognise that these types of mutually beneficial partnerships are essential for the sustainable development of our school. By working collaboratively with local organisations and stakeholders, we can not only make the most of available funding but also save costs and unlock new opportunities for our children and wider community. These partnerships ensure we can continue to invest in high-quality resources and experiences, while building a resilient and connected school that is fit for the future.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to another successful year at Barnett Wood Infant School. We wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas, and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

With best wishes,

Your Governing Body



Christmas at Barnett Wood





Our Christmas Fair raised over £2,000!!!
Thank you so much.... to everyone involved
in organising the event,... to our
volunteers on the day.... and to everyone
who came along and supported the school!

Preloved Uniform Sales- January 2026

We will be holding playground preloved uniform sales at
school pick-up time on:



- . Monday 8th January
- . Thursday 12th January
(weather permitting)



★ Special January Offer:

Throughout the whole of January, all preloved uniform items will be 2 for 1.

 Payment:

Cash and card payments accepted.

 Can't make the sales?

If you're unable to attend, please email any requests to bwpreloveduniform@gmail.com,
and we will do our best to sort items for you.

 Donations:

Donations of preloved uniform can be dropped into the box at the front office any
time. Please ensure items are in good condition and, where possible, name tags have
been removed.

Thank you for supporting our preloved uniform to support the school 

Safeguarding



Managing the Festive Season: Supporting our children (and ourselves) through a busy time

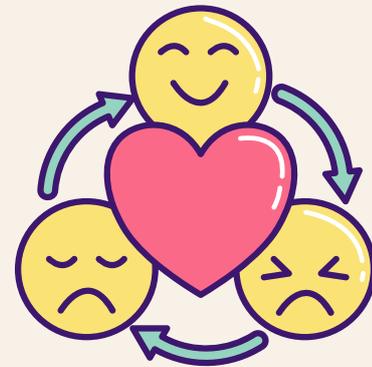
The festive period can be a busy and sometimes overwhelming period for many children—and adults too! The excitement, changes in routine, and increased social activities can lead to moments when children become dysregulated, feeling anxious, overwhelmed, or unsettled.



We understand that these feelings are natural and want to support families in navigating this festive season smoothly. Here are some practical tips to help maintain calm and support your child's well-being during this busy time:

Maintain Familiar Routines Where Possible:

Keeping consistent mealtimes, bedtimes, and quiet moments helps children feel secure and grounded amidst the festive hustle.



Create Quiet Spaces

Designate a calm, cosy area at home where your child can retreat if they feel overwhelmed. This can be a small corner with their favourite toys, books, or sensory items.

Prepare for Changes

Talk to your child about upcoming events or changes in routine ahead of time. Using simple language or visual schedules can help them understand what to expect and reduce anxiety.

Encourage Expressive Activities

Drawing, playing, or storytelling can be great ways for children to express their feelings and process their experiences during this busy period.

Model Calm and Patience

Children often mirror the adults around them. Taking moments to breathe deeply and stay calm yourself can help your child regulate their emotions.

[For more top tips, see our website here.](#)

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:

Monday 5th January 2026
Monday 13th April 2026
Monday 1st June 2026