

## Message from Mrs Gibbard



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you've all enjoyed a wonderful start to 2026. January often feels like a lengthy month, doesn't it? Nevertheless, the children have been working hard, showing remarkable determination and resilience every single day. With the arrival of the Spring term, we can truly concentrate on learning without the distractions of Christmas or warm weather! Our teachers are excited to witness the fantastic progress their students have already made this term, even in just the past four weeks.

It has been a bustling month filled with visitors, class assemblies, and an abundance of learning! We encourage you to read our Newsletter to discover what we've been up to and what exciting events are on the horizon.

It may seem early, but we are already preparing for another exciting summer swim season! We need a dedicated team of pool volunteers to run the pool - your support is essential in making our swimming season safe, enjoyable, and successful for all our children and families. Please see the article below and take a few moments to read the presentation link.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Gibbard



## Year Group News



Year R  
Hedgehogs and Squirrels



Year 1  
Owls and Rabbits



Year 2  
Badgers and Foxes

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Year 1 Victorian Day. Children to come dressed as a Victorian child.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Safer Internet Day

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

**FOBW Break the Rules Day!**  
Last day of Half Term- Normal school hours

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Children return to school for second half of Spring term

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

New Pool Volunteers meeting 8:45am-9:15am or 2:15pm-2:45pm in the Beehive

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March-Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Scholastic Book Fair after school daily

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

World Book Day- Theme TBC

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Year 2 trip to Wisley

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Parent Consultations 3:30pm-6:30pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Parent Consultations 4pm-7pm

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Whole school dance performance to parents 2pm

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Last day of term. School finishes at 1:30pm. Honeybees finish 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
						<b>97.1%</b>
97.4%	97.4%	97.7%	97.7%	96%	96.8%	



Congratulations to Rabbits Class and Owls 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

## Time to celebrate!

We are almost half way through the academic year so we wanted to celebrate our good attendance and thank you for your support in getting your children to school each day. So far this year...

44

children have 100% attendance

43

children have more than 97% attendance

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)

# Honeycomb Castle Grand Opening Ceremony



We were delighted to celebrate the grand opening of our brand-new play castle with a special event filled with joy and community spirit. The occasion was honoured by the presence of Councillor Chris Townsend and Richard Ryan from the Ashted Residents Association, who joined us to mark this exciting milestone. Also attending were our dedicated Governor Kelly Headen and Nadira Noushad from Your Fund Surrey, whose support has been invaluable in bringing this project to life.



The children proudly wore crowns they had lovingly decorated themselves and waved flags they had designed at home - thank you for all your help with these.



The castle itself was beautifully adorned with colourful balloons and bunting, making it a truly magical setting for the day. The highlight came when Councillor Townsend and Mr Ryan cut the ribbon and everyone cheered!



A big thank you to Mr Kelly for printing special stickers for the occasion (<https://stevestarkdesign.com/>) Plus a huge thank you to Abbotsbury Carpets for supplying our red carpet free of charge! (<https://www.abbotsburycarpets.co.uk/>)

We thank everyone who contributed to making this day so special and look forward to many happy adventures in the castle ahead!

# Swimming Pool-Volunteers needed!

★ WE NEED ★

your

★ SUPPORT! ★



We are extremely fortunate to have our own swimming pool at Barnett Wood. The pool is open from May to September each year and all children receive 2 swimming lessons a week and some fun class swims at the beginning and end of term.



*However, the pool is only sustainable with the financial assistance of the Friends of BW and of course, our lovely parents and carers to volunteer throughout the swim season.*

*Without you all, our pool simply wouldn't run.*

We also open our pool to families to enjoy at weekends (from June) and over the summer holidays through our Family Swim Scheme, where, for a small membership fee, families can use the pool every day during the summer break.

As always, we will be asking parents to volunteer for the team of helpers. There are various roles that you can get involved in, from maintenance to pool checkers to swim scheme session supervisors. For swimming lessons to go ahead, we also need parent/carer helpers to assist children in the changing rooms getting ready for their lessons.



Please read the presentation linked here which tells you all about the teams required.

If you are considering volunteering or one of the teams that run the pool (swim change volunteers will be organised by class reps closer to the time), please take a look at the presentation for more details of what each role entails. We will be holding 2 information sessions on Wednesday 25th February in the Beehive (8.45am and 2.15pm) for parents carers to pop along and find out more.

Please complete the form below if you can volunteer:

[Swimming Pool Volunteers Form 2026](#)



# School Council Leaders update

Our school councillors took advantage of the visit by Surrey Councillor Chris Townsend to discuss pressing issues affecting the safety and well-being of our pupils and community.

One of the key topics raised was the urgent need to reduce the speed limit outside our school to 20mph. The councillors expressed their concerns about traffic safety and the importance of creating a safer environment for children walking to and from school. Councillor Townsend listened carefully and acknowledged the significance of this request in helping to protect our pupils.

The school councillors also highlighted the ongoing problem of parking on double yellow lines near the school. This unsafe parking practice not only obstructs visibility but also puts children and families at risk. They advocated for stronger enforcement measures to ensure that the no-parking zones are respected by all drivers.



We are proud of our school councillors for representing the voices of their peers and taking action on these important community issues!

# Eco Leaders update- Bird Watch!

Our Eco Leaders led an excellent assembly all about the RSPB's Big School Bird Watch this month. They gave us lots of interesting facts about common garden birds and we learned how to recognise some birds by their birdsong! They also told us how we could take part in the Big Bird Watch at home and how to attract birds to our gardens. The children were inspired to spend their playtimes spotting as many different birds as they could.



# Wellbeing Leaders Update



Our Wellbeing Leaders are getting ready to raise awareness of Children's Mental Health Week, which takes place every February. It was started in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health.

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place', and the aim is to support the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong. Our Wellbeing leaders have planned some events for the week, including launching Mental Health Week with a whole school assembly and lots of fun activities to help our wellbeing.

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK

9-15  
FEB  
2026

## Reception Police Visit



A huge Thank You to PC Morris and PC Patrick who brought their police car to visit Reception this week as part of their Vehicles topic. The children loved learning all about how the siren works and how fast police are allowed to drive! Luckily Mrs Gregory was released without charge later in the day. 😊



# Friends of Barnett Wood



Our Friends team are busy planning lots of fundraising events for all the family - please keep an eye out for messages on the class Whatsapp groups of how you can support these events. The last Friday of this half term will be a special 'Break the Rules' day - please see the list below of what rules can be broken!

Barnett Wood Infant School's

# BREAK THE RULES DAY

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2026

Rules you can break

- NO muffi
- NO crazy hair
- NO squash in your water bottle
- NO nail varnish
- NO cuddly toys at school
- NO unhealthy snacks

50p per rule break

Rules

Cash on the day or pay by sumup link

# Safeguarding - Online Safety



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways - from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

### WHERE IS IT FOUND?

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

**GAMING**  
Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Rating games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually adult) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

**PLAY NOW**

**F@#**

**STREAMING**  
The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

**ADVERTS**  
Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content, usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history; so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

## 18 Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

### CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake - but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

### BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

### GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

### STAY CALM

Even though it's obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

### Meet Our Expert

Coyley Jorgensen is a registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56148484>, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/keeping-children-safe-online>, <https://www.nos.org.uk/parents-and-carers/keeping-children-safe-online>

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)
 @natonlinesafety
 /NationalOnlineSafety
 @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.12.2021

<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>

For more top tips, see our website here.

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)

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Monday 1st June 2026**