

Barnett Wood

Infant School



April 2025

# NEWSLETTER



**Kind, Confident, Successful Learners**

Barnett Wood Infant School  
213, Barnett Wood Lane, Ashtead KT21 2DF

## Message from Mrs Gibbard



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term! I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. We have had a great first few days and the children have settled back into their learning seamlessly. We have loved hearing all about their adventures and travels over the holidays!

The Summer term is always a special time at our school, as the warmer weather brings new opportunities for learning, exploration, and growth. It is also a very busy one, with events such as sports day, assemblies, school trips, transition events, community events and more! There will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy the sense of community that makes Barnett Wood so special. Please do keep an eye on the calendar and the weekly bulletin. Don't forget to check the year group pages (links below) for year group specific information.

Our Newsletter for April is not as full as usual, as we have only been in school for 7 days of the month! We're sure there will be much more to share in four weeks' time, details of some special upcoming events are detailed below.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,  
Mrs Gibbard



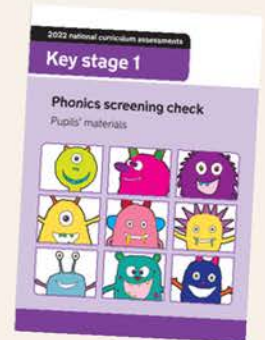
## Phonics Screening Check - Information for Year 1 parents

In the Summer term our Year 1 children will be completing their Phonics Screening Check. If you would like to find out more about what this assessment involves, please come along to the following information session with Mrs Gibbard.

**Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Information Session**  
**Wednesday 7th May 8:45am in the Beehive**

If you are unable to attend and would like to understand more about this please find information from the DfE for parents through the link below.

[Phonics Screening Check Information for Parents](#)



## 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**



## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

School Matters!



### Leave During Term Time

We'd like to remind parents that the school is not permitted to grant leave of absence during term time, unless in the case of exceptional circumstances.

We have continued to have parents request leave for family holidays. We understand how important it is to spend quality time together as a family and that the current increase in cost of living means that booking a holiday out of term time is cheaper, however, family holidays due to these reasons will not be authorised.

It is very important that all parents and carers understand that children with unauthorised absences, including holidays, and unexplained absences are at risk of receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice from Surrey County Council. The rules on Fixed Penalty Notices changed in August 2024—further details can be found on our website. It is important that parents are aware that unauthorised absences now straddle school holidays and academic years and that each incidence of a FPN referral is dealt with on an escalating scale. The school does not benefit financially from any FPN issued by the Local Authority.

Over the last 2 terms, 119 days learning have been lost to unauthorised absence or holidays during term time which is the same as 714 hours of learning lost! This has really affected our overall attendance, but will also have an impact on your child's progress, friendships and difficulty in catching up the learning they have lost.

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child has good attendance at school. During the academic year, pupils are at school for 190 days and at home for 175 days. It is vital that we work together to help your child achieve their full potential by being in school.

If you are experiencing difficulties in getting your child to school for other reasons, please do reach out to myself, Mrs Gibbard or your child's teacher so we can help.

# Forest School



Just before the Easter holidays, our Reception children were treated to a fantastic Forest School session led by Conker Claire (aka Daisy's mum, a trained Forest School teacher!).



The children had a fabulous time, learning about the life cycle of a frog, digging for worms, making necklaces and best of all.... lighting fire and toasting marshmallows!



A huge Thank You to Mrs Dickenson for providing the session, we loved it!  
Thank you to the Rangers at Ashted Common too for donating logs for our fire circle.



Year 1 and 2 will have a session this half term.



# VE DAY 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



We are excited to announce that Barnett Wood Infant School will be celebrating the anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) with a special event on Thursday, May 8th, 2025. This day marks a significant moment in history, and we want to honour it with a joyful celebration that brings our school community together.



To commemorate this important anniversary, we will be partying like it's 1945, with a special 'Street Party' lunch on the playground.

In the lead-up to our celebration, pupils will be learning about VE Day in their classes and during assemblies. This will include discussions about the significance of the day, the impact of World War II, and the importance of peace and unity. We believe it is essential for our children to understand the history behind this celebration and appreciate the sacrifices made by previous generations.

In the spirit of VE Day, we encourage all pupils and staff to wear red, white, and blue on this special non-uniform day. Whether it's a full outfit or just a splash of colour, let's come together to show our patriotic spirit and celebrate our community's resilience and unity.



**Do you know someone who can share their story?**

We would love to enrich our pupils' learning experience by hearing from our community. If you have any relatives or friends who have stories or memories of VE Day, please encourage them to share their experiences with us. Their personal accounts can provide invaluable insights and make our discussions even more meaningful. If you can help connect us with these individuals, please contact the school office.

# 'Skip-a-thon' for The Royal Marsden



Our children have been invited to participate in a very special charity fundraising event, a Skip-a-thon, which will take place at school on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May. This event is being held during Melanoma Awareness Month, but more importantly, in memory of our beloved former pupil, Natalie Street, who sadly passed away from Melanoma in 2022.

Natalie was pupil at Barnett Wood, leaving in 2001 to move on to Greville, then Rosebery. Natalie grew up in Ashted and after University, she qualified as a Maths teacher, working at the Bourne Education Trust. Sadly, she passed away in November 2022, after battling Melanoma for 4 years. She was only 28 years old.



The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity raises money solely to support The Royal Marsden, a world-leading cancer centre. They ensure our nurses, doctors and research teams can provide the very best care and develop life-saving treatments, which are used across the UK and around the world. From funding state-of-the-art equipment and ground-breaking research, to creating the very best patient environments, they never stop looking for ways to improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

During the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, each child will have a skipping session with their class, where they will be challenged to do as many skips as they can in one minute! We'll be having lots of fun, counting our skips, showing off our best skipping tricks, getting fit and all for a good cause.

We will share details of our Just Giving page in next week's bulletin, so parents and families can donate before or after the event. We would love to raise £500 for this worthy cause. By participating, our pupils will not only honour Natalie's memory but also contribute to a cause that is incredibly important to many families.



next  
WEEK

WE NEED  
YOUR HELP

PRE-LOVED  
UNIFORM  
SALE

Friends of Barnett Wood will be selling pre-loved uniform after school on the front play ground.

TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> & THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

#### Requests

If you are unable to make the sale please email any requests to [bwpreloveduniform@gmail.com](mailto:bwpreloveduniform@gmail.com) we will do our best to put the items aside for you

#### Donations

If you have any good condition uniform that is no longer needed please drop into the donation box at front desk or bring along to the sale

ALL MONEY RAISED IS FOR  
OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOL

## Help Out Day

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 10am-3pm

Friends of Barnett Wood are requesting some help from volunteers to give our playgrounds a spring clean.

We need some volunteers with the right tools and skills to help put together two new sheds the Friends have purchased and eagerly would like them put up in time for summer



Both playgrounds need a spruce up and general tidy



The planters and benches need a clean and fresh lick of paint

If you are free to help please come along at anytime. If you also have any tools that you think might help us with the jobs on the day, please bring them along. We will be serving free refreshments to all volunteers. Children are welcome to play on the field with friends

This half term, our children will take part in the NSPCC's 'Speak out, Stay safe' campaign. Through this the children will learn that they should be able to speak to a trusted adult if they're ever worried or unhappy. Our children will learn that all children have the right to:

- speak out and be heard
- be safe
- get help when they need it

Our children will understand the different ways that children can be hurt in a simple, age appropriate way, so that they understand when something's not right.



We will use the NSPCC's 'Pants rule' to support this. More information can be found on the NSPCC website below

## Speak out, stay safe NSPCC

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 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:** 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](mailto: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.



Our final INSET day for this academic year is:

**Monday 2nd June 2025**

Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr & Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	3.05pm	FOBW Pre-loved Uniform sale after school
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	AM	Class Photos
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	10am - 3pm	FOBW Help Out Day Please bring your gardening and power tools!
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	All day	School Closed – May Bank Holiday
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	8.45am	Year 1 Parents – Phonics Screening Information session
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	All day	VE Day 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Non-uniform Day - wear red, white and blue.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	AM	'Skip-a-thon' Fundraiser in aid of the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May		Swimming lessons start this week – please see information sent out with this newsletter
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	8.30am - 3.00pm	Pool Supervisors First Aid Training
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	All day	Non-uniform Day for Summer Fair donations
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May - HALF TERM		
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	All day	School closed for INSET Day