

Message from Mrs Gibbard



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back after the Easter break, and they have made a wonderfully successful start to the summer term. There has been a real sense of energy and enthusiasm around the school, with the children settling quickly into their routines and approaching their learning with confidence and positivity.

We have especially enjoyed the warmer weather over the past few weeks. It has been lovely to see the children making the most of our outdoor spaces, particularly playing on the school field. These opportunities for fresh air, exercise and outdoor learning make such a difference, and the school has felt full of the excitement that the summer term always brings.

Our new Premises Manager Mr Devereux has also settled in brilliantly and has already had a huge impact on our school grounds. His hard work and care are helping to make our site even more welcoming and well looked after, and we are very grateful for everything he has done so far.

A big thank you must also go to our Friends of Barnett Wood team, who have been incredibly busy this month. From organising events to coordinating volunteers to help build our new sheds, they continue to give so much time and energy to support the school. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and generous school community.

Looking ahead, swimming lessons begin next month. Please ensure you have read the information sent out with last week's bulletin so that your child is fully prepared. We are looking forward to another busy and exciting month ahead.

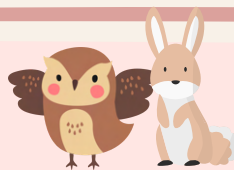
Kind regards,
Mrs Gibbard



Year Group News



Year R
Hedgehogs and Squirrels



Year 1
Owls and Rabbits



Year 2
Badgers and Foxes

Dates for Diaries

Monday 4th May

School closed for Bank Holiday

Wednesday 6th May

Year 1 Parents – Phonics Screening
Information session - 8.45am in the Beehive

Thursday 7th May

Class photos

Friday 8th May

FOBW Family Showtime 4pm and 5.30pm

Tuesday 19th May

Swimming Lessons start

Thursday 21st May

Year 1 trip to Painshill Park

Friday 22nd May

Last day of Summer term part 1 - normal
finish time 3.05pm

Monday 25th - Friday 29th May

HALF TERM

Monday 1st June

School closed for INSET day

Tuesday 2nd June

Children return to school

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
						97.3%
97.8%	97.7%	97.5%	98.1%	96.7%	96.4%	



Congratulations to 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



On Time, Ready to Shine!



We've noticed that a number of children are arriving late to school, with traffic being the most common reason given. We understand that mornings can be busy and unpredictable, but arriving on time really helps children settle in calmly, start the day with their peers, and not miss important learning moments.

Even a few minutes late can make a big difference—children may miss key instructions, feel unsettled, or find it harder to catch up with the rest of the class. Establishing a consistent, punctual routine supports both learning and wellbeing.

What can parents do to help?

Plan ahead: Try to prepare bags, uniforms, and lunches the night before to reduce morning stress.

Allow extra time: If traffic is often an issue, consider leaving 5–10 minutes earlier than usual.

Check routes: Keep an eye on traffic updates and have an alternative route in mind if needed.

Create a morning routine: A consistent wake-up and departure time can make mornings smoother for everyone.

Aim for early arrival: Getting to school a little early allows children to settle in and start the day positively.

We appreciate your support in helping every child begin their day ready to learn and succeed. Thank you for working with us to make punctuality a priority!

Amount	mins late	Hours missed by end of year	School Days lost
1 Late per week	10	6.5 Hours missed	1.3 days
2 Lates per week	10	13 Hours missed	2.6 days
3 Lates per week	10	19.50 Hours missed	3.9 days
4 Lates per week	10	26 Hours missed	4.2 days
5 Lates per week	10	32.5 Hours missed	6.5 days
Amount	mins late	Hours missed by end of year	School Days lost
1 Late per week	20	13 Hours missed	2.6 days
2 Lates per week	20	26 Hours missed	4.2 days
3 Lates per week	20	39 Hours missed	7.8 days
4 Lates per week	20	52 Hours missed	10.4 days
5 Lates per week	20	65 Hours missed	13 days
Amount	mins late	Hours missed by end of year	School Days lost
1 Late per week	30	19.5 Hours missed	3.9 days
2 Lates per week	30	39 Hours missed	7.8 days
3 Lates per week	30	58.5 Hours missed	11.7 days
4 Lates per week	30	78 Hours missed	15.6 days
5 Lates per week	30	97.5 Hours missed	19.5 days

Proposal to phase out Pocket Toys



For a number of years, children at Barnett Wood have been able to bring in a small “pocket toy” from home to play with during playtime and lunchtime. We know that many children enjoy having a familiar toy with them, and this tradition has been popular with lots of families over time.

However, we have recently seen an increase in the number of challenges linked to pocket toys in school. The main issue is that toys can easily become lost, broken, swapped, or misplaced during the busy school day. Understandably, this can cause children to become very upset and can take valuable time away from learning, play, and the smooth running of the school day. Staff are also increasingly spending time helping children look for toys or resolving disagreements connected to them.

This was also reflected in our recent parent survey, where several parents questioned the need for pocket toys in school. Some families commented that pocket toys can create difficulties at home too, particularly when children are deciding what to bring in, when special toys go missing, or when disagreements arise about what is or is not allowed. We are grateful for this feedback, as it has helped us think carefully about whether pocket toys are still serving the purpose they were originally intended to.

Our aim is not to take away something children enjoy, but to make playtimes happier, calmer, and more inclusive for everyone. We are currently looking at ways to further enhance our playtime provision so that children have a wide range of engaging, creative, and active opportunities available to them during break and lunchtime. We want children to feel excited about playing together, developing friendships, using their imagination, and enjoying the resources already provided in school.

We hope that by removing pocket toys, we can reduce unnecessary upset and help children focus on the many positive opportunities available during the school day. It will also ensure that all children have equal access to play resources, without anyone feeling worried about bringing in a special item from home.

Where a child has a genuine need for a sensory resource to support their concentration, regulation, or access to learning, school will provide this as part of our usual support arrangements. This helps us ensure that any resources used in class are appropriate, purposeful, and matched to the child’s needs, rather than becoming another item from home that may be lost, compared, or cause distraction.

We understand that this may feel like a change for some children, and we will support them with this carefully. There may, of course, be individual circumstances where a child needs a specific comfort item or transitional object, and these can be discussed with the class teacher or school team as appropriate.

Thank you, as always, for your support as we continue to reflect on how we can make playtimes as happy, safe, and purposeful as possible for all our children.

With this in mind, we are proposing to introduce a ban on pocket toys being brought into school. This will take effect from Summer half term 2, when the children return on 2nd June.

Understanding Behaviour



We know how upsetting it can be when a child comes home saying that someone has hurt them or been unkind to them. As parents and carers, it is natural to feel worried and protective, and we always want you to share any concerns with us.

Sometimes families use the word “bullying” when their child has experienced something upsetting at school. Bullying is defined by the Anti-Bullying Alliance as: *“the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.”*

In our experience, infant aged children are still at a very early stage of learning how to manage friendships, share, take turns, use kind words, understand their own and others’ feelings and understand how their actions affect others - this can sometimes be mistakenly identified as bullying.

At this age, many difficulties are linked to normal child development. Children may fall out with friends, say unkind things, exclude others in a game, become cross, or make poor choices. For some children, including those with additional needs, communicating their feelings, understanding social situations, managing emotions, or knowing how to join in with play can be particularly difficult. This can sometimes lead to behaviour that appears unkind or upsetting to others, even when the child has not intended to cause harm.

This does not mean that unkind behaviour is acceptable, and we will always respond to it.

However, it does mean that we look carefully at the individual child, the context, and what support may be needed so that all children can learn and feel safe.

Our role as a school is to help children learn how to:

- recognise when they have hurt someone’s feelings
- say sorry meaningfully
- repair friendships
- use kind and respectful words
- include others in play
- ask an adult for help when something goes wrong
- develop strategies to manage big feelings

Be Kind



We take all concerns seriously. If your child tells you about something that has happened, please speak to your child’s class teacher or a member of staff in the first instance. This helps us to understand what has happened, speak to the children involved, support everyone appropriately, and put things right as quickly as possible.

We kindly ask that parents do not contact other parents directly about incidents between children. Although this is often done with good intentions, it can sometimes make situations more difficult or upsetting. School staff are best placed to investigate concerns calmly and fairly, while supporting all the children involved.

Thank you for working with us to help our children learn how to build happy, healthy friendships and become kind, caring members of our school community.

Join in and Jog!



We are excited to launch our new Join in and Jog initiative at school.

Mrs Gibbard and Miss Buckland have begun training for the Royal Parks Half Marathon in October, and they would love the children to help keep them motivated along the way!

Every Friday morning during playtime, children will have the opportunity to run around the field track with Mrs Gibbard and Miss Buckland. This will be a fun, informal way for the children to get active, enjoy being outdoors, and support our staff as they prepare for their challenge.



Children are welcome to wear trainers on Fridays so they can take part comfortably and safely. Through Join in and Jog, we hope to encourage healthy lifestyles, promote regular exercise, and show the children that keeping fit can be enjoyable when we do it together.

We look forward to seeing lots of enthusiastic joggers joining us on Friday mornings!

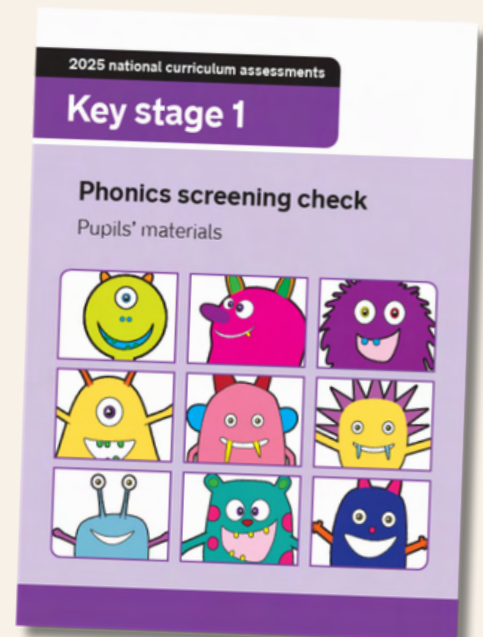
Phonics Screening Check - Information for Year 1 parents

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 6th 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](#)



Our Values



Kindness

We treat others how we would like to be treated



Respect

We are thoughtful and considerate to ourselves, others and the world around us.



Trust

We are honest and responsible



Resilience

When things are tough, we **persevere** and are **determined** - we don't give up!

Our value of this half term is...

Aspiration

♥ We embrace challenge and aim to be the best we can be!

♥ We take pride in our work and presentation in our books

♥ We set ourselves ambitious targets

♥ We know what we need to do to achieve our targets



♥ We take risks in our learning

♥ We believe in ourselves

♥ We encourage others to do their best

♥ We recognise and celebrate ours and others' successes

At Barnett Wood, we believe teaching the value of aspiration at school is crucial. We set high expectations and encourage the children to aim high and strive for excellence. We motivate every child to set goals and work towards achieving them. By teaching our children to aspire for more, we can help them reach their full potential and excel in various areas of their lives, whether academically, socially, or personally.

"In English, I challenged myself to do my best to improve my spelling"
Annie, Foxes

"I always aspire to be great at Art."
Vincent, Foxes

"In English, I wasn't sure I would remember everything I needed to write instructions, but I was aspirational and did so well I got a badge!"
Isabelle, Badgers

"When we put our hands up, we might get not get the correct answer, but we are still learning and trying."
Olivia, Badgers

"I didn't give up in rounders during PE, I kept trying to catch the ball when I was fielding."
Tristan, Badgers

"When I was doing fractions in Maths, it was hard, but I enjoyed learning new things."
Megan, Foxes

"It is my goal to have beautiful, neat handwriting."
Willow L., Foxes

Being aspirational also helps children in building their confidence, fostering resilience, promoting ambition and preparing them for the future. As our school vision states, we aim for our children to leave Barnett Wood as kind, confident, successful learners!

Visits to Ashtead Library

This term every class has had the wonderful opportunity to visit Ashtead Library. The children thoroughly enjoyed their time exploring the space and learning all about what the library has to offer.

During their visit, they discovered how to join the library, who can become a member, how many books you can borrow and the wide range of resources available—from exciting books and stories to digital materials and community activities. Everyone listened to a story linked to their learning in school to end the visit.

It was a fantastic way to inspire a love of reading and help the children feel inspired to join or visit more regularly.

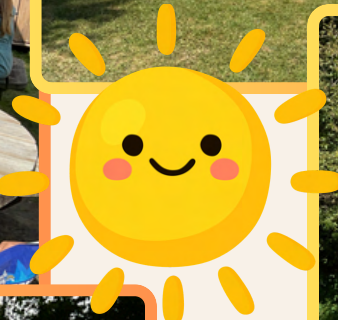


We would like to extend a big thank you to all the parents who kindly supported us by helping to walk the children to and from the library. Your support makes experiences like this possible. Thank you to our English Lead, Mrs Theobald for organising these visits.

Looking ahead, we are excited that in July, the librarians will be visiting us in school to introduce the Summer Reading Challenge. This is always a brilliant opportunity to keep children engaged in reading over the summer holidays, and we look forward to hearing all about it.



Fun in the Sun!



Friends of Barnett Wood



Our Friends team have 2 events coming up in May, something for everyone!

Friend of Barnett Wood Presents
Family Showtime - The Gingerbread Man
- Friday 8th May -
Show 1 @4pm Show 2 @5.30pm

You and your family are warmly invited to enjoy a live performance of The Gingerbread Man by a professional theatre company—an exciting, immersive experience for all the family.

£10 Per Person
10% Discount Group Tickets
£27 Group of 3
£36 Group of 4
£45 Group of 5

There will be show snacks and drinks on sale. You can also pre-order when purchasing your tickets



Book your tickets on the Friends SumUp Store:



To book a pitch, please email:
friendsofbarnettwood@gmail.com

Barnett Wood Infant School
CAR BOOT SALE & MARKET
Sunday 24th May 10am-1pm
(reserve date Sunday 31st in case of cancellation due to bad weather)

Join The Friends of Barnett Wood for their very first Car Boot Sale! Hunt for bargains, enjoy hot food and refreshments, and keep the kids entertained on the bouncy castle.

For more information and to book pitch, please email friendsofbarnettwood@gmail.com

£12 per pitch

£1 Entry Per Person
Kids Free



Safeguarding

NSPCC



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

Developed with children, parents, carers and teachers, Talk PANTS is here to help children understand that they have a right to say no and if they need to speak out about something, someone will listen.

With the help of the friendly dinosaur Pantosaurus, Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep your child safe from abuse.

It helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.



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

<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>
		

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 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 1st June 2026