

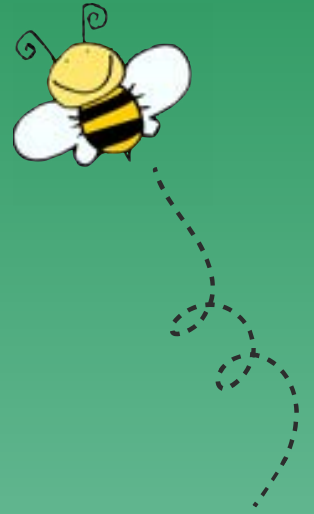
Barnett Wood

Infant School



March 2025

NEWSLETTER



Kind, Confident, Successful Learners

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

Message from Mrs Gibbard



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the term, there have been some wonderful highlights from the past few weeks at Barnett Wood. It has been a busy and enriching time for the children, filled with learning, creativity and even awe and wonder. Throughout the month, they have been engaged in a wide range of learning activities across all subjects. From exploring new concepts in mathematics to diving into creative arts, the enthusiasm and aspiration displayed by the children has been brilliant. The Spring sunshine and colour has brightened everyone's weeks too! The children have helped to write several of the articles in this month's Newsletter, thank you Mrs Theobald and Miss Charlton for helping to bring out their journalistic skills!

Some lovely news to share with you this month - on Sunday 16th March, Mrs Christofi gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Athena Rosie. A huge congratulation to Kirsty and all her family. We are looking forward to meeting the new bundle very soon.

We also have some staffing updates to share with you, which we felt deserved announcing on a separate letter - please see the attached letter with this email.

Looking forward to the Summer term, there are a couple of new dates to be aware of, which we have added to the website calendar and the dates at the end of this newsletter.

A big thank you to all the parents that have helped out on various trips and local visits this month, we couldn't do it without you. And also for your efforts in costume making/hair crimping/book buying/charity donating - we appreciate it all! We will need you again when our swimming pool opens in May - please do help out if you can.

Have a wonderful weekend and Happy Mother's Day to all our mums!

Kind regards,

Mrs Gibbard



IT'S A GIRL



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

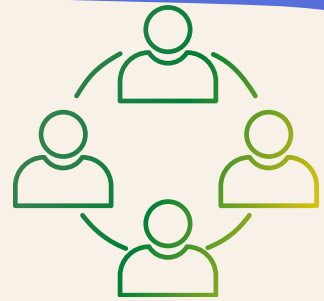


Year 2

Badgers and Foxes

A message from our Governors..

Dear parents, carers, pupils and staff.



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Laura Bailey as our / your new Parent Governor. Laura brings a wealth of experience both professionally and personally along with commitment to our governing body, ensuring that your voices are represented in key decisions about our school's future. Laura takes over the mantle from Sophie Bloxham who has made an enormous contribution over her 4-year term. Sophie will continue to support the Governing body in an associate role focused on how we better develop our wider community partnerships, for the benefit of all. Welcome Laura and thank you Sophie.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all the other parents who put themselves forward for the vacancy and all our parents and carers for your continued support and engagement. Whether it's helping in the classroom, supervising swimming pool activities, assisting with pool maintenance, attending meetings, contributing ideas, supporting school events or simply voting in elections, your involvement is truly invaluable. We are proud that our school consistently achieves the highest level of parental engagement amongst all local schools, this parent governor election saw votes representing almost every family / child who attends, a remarkable turnout and testament to the extraordinary dedication of our school community.

As spring has sprung and Easter is nearly upon us it is a nice time of year to shed some light on another part of the schools 3-5 year strategy, that being "A Bright Future for All." This strategic theme espouses how we aim to develop each other, fostering an environment where children, staff, parents, carers and governors can thrive and grow together. By working collaboratively, we aim to create opportunities that inspire lifelong learning, innovation, and success—not just for our children but for the entire school community. We want everyone who touches our school to leave it better than they found it, and in return we aspire that everyone whom the school touches are positively impacted for their future. Together, we create an inclusive, collaborative environment that nurtures the growth and development of everyone. Thank you for being an essential part of our school family.

*Best wishes,
your School Governing Body*



Attendance - A message from Mrs Theobald



We firmly believe that all children benefit from regular school attendance and that

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

School Matters!



Class attendance for September to March

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
96.2%	96.3%	95.1%	95.8%	96.1%	96.2%

Whole school attendance update

To date our whole school attendance figure is

95.9%

Remember: Our target is 97% or above!



Congratulations to Squirrels 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%	93% - 96%	90% - 92%	Below 90%
	Attendance Superstar!	Well done, excellent attendance!	Be careful!	Improvement needed.	Persistent absentee.
Sept-March	0 days 0 hours of learning missed	1-2 days 12 hours of learning missed	3-6 days 26 hours of learning missed	7-8 days 48 hours of learning missed	9+ days 50+ hours of learning missed
Academic year Sept-July	0 days absent	approximately 4 days absent	approximately 10 days absent	approximately 15 days absent	approximately 20 days absent

Fines for absence
Please ensure you take some time to read section 8.2 of our Attendance and Absence Policy about fines issued by the Inclusion Service on behalf of Surrey for unauthorised absence from school!
[Attendance and Absence Policy](#)

Attendance Tips

What can I do to help ensure my child attends school everyday?

One of the main factors impacting children's ability to attend school everyday and be on time is sleep. Ensuring your child goes to bed at an appropriate time and enjoys plenty of rest is crucial in achieving good attendance and maintaining overall good mental health and well-being. Getting enough sleep will help them stay healthy and provide them with the energy and concentration levels they need.

The NHS recommends the following:

Your child's age	Reccomeded sleep time in 24 hours
Infants 4 to 12 months	12-16 hours including naps
Children 1 to 2 years	11 to 14 hours including naps
Children 3 to 5 years	10 to 13 hours including naps
Children 6 to 12 years	9 to 12 hours

If you need to change your child's sleep habits, you may like to try the NHS guide below:

- Decide what time you want your child to go to bed
- Start with a 'winding down' bedtime routine around 30 minutes before the time that your child usually falls asleep. Avoid the use of screens as part of this routine. Bring this forward by 5-10 minutes each week, or 15 minutes if your child has a habit of going to bed very late- until you get the bedtime you want.
- Set a limit on how much time you spend with your child when you put them to bed e.g. 1 story then say goodnight.
- Give your child their favourite toy, if they have one, before settling into bed
- Leave a dim light on if necessary
- If your child gets up, keep taking them back to bed again
- Try to be consistent
- You may have to repeat this routine for several nights.



Further information can be found on the following websites:
[Sleep hygiene in children and young people](#)
[The Sleep Charity](#)

Book Week and World Book Day 2025



Monday 3rd March saw the beginning of our Barnett Wood Book Week.

The week began with a special visit from a local teacher and author, Mary Petley. Mary has written her very first book called 'A Home For Henry' and the children loved hearing all about what it is really like to write a book.



On Thursday, we were lucky enough to have another real-life author visit all the classes. Ella's mum in Foxes has written over forty books! We loved finding out all about her books, her ideas, where she gets her inspiration and how many people are actually involved in creating a book.



I loved the whole school quiz so much!

I really liked it when we got to read with our friends from other classes.



Throughout the week, we welcomed lots of 'Mystery Readers' who came to read stories to the children. This was such a special treat!

We had a book quiz in the hall where we teamed up with children from other classes - there were 151 children all working together to try to win for their team!



On Thursday 6th March, we all dressed up as our favourite book characters for World Book Day.

Our lunchtime Book Club was a hit!



Don't we look amazing?



Year R Ducklings



As part of their topic 'Amazing Animals', our Reception classes had the delightful experience of watching ducklings hatch! This hands-on learning opportunity sparked curiosity and much excitement among the children as they observed the life cycle of these adorable creatures. It was a wonderful way to connect science with real-life experiences. The ducklings enjoyed their stay in Reception and today we said a sad goodbye to them as they returned to their farm.



It was so exciting when they hatched!
Harry J.



The ducklings were so cute and fluffy!
Daisy



We could hear them cheep all day!
Ella B-T



Year 1 visit Ashtead Library

As part of Book Week Year 1 visited Ashtead Library. We found out how the library works and where to find the books we are interested in.



We spent time looking at and sharing books together. The librarians told us that we could borrow up to one hundred books! We didn't think our parents would want to carry them all home.



I read books and had a story. I liked it when they read to me.



I liked people at the library and walking with Olivia's Mummy.

We thought that the library was a great way to read and enjoy more books.

Some of us went to the library the following weekend to borrow just a few.



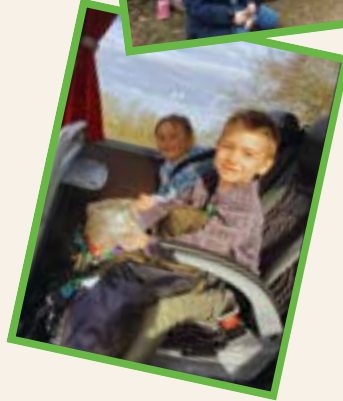
Year 2 Trip to Wisley

On Wednesday 12th March, a very excited Year 2 set off on our school trip to Wisley RHS.

We had two coaches this year, as the big coach we normally use to take all the Year 2s had broken down the day before, so each class was lucky enough to have their very own coach!

We saw the biggest tree and the tallest tree at Wisley! They are called Californian Redwoods.
Sophie, Foxes

We even got to plant our very own Nasturtiums which are growing brilliantly!



We had a wonderful time exploring all the beautiful plants, trees, herbs and flowers that grow at Wisley.

Some of them smell amazing, others not so much!



As always, a GREAT BIG 'thank you' to the parents and grandparents who were able to accompany us. We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did!



Year 2 Step into Easter

This week, Badgers and Foxes were invited to St George's Church for a 'Stepping into Easter' experience.

We learned all about the Easter story by visiting different stations.

We also decorated a keyring which was in the shape of a cross and got to take home a palm cross.

We got to eat a piece of bread and have a drink of pretend wine!
Dexter, Foxes



Thank you to Jaynie and all the volunteers at St George's for inviting us to take part in this moving experience!

Red Nose Day 2025

RED
NOSE
DAY



To support Comic Relief this year, children came to school dressed in their most colourful clothes and 1980s fashion for the 40th anniversary of Red Nose Day! We think you'll agree, the children looked fantastic!

The money we have raised through our donations will help make a difference to lots of people around the world, ensuring they are healthy and safe as well as having access to education and support. Thank you.

Your donations raised...

£194

THANK YOU!



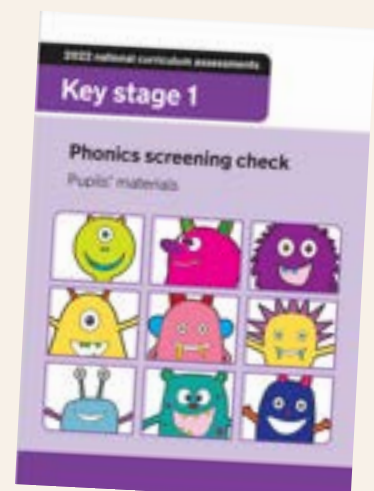
Phonics Screening Check - Information for Year 1 parents

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](#)





URGENT

PLEA!



Our Summer Swim Scheme needs you!

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered so far in supporting our Summer Swim Scheme, however we still only have 8 Pool Supervisors to run the swim sessions in the summer, when ideally we need 12. This could mean that we would not be able to offer as many sessions as we would like to. **PLEASE** consider signing up to help. You must be available to complete both

First Aid training sessions on:

Friday 23rd May (8.30am - 3pm) and Wednesday 4th June (in the pool, 3 - 5pm).

The First Aid qualification lasts for 3 years. Contact the school office if you can help.

THANK YOU!!



COMING SOON



Watch out for further details coming from the Friends on the class Whatsapp groups!



Next 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

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) 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.

Dates for Diaries



Our remaining INSET days for this academic year are:

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

Tuesday 1st April	2.15pm	Whole school dance performance
Friday 4th April	1.30pm	Last day of Spring term - School finishes 1.30pm Honeybees After School Club finishes 4.30pm
Monday 7th April to Friday 18th April EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Monday 21st April	All day	Easter Bank Holiday
Tuesday 22nd April	All day	School closed for INSET Day
Wednesday 23rd April	8.30am	Children return to school
Thursday 1st May	AM	Class photos
Monday 5th May	All day	School Closed – May Bank Holiday
Wednesday 7th May	8.45am	Year 1 Parents – Phonics Screening Information session
Thursday 8th May	All day	*NEW: VE Day 80th Anniversary Non-uniform - wear red, white and blue.
Friday 16 th May	AM	*NEW: 'Skipathon' Fundraising event for the Royal Marsden - more details soon!
Monday 19th May		Swimming lessons start this week – please see timetable on our website

Planning your holidays for next year? Our term dates and Inset for 2025-26 are on our school website:

[Term Dates 2025-26](#) 

[Barnett Wood School Calendar](#) 

[Subscribe to our Calendar](#) 