



Barnsbury Primary School and Nursery

Almond Avenue
Barnsbury
Woking
Surrey
GU22 0BB

Telephone: 01483 763114
Email: info@barnsbury.surrey.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Harrup

4th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We look forward to welcoming back our Year 6 from their residential later on today. They've had fabulous weather and we look forward to hearing all about it. Some of our Year 6 children have also had some special days out but closer to home and hopefully we can share their adventures with you in the newsletter after Easter.

On Tuesday of this week, our Year 5 and 6 athletes represented Barnsbury at the Surrey County Sportshall Finals at the Spectrum, Guildford. I was fortunate enough to be able to go and watch and I couldn't have been prouder of them. Please see the body of the newsletter for photos and details about how they got on and other athletics news.

Weekly Coffee and Catch Up

Ambreen Ali, the school's Home School Link Worker is organising a weekly 'coffee and catch up session' for all parents. Drop in to the Lighthouse on Ash Road between 8.45am and 10.00am (term time only) for a chat, to share ideas, advice and support, meet new people and build connections (cake also provided!). There is no need to book, just drop in, but if you have any questions, please contact Ambreen: hslw@barnsbury.surrey.sch.uk.

Surrey County Council Vacancy—Walking Instructor

The Safer Travel Team at Surrey County Council have 3 vacancies for a Walking Instructor based in Woking or Guildford. This is a bank, term-time position, with no set or guaranteed hours. The 'Feet First: Walking Training' service was launched nearly three years ago. The training is targeted at pupils in Year 3, and is a service that is available to all primary schools across the county. The aim of 'Feet First' is to provide trainees with vital road safety skills to better enable them to safely walk to and from school with an adult and prepare them for future independent travel. It is taught through a combination of classroom and practical roadside sessions. The practical sessions are delivered by trained Walking Instructors, employed by Surrey County Council. More details can be found [here](#).

Pets as Therapy—Virtual Walking Challenge

We are fortunate to have Dory, our Pets as Therapy dog visit us every two weeks. The charity has organised a walking challenge to raise vital funds to help them to recruit more volunteers and assess more pets so they can visit more hospitals, schools and care homes across the UK. The challenge is to walk 100km throughout the month of May and notch up the kilometres day by day (it works out around 3km a day, just under 2 miles). But you can also set your own distance goal and walk less than 100km, or more! If you are interested in supporting this wonderful charity, please click [here](#) for further details.

National Thank a Teacher Day

Wednesday 18th June 2025 is National Thank a Teacher Day—a nationwide moment to recognise the incredible dedication of everyone working in education. From teachers and teaching assistants to school office staff, caretakers, and lunchtime supervisors, every individual plays a vital role in shaping young lives. This special day is your chance to say a heartfelt thank you. If you would like to get involved, please click [here](#).

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 22nd April.

With kind regards

Mrs J E Harrup
Headteacher



Star of the Week

Effort Award

Values Award

Oak

Gian

Sadie

Reggie

Ash

Michael

Ava

Aaryadeep

1B

Flora

Yuri

Mason

1M

Aliza

Imaan

Ohene

2M

Loggie

Max

Elina

2T

Ava

Zidaan

Saharsh

3B

Hadley

Harley

Ulvi

3M

Catrin

Sarah-Luisa

Fatimah

4D

Sylvia

Abiya

Holly

4J

Yusuf

William

Teniola

5M

Harvey

Jemima

Harriet

5T

Oscar S

Dexter

Abi L

6G

6L

**Congratulations to our Super Speller
this week:**



**Congratulations to the recipients of
a WOW certificate this week: Noah
and William (6G), Ella, Vishnu, Fati-
mah, Emily R and Chloe (3M) and
Isla (4D).**



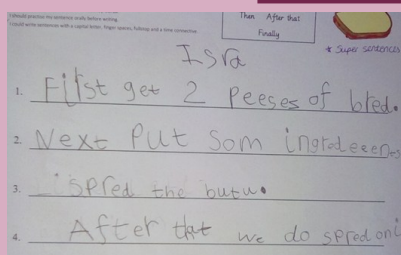
Reception



Reception have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about food over the last few weeks. We learnt about healthy and unhealthy foods and what a balanced diet might look like. We tasted different fruits and did fruit printing after reading *Handa's Surprise*.

We learnt about respecting each other and how we are all unique as we read *Carla's Sandwich*. We designed unique sandwiches. The children taught a robot how to make a sandwich by writing clear instructions.

In maths, we have been learning number bonds to 10! We have represented 10 in different ways, such as using Numicon, our fingers, whole part models and number sentences.



We had so much fun on our visit to the Life Space. We learnt about different body parts and how to keep our minds and bodies healthy. The children enjoyed joining in with the actions and songs. They also helped Harold the giraffe to solve some challenges such as what do to when he feels sad, and how to stay healthy.



Reception took part in a competition called 'Me and My Family'. We are pleased to announce that all of our pictures were included in the book! Every child received a sticker and a certificate. The books were available to purchase and we were lucky enough to receive a copy of the book for school so we can enjoy looking through our pictures, alongside the winners from other schools.



Year 4

The Year 4 children visited Butser Farm on Tuesday 25th March. Butser Ancient Farm is an archaeological open-air museum and experimental archaeology site located near Petersfield in Hampshire, featuring reconstructions of prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon buildings.



The children had a terrific time learning about what life was like during the Anglo-Saxon era, which is what they are learning about this half term in History. The trip was a practical experience, which included digging for fossils, weaving, understanding and making runes, as well as ancient fence making. A delightful day, and a good 'dip' into life during the six centuries from 410-1066AD.



Year 2

We have had such a fantastic Spring term! This week we enjoyed a visit from the Life Space and were invited to watch the KS2 dress Rehearsal of Oliver, what a treat!



We also got to go on a school trip to Hobble Down Farm. There were so many animals to see, including during a special minibeasts workshop. A few brave children even held some of the creepy crawlies. We found out so many interesting facts including what an exoskeleton is!

Barnsbury Athletics News

At Barnsbury Primary we believe that athletic competitions are important for children, as they foster physical and mental development, teaching valuable life skills like teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship, while also promoting healthy habits and a positive attitude towards challenges and setbacks.

Our school Athletics Teams have been very busy this half term. Showing their dedication to all of their training sessions, and in addition, training on weekends with local runs and clubs.

Besides Sportshall preparation and competition, the teams have been engaged in WASP Cross Country competitions. The Year 5 and 6 Cross country teams ran incredibly well in their individual team race, as well as in the relay event, achieving good positions overall. The year 3/4 competition was unfortunately postponed, and the date has been confirmed for the 20th May 2025, Summer 1.

The Year 3/4 Sportshall team competed and finished 2nd place in their Guildford / Woking area Sportshall competition in March. We are super proud of them, and a great introduction to competitive athletics. We are super excited to see them participate in the 2025/2026 Sportshall.

Once all have competed, we will be given our overall positions in the district, which will be relayed to parents.

The term's training and competing culminated in our year 5 and 6 Sportshall athletes competing in the Surrey County Sportshall Higher competition. An amazing feat, considering we are new to this form of competition, and achieved an 8th place overall in the County. The final results and positions will be forwarded to us in due course.



Year 5 and 6 District Team



Sportshall Team - Spring 2025, 1st in District, 8th in Surrey County

Whale Wise

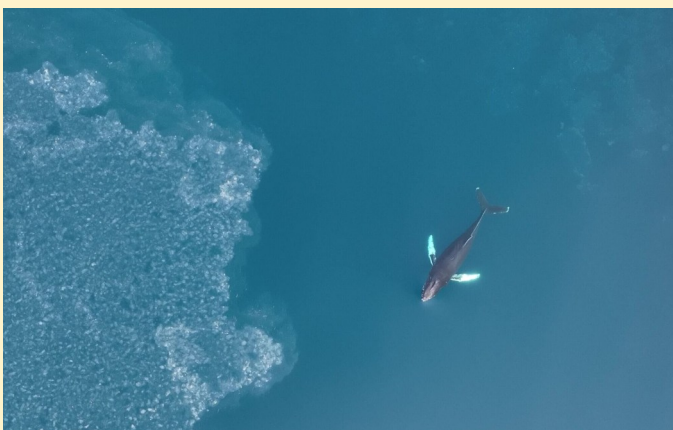
Earlier in the year, KS2 enjoyed an assembly from Whale Wise. They have been working with the Eco Council to share updates directly from Iceland and to answer some of our questions. Please see a section of their newsletter below:

Winter whales of the Westfjords

Written by: Tom Grove and Alyssa Stoller

Normally our field season takes place in summer and autumn, which seems to be the period of peak humpback whale occurrence in the Icelandic Westfjords. However, 2025 has been the year of change for Whale Wise, as we increasingly monitor cetaceans in winter months. After a three-week field season in northeast Iceland to document cetaceans at the site of a future port (see our [blog post](#)), Alyssa and I headed back to our main base in the Westfjords in early February. Since then, in between computer work and winter storms, we have taken every opportunity to look for whales in the region. We aim to document their occurrence (which is critical in areas lacking baseline data) and to collect aerial images, providing valuable health data for humpback whales (length and body condition). Our observations so far have been very exciting.

We've seen humpback whales throughout virtually the entire period, which we weren't necessarily expecting in mid-winter when most whales have migrated southwards. In particular, one whale - which we named Rooster - has spent most of their time in the very inner part of Steingrímsfjörður. We have become very attached to this young whale and their varied behaviours. Always moving at speed, we've seen Rooster feeding at the surface (likely on capelin, a small schooling fish), pushing through thin layers of sea ice and even seeming to eat mud, probably filtering the sediment for small prey items. Beyond humpbacks, we've seen white-beaked dolphins, harbour porpoises and even massive fin whales coming into the area, which was an incredible sight. However, probably our most special encounters have been with a group of orcas led by the matriarch Sakkara. After [two incredible visits in 2024](#), Sakkara and her pod came back this March, displaying some incredible hunting behaviours. Learn more about this unique group of animals in the next newsletter!



If you are interested in finding out more, please speak to a member of the Eco Council.



Wilder Schools: Win a £500 grant!

Take part in our **Action for Nature competition** with Wilder Schools to help nature thrive!

How to take part:

1. Complete one or more Actions for nature at home or in the community.
2. Record your action, upload and view the actions map at:

surreywildlifetrust.org/nature-actions-map



← Or scan the QR code



Why take part:

- If we all take action for nature, we'll make a difference for Surrey's wildlife.
- Claim **half price membership** with Surrey Wildlife Trust by recording your action.
- Be entered into our **wildlife equipment prize draw!**
- The school with the most recorded actions will win a **£500 grant** for outdoor learning equipment or tools!

Competition closes: 31st May 2025

Wilder Schools Action for Nature Competition 2025

End date: Saturday 31st May 2025

Surrey Wildlife Trust has been working with Barnsbury Primary School to encourage practical actions beyond the school grounds and help nature thrive.

Complete one or more Actions for Nature at home or in your community, and Barnsbury Primary School will be in with a chance of winning a **£500** grant towards outdoor learning equipment or tools for school grounds improvement.

It isn't hard or expensive to help our wildlife, your action could be as simple as a litter pick! If you're lucky enough to have a garden, you could feed the birds, plant pollinator-friendly plants or go chemical-free.

How to take part:

Explore your possible [Actions for Nature](#) | [Surrey Wildlife Trust](#)

Once you've completed your Action for Nature, record your actions and view our actions map

at: www.surreywildlifetrust.org/nature-actions-map

Record your Action for Nature to **claim half-price membership** with **Surrey Wildlife Trust**, and to be entered into a **free prize draw** to win a **wildlife equipment prize!**

Dates for your diary 2024-25

Spring Term

April

2nd-4th	Year 6 Residential
Friday 4th	1:15pm End of Spring Term

Dates for your diary 2024-25

Summer Term

April

Tuesday 22nd	Start of Summer Term
Thu 24th & Fri 25th	PTA Silent Discos (times TBC)
Weds 30th	Local Governing Committee Meeting (8am to 10am)

May

Friday 2nd	3B Class Assembly (9.00am)
Friday 9th	PTA Bingo Night
Friday 16th	2M Class Assembly (9.00am)
Friday 23rd	2T Class Assembly (9.00am)
Friday 23rd	PTA Non Uniform Day & Cake Sale
Friday 23rd	End of half term
26th May-6th June	Two week half term

June

Weds 11th	Reception School Trip
Weds 18th	Class photos
Weds 25th	Local Governing Committee Meeting (8am to 10am)
Weds 25th	Nursery Sports Day
Thursday 26th	Sports Day
Friday 27th	Oak Class Assembly (9.00am)

July

Friday 4th	Ash Class Assembly (9.00am)
Tuesday 22nd	End of Term (1:15pm finish)



WEEKLY COFFEE & CATCHUP



Come and join us for a relaxed and friendly coffee morning!

When: Every Wednesday – 9.45-10.00am (term time only)

Starting On 23.04.2025

Where: The Lighthouse – Barnsbury, 30 Ash Rd, Woking, GU22 0BH

What to Expect:

- A warm, welcoming space to chat with other parents
- Enjoy a hot drink and a sweet treat
- Share ideas, advice, and support
- Meet new faces and build connections

Whether you want to have a quiet chat, share a laugh, or just take a break – this is a space for YOU!

No need to book – just drop in!

We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, contact: Ambreen Ali (HSLW) on hslw@barnsbury.surrey.sch.uk

SILENT DISCO



PICK YOUR OUTFIT
GET YOUR TICKET
GRAB SOME HEADPHONES
TWO CHANNELS OF MUSIC
CHOSEN BY YOU

THURSDAY 24TH APRIL

RECEPTION 3:15 TO 4:00PM

YEAR 2 4:15 TO 5:00PM

YEAR 4 5:15 TO 6:15PM

FRIDAY 25TH APRIL

YEAR 1 3:15 TO 4:00PM

YEAR 3 4:15 TO 5:15PM

YEAR 5 5:30 TO 6:30PM

YEAR 6 6:45 TO 7:45PM



TICKET ONLY EVENT £3.50

TICKET LINK [PTA EVENTS](#)

DROP OFF KS2 HALL - PICK UP FROM KS1 HALLW

COLLECTION FROM AND RETURN TO BUDDIES/ CAMP MARTIAL X.

PUPIL PREMIUM DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

PLEASE ENSURE CHILDREN HAVE THEIR WATER BOTTLES



Eyes down for fun-filled evening.

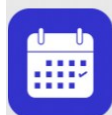
£5.00 per person.

10 rounds of traditional Bingo
With one or two surprises!

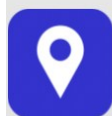
Bar selling wine, beers & non-
alcoholic drinks.

Platters available

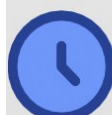
Meat
or
Cheese
£7



Friday 9th May 2025



KS1 Hall



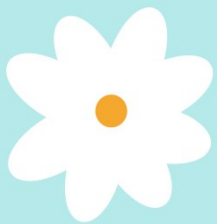
**Doors open 7:00pm
7:30pm start**





PTA

Non Uniform Day & Cake Sale



FRIDAY 23RD MAY

**OPTIONAL DONATION OF £1 FOR NON
UNIFORM DAY**

CAKE SALE

**AFTER SCHOOL IN KS2
HALL**



THE BIG BARNSBURY EASTER EGG HUNT

18th April
10:00am - 12:00pm



Barnsbury Lighthouse
30 Ash Rd, Woking, Surrey,
GU22 0BH

THE Lighthouse x EMMAUS RD
Barnsbury Woking

HOLIDAY FUN CLUB AT WOKING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Tuesday 15th–Thursday 17th April
9:15am–12:30pm

Explore the story of Easter
through games, craft, cooking
and music.

For children in school years reception–yr5

£5 per day or £12 for all three days

Siblings £4 per day or £10 for all three days



For more information and to book
scan the QR code or visit
WOKINGURC.ORG.UK

SPRING INTO EASTER



Woking United Reformed Church
White Rose Lane, Woking, GU22 7HA

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.








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Dana

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Lois

*"I had tears watching
her perform. Amazing
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Almond Avenue, Woking, Surrey GU22 0BB

£30 PER DAY



Girls cricket in Woking

There's a growing girls' section at [Woking & Horsell Cricket Club](#) and we're looking for more girls to come and join us.

U18-U14, U13 and U11 squads play in hardball cricket leagues and softball cricket is available for **younger girls from U8-U11** with practice matches, local leagues and festivals.



Training sessions for **U6 upwards** run by qualified coaches are **every Monday evening** from mid-April at the Brewery Road ground in Horsell, Woking. All ages and abilities are welcome - from beginners to experienced cricketers.

For more information about girls cricket, please contact **Chris Pinson** on **07929 002170** or email whccjuniorsmembership@gmail.com.

whcc.play-cricket.com

FRIDAY

INFLATASPORTZ

ZONE

DROP-INS!



**AGES
5-13**

.....
BARNSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL
FRIDAY 11TH APRIL 10-2PM
.....

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