



Barnsbury Primary School and Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs J Harrup

7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our wonderful choir represented Barnsbury superbly on Monday evening by performing at the Surrey Arts Primary Music Festival at Dorking Halls. Mrs Norfolk was so very proud of all of the children involved who sang beautifully and displayed their Barnsbury values throughout the experience. Thank you to Mrs Norfolk for organising and to Mrs Twiston-Davies who accompanied her to help supervise the children. What an amazing experience for all involved, creating memories for life.

Parent Consultations have also been held this week, giving parents the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with their class teacher and to take a look at books and the learning that has happened across the year. It was lovely to see so many parents over the two evenings. If you didn't manage to make an appointment, please contact the school office to arrange a time to meet with your child's teacher.

On Thursday, the school was awash with witches, wizards, Mad Hatters, Mr Men, Dog Men and a range of fairies and princesses! We celebrated World Book Day first thing in the morning with a parade in the playground so we could all see everyone's costumes. The sun was shining and it was a wonderful opportunity to bring our whole school community together. Throughout the day, children attended workshops and had literacy inspired activities. A huge thank you goes to Mrs McConville for her hard work to organise the day and making it so special.

This morning was a Rock, Steady Concert for the 'Friday bands'. Congratulations to all of the performers who started the day off 'with a bang', performing incredibly well with such confidence.

Eating Disorder Support - Shout 8258

Shout 85258, is a free and confidential text messaging support line that has issued new guidance on the issue of eating disorders. Eating disorders are recognised by the NHS as a 'mental health condition where you use the control of food to cope with feelings and other situations'. Recognising an eating disorder is the first step towards healing and regaining balance. If interested in finding out more, please click [here](#).

Watching and Browsing Online - Internet Matters

According to Ofcom, 90% of children are watching online videos and browsing the internet regularly. Children may love to stream videos and look up information, it's a fun way to learn and relax after all, but they must be guided. The e-space is filled with inappropriate content and dangerous material. It is important that parents are able to steer their children towards the right places when online. Internet Matters has published a guide dedicated to supporting adults in setting digital boundaries for children, so that they can make smart choices and build healthy online habits. The guide can be found [here](#).

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend—fingers crossed the sun continues to shine.

With kind regards

Mrs J E Harrup
Headteacher



	Star of the Week	Effort Award	Values Award	Writer of the Month
Oak	Conor	Kaven	Ethan	Isra
Ash	Rachel	Emma-Rosie	Jonah	Thalia
1B	Nok Hang	Vinnie	Elliott	Dominic
1M	Jack	Noah	Jake	Jasper
2M	Tommy	Jaswik	Nate	Elina
2T	Joe	Jannat	Arthur	Elize
3B	Sapphire	Hadley	Gia-Rae	Maximus
3M	William	Musa	Fatimah	Musa
4D	Louis	Frankie	Thomas	Logan
4J	Leo	Amber	Abdul	Lucy
5M	Ahmad	Rachael	Isobel	Ella
5T	Abigail	Victoria	Oscar T	Will
6G	Hannah	Nicola	Diesel	Olivia & Emma
6L	Erin	Thomas	Ava	Catalina

Congratulations to our Super Speller this week: Sylvia (4D)

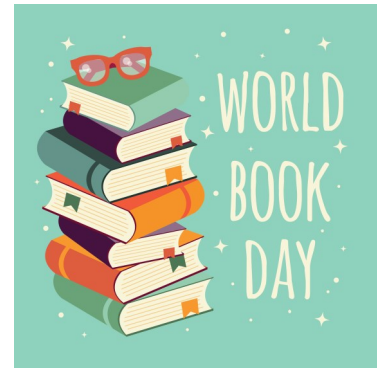


Congratulations to the recipients of a WOW certificate this week:

**Isla, Sylvia &
Finlay (4D)**



World Book Day Awards



Best Costume



Most Intriguing Character



Most Enthusiastic Storyteller



Oak

Ivy

Lyra

Sadie

Ash

Matthew

Ava

Eva

1B

Yuri

Quinn

Vinnie, Haseeba,
Yuri, Elliott, Dakota
& Flora

1M

Michael

Edmund

Sophie, Ohene,
Archie, Jasper & Liv

2M

Ellen

Rebecca

Talia

2T

Jenson

Ted

Arla

3B

Theo H

Skylar

George

3M

Eddie

Lillian

Roslyn

4D

Holly

Jonathan

Finlay

4J

Edward

Jimmy

William

5M

Grace

Sasha

Jemima

5T

Dexter

Bella

Adele

6G

William

Evangeline

Noah

6L

Anthony

Annukka

Tabitha

Congratulations to the Lionesses this week:

Jess, Tabitha and Charlotte

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

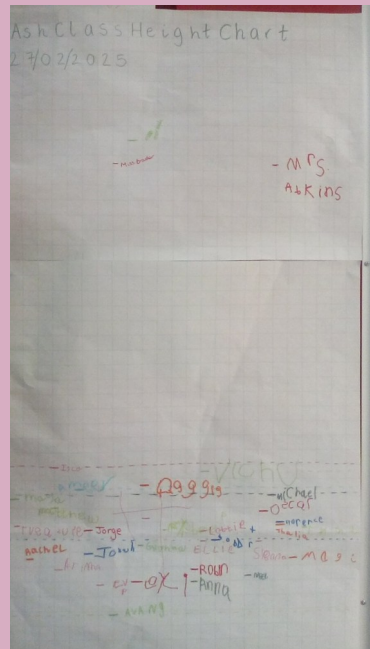
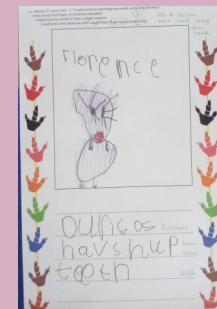
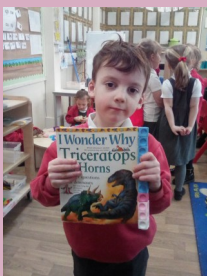


Reception

This half term we have been learning all about 'Dinosaurs'! We went on a dinosaur hunt, finding 'smelly dinosaur poo', 'dinosaur footprints' in the sand and 'claw marks' on the field, before finally coming across a 'dinosaur egg'. This led to lots of imaginative writing describing the clues we had seen and what we thought might be inside the egg!

This week we have been busy researching dinosaur facts using non-fiction books and the Internet, we then wrote our own dinosaur fact to create a class fact book on Dinosaurs.

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In maths we have been learning about length and height. We used cubes to compare classroom items by length, and made our own class height chart to compare children in our classes.

Year 2

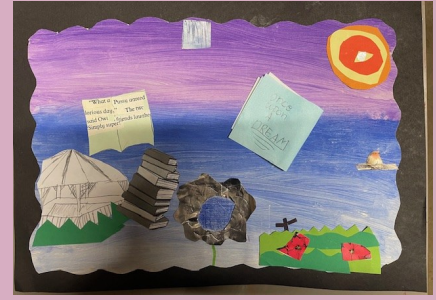
We are enjoying the start of a new term in Year 2 with lots of exciting topics. In science we have been learning about how animals adapt to suit their habitat. We worked in pairs to create some fantastic posters.

We also thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day. Our morning was packed with exciting activities including a whole-school parade, and a workshop where we explored story telling through movement and dance.



Year 4

Year 4 have been working so very hard during their Art lessons to produce a combination of mixed mediums to produce a collage. The work was a combination of exploring monochromatic colours, as well as learning how effective colour choices and combinations are. Pencil sketching techniques such as continuous line and shading. Collage was included, after learning about the artist Henri Matisse, and the manner in which he went about creating the most dynamic work. Lastly the children tried their hand at photography, which is a form of art, and they enjoyed thoroughly. The collaboration of all of these techniques created the most colourful, delightful, individual works by our clever children.



Year 6



Year 6 students dazzled in their creative costumes on World Book Day, featuring characters like Billionaire Boy and The Mad Hatter! They enjoyed storytelling sessions and a special workshop with a talented storyteller who helped them craft their own unique stories. It was an inspiring and memorable day for everyone!

Year 6 Mayan Workshop



Year 6 students had an amazing time exploring drama and creativity during their Mayan workshop! They delved into the rich history and culture of the ancient Mayan civilization through engaging activities and performances.

The students enthusiastically participated in role-playing, storytelling, and crafting, bringing history to life in a fun and interactive way.



Dates for your diary 2024-25

Spring Term

March

Weds 12th	Local Governing Committee Meeting
Friday 14th	5T Class Assembly
Tuesday 18th	9.00am Rock Steady Concert (Tuesday bands)
Friday 21st	1M Class Assembly
Thursday 20th	Year 2 School Trip
Tuesday 25th	Year 4 School Trip
Thursday 27th	9.00am Rock Steady Concert (Thursday bands)
Friday 28th	1B Class Assembly
Friday 28th	1:30pm KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal
Monday 31st	1.30pm KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal

April

2nd-4th	Year 6 Residential
Thursday 3rd	6pm KS2 Production Performance
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	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)
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)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowrie is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, *Neuroteachers*, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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**AGES
5-13**

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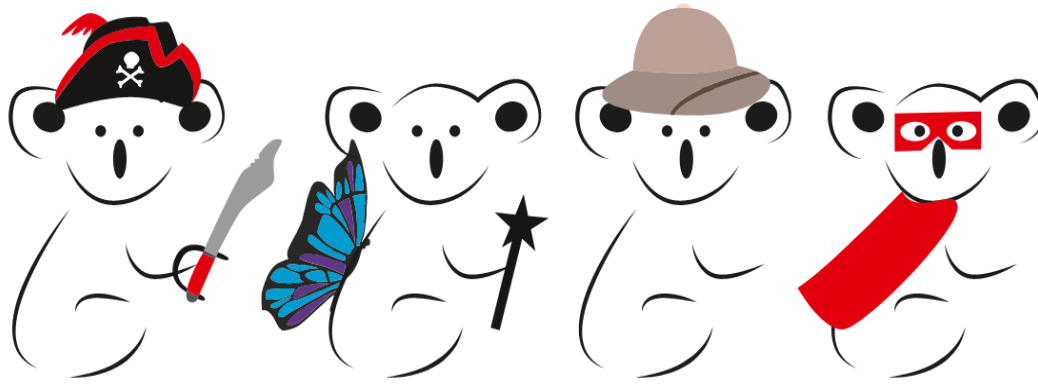
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