



Barnsbury Primary School and Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs J Harrup

12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, the weather has certainly taken a turn! Unfortunately, the heavy rain caused flooding at the front grassed area of the school, on our key stage two field and Forest School area. The water has subsided now but it is still very concerning for future downpours. Also, with the temperatures dropping, please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat and gloves to wear at break times.

We've had problems with our telephone lines at school this week as well. Apologies if you have been trying to get through by telephone. We have called for an engineer to look into the situation, but as I write this, the telephone lines are still down. If you need to communicate with us, please email the school office and we will respond as soon as we can. Hopefully, the situation will be resolved early next week.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

This week, the Government launched a national campaign to remind parents of the importance of school attendance. The campaign strapline is 'moments matter, attendance counts'. This is something all of us at Barnsbury obviously agree with and we follow policies and procedures when children's attendance falls below 90%.

The Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty states that it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. The NHS has produced guidance for parents and carers entitled, '[Is my child too ill for school?](#)'.

**"THIS MORNING,
HE WAS WORRIED
ABOUT SCHOOL...
BUT LOOK AT HIM
NOW!"**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**


HM Government
Search the Education Hub to find out more



Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. The Department for Education has published useful [guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance](#).

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive) , they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices. Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.
With kind regards,

J E Harrup

Mrs J E Harrup
Headteacher



Dates for your diary 2023-24

Spring Term

January

Wednesday 10th	Local Governing Committee Meeting (8am-10am)
Friday 26th	Creative Arts Day

February

Friday 2nd	9am—3M Class Assembly
Friday 2nd	PTA—Second Hand Uniform Sale—KS1 Hall
Friday 9th	9am—6J Class Assembly
12th—16th	Half Term
Monday 19th	INSET Day
Wednesday 21st	Year 5 Trip

March

Friday 1st	PTA—Second Hand Uniform Sale—KS1 Hall
Wednesday 6th	Local Governing Committee Meeting (8am-10am)
Thursday 7th	World Book Day
Friday 8th	9am—1M Class Assembly
Friday 15th	9am—3B Class Assembly
Tuesday 19th	9.30am Rock Steady Spring Concert
Thursday 21st	9.30am Rock Steady Spring Concert
Friday 22nd	Y4 & 5 Production Dress Rehearsal (KS1) 9.30am
Monday 25th	Y4 & 5 Production Dress Rehearsal (KS2) 1.30pm
Wednesday 27th	Y4 & 5 Production—adults only—6pm
Thursday 28th	End of Term—Finish 1.15pm

April

Monday 15th	INSET Day
Tuesday 16th	First Day of Summer Term



**Star of the
Week**

**Effort
Award**

**Values
Award**

Oak	Abdullah	James	Julia
Ash	Elliott	Haziq	Jack
1B	Azhaan	Isaac	Elina
1M	Hannah	Mary Kate	Joziah
2M	Ella	Fatimah S	Avy
2T	Cormac	Ella	Abby
3B	Khaleesi	Steve	William
3M	Isla	Mla	Violet
4T	Quinn	Georgina	Harriet
4D	Zaeem	Jake	Abigail
5M	Isla	Violet	Angela
5B	Freda	Caidence	Thomas C
6J	Emie	Hallie	Rebecca H
6G	Eva	Yasin	Bea

Congratulations to our Super Spellers this week:



Congratulations to the recipients of a WOW certificate this week: Mason (Ash), Emily (2T), Tabitha (5B), Dexter (4D), Ben (4D), Pippa (4D), Isla (4D), Abi (4D), Chloe (4D)



Reception

This half term we have started our topic of 'Space'. Last week we read 'Man on the Moon' and thought about how we could learn from him to look after our own planet, we used litter pickers to tidy our playground.

This week we shared the story 'Aliens Love Underpants' we thought of our own ideas to teach the aliens something new they could learn when visiting planet Earth. We found sound pants in the sandpit and used these to make our own words using our phonic skills.



We imagined what aliens might look like and used our design ideas to make our own aliens from clay. The clay was much harder than playdoh and our fingers had to work much harder to get the shapes we desired.

Year 2



In Year 2 we welcomed the year by having a dance party and talking about our new year resolutions, which are:

- Read more books.
- Practice good manners.
- Make new friends and be a good friend.
- Try new foods and be more active.

Science

Our science experiment this week was to test which ball is the bounciest. In order to conduct this experiment, we done the following:

- Explore the properties of a variety of balls.
- Generate questions and discuss the similarities and differences between the balls.
- Discuss and design an investigation to test which ball is the bounciest.
- Make predictions, test, and record results.
- Learn about what makes a material have bouncy properties.

Out of all the balls we tested, the football was the bounciest. We love science!!!



Year 4

What an incredible week year 4 have had. Our Science theme this term is Sound, and the children had an exciting lesson creating sound from a variety of different instruments, using various techniques.

Mapwork skills were honed, as the classes worked at identifying cities in Greece, which is our Geography theme for this term.



Gymnastics this half term is to explore different types of jumps and leaps and begin to create sequences. We started off with balance techniques as displayed here by some of the children, and then proceeded to learn the skill of dismounting the beam in a variety of jumping styles.



Year 6

Year 6 are already hard at work after a lovely Christmas break. In Science, we have begun our new topic of "Light". We spent the first lesson conducting lots of mini experiments to investigate questions like "Does light travel in straight or curved lines?" and "What colour is light?".

In Art, Year 6 have started to look at the work of Freida Kahlo. We reflected on her use of colour, as well as other elements that appeared in the background of her self-portraits, like animals and nature. We linked this to her Mexican heritage.



Year 6 also had a very exciting first hockey lesson - we were joined by a flurry of snow! Unfortunately not enough for us to make snowmen!



Year 4

Seen here is Mrs Living who religiously arrives each Friday to help with reading, where the focus is not only fluency, but also higher order reasoning skills.

A fun sound walk correlating this terms English and Science, saw the children setting of to listen to sounds around us. This formed the basis for poetry writing, which will be explored further in the next few weeks.



What Children & Young People Need to Know about FREE VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

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COLLECTIVE

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