



**WILLIAM BARNES PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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### December 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we have got to the end of the Autumn term! What a term. All our children have been absolute superstars this term, we can all feel very proud of them. I would also like to extend a massive thank you to all our staff who have gone above and beyond this term, teaching in school and producing work for those isolating. A big thank you too to all of you, our parents and carers who have trusted us with the return to school of your children and have been so supportive.

### Christmas Performances

Year 1 and Year 2 will be producing a CD of their Christmas performance at the end of term this year. Reception class will be uploading theirs to Tapestry. More details to follow.

### Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch and class parties will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The class teachers will let you know about contributions for the parties. It will be non-school uniform. If you would like to order the Christmas packed lunch from our food supplier then please log on to the website. You will need a weeks notice.

### Reports

At the end of this term all teachers will be sending out a short report on how your child is progressing and what their English and Maths targets are. I hope you will find this useful.

### Attendance and Illness

Despite colds and bugs our whole school attendance so far is 97% which is our target—.hopefully we can keep it this high or above. Absences for Covid are not included in this figure. Our cleaners have been doing an amazing job and thanks to all staff for cleaning in the day. We do ask that if your child has the norovirus please keep them off school for the full 48 hours from time of sickness.

**If your child is off for any reason please contact the school office before 9.00 a.m.** The school office staff do chase up absences but if your child is absent and we hear no reason, they will be marked as unauthorised.

### Keeping Warm

It is also very important to stay wrapped up as the seasonal weather continues to be very changeable. Please make sure your child has a coat every day, even if it seems sunny in the morning. Please also name all items of clothing – it is then very easy to return a lost item of clothing to a child. Please could children also have an extra layer to stay warm as we try to balance a well-ventilated classroom with warmth. Also, children do need a pair of sensible school shoes which are waterproof, as well as PE plimsolls and trainers.

### Christmas Cards

As mentioned in previous email ,cards can be sent in from the 1st Dec, **to their class bubbles only**. Teachers will distribute on Tuesdays after cards are



THANK  
YOU !!!

quarantined for 72 hrs in a box. Last day for bringing in **Friday December 11th**. Many thanks.

### Sports

We have appointed our Sports Ambassadors for this year who have been trying to support as much as possible without breaking any bubbles! Keep up the good work .

### School Closure

In the event of closure we will inform Dorset Council, the information will then be available on the website and on the local radio stations, Breeze and Heart. We will also text all parents to inform them of the closure. If there is a Covid related closure we will inform you by letter.

### Children In Need Thanks!

Thank you so much to everyone that donated, we raised a whopping £312. What a great amount. It was lovely seeing all the different outfits that the children wore on the day. Thank you for your continued support.

### Christmas Market

All classes will have items to sell for what would have been for Christmas market. These will be sent home on 11<sup>th</sup> December. The teachers will let you know the amount to send in for the item. These contributions will go to our school funds which we have obviously not been able to fund raise for this year. We thank you for your support and hope that next year all these fun events will return.

### PTFA News

The PTFA will be selling Tickets for a Christmas Raffle, please see their facebook page for details.

### School Car Park

Can we please remind you again that the school car park is for **STAFF** only and for those parents that have a parking permit and permission. We have had several near misses over the last few months with cars driving to fast into the car park. The safety of everyone but especially the children is our priority at all times. Thank you for your understanding and support on keeping our children safe. The Governors have agreed to start work on a barrier next year. We will inform you when this work will start.

### Shoebox Appeal Thanks!

A huge big thank you to all the parents that so kindly donated to the shoebox appeal. William Barnes really exceeded expectations this year and we had a lovely letter from the Rotary club thanking you all for your kind donations and that our school out shone other schools in the Wessex District. Those wonderful gifts will mean so much to disadvantaged children in other countries around the world. Fantastic effort , well done and thank you.

### Contact Details

Can we remind you that if you change your contact details please let us know ASAP so we can update our records. This is very important as we continue to send out



### **Dates**

#### **Dec 11th**

Christmas Market items coming home– class teacher will have more details nearer the time.

#### **Dec 16th**

Christmas Lunch and party in classrooms-teachers will email out details.

#### **Dec 16th**

Christmas Jumper day

### **School Returns**

Monday January 4th 2021

### **Vale Pantry**

The Vale Pantry is a community food shop offering affordable and nutritious food to local residents. For a weekly membership of £4.50 members of the Vale Pantry can choose a selection of fresh food and staples with a basket value of between £15- £25. The Pantry is available to help top up a weekly shop and the variety of food available includes fresh fruit, vegetables and store cupboard favourites.

Opening early November, membership will be limited initially to 100.

To apply for membership please go to <https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/find-a-pantry/the-vale-pantry/> and click to sign up choosing Dorset The Vale.

For further information, please contact Carole Jones, (local Dorset Councillor) on the e-mail or telephone number **35a Market Place, (previously Spears Travel), Sturminster Newton DT10 1AR**

**Telephone 07968 348481**

**E-Mail [thevalepantry@gmail.com](mailto:thevalepantry@gmail.com)**

### **Covid -19 Community Action Group Sturminster Newton**

Are able to assist you in issues such as, housing, debt management, benefits advice, dealing with utilities such as gas and electricity providers or any other forms of support and advice. They are here to help. **01258-447058**

**You can also find numbers on our school website of other organisations which can help you.**

Friday December 18th is the last day of term – we finish at 3.15pm for the Christmas holidays and we are back at school on **Monday 4th January 2021.**

I wish you all a much well deserved Happy Christmas. Please rest and enjoy any time we are able to meet with our loved ones safely. We know that in the New Year we will still need to maintain care so that we can head into more cheerful times in 2021. We have shown that we can get through anything by working together and supporting each other. I know we will continue to do so.

Best wishes

Karen Wrixon

Headteacher