



"A good school with outstanding pupil behaviour"- "Most groups of children make outstanding progress"
OFSTED July 2013
"A good school" - OfSTED March 2017



Where every child counts

The newspaper of William Barnes Primary School has been written by the staff and pupils to celebrate the school's successes. If you have any ideas or comments concerning the newspaper, please speak to Mrs Wrixon or Mr Hull. Issue 45 Christmas 2019

"To Read or not to Read—that is the question" This may not be exactly the riddle that Shakespeare asked in his play Hamlet, but the staff and children at William Barnes definitely know the answer. Reading is absolutely crucial to the progress that children make in primary school and as a result in later life. Without a thorough knowledge of phonics, children struggle in the rest of their learning, finding it difficult to enjoy the breadth of the curriculum, because every subject, from Design Technology to French, from Maths to Ancient History, will involve reading at some stage. However, the mechanical skills of reading in themselves are not what we as a school and as parents are striving towards as our final goal as educators. Simply being able to decipher a series of symbols and translate them into language is only half the story. Children need to learn to read for meaning. They need to comprehend and understand what they are reading. They need to be able to read between the lines, predict what is going to happen and make inferences and deductions from the words they have read. In this way, the children can begin to lose themselves in other worlds. They can be transported to different times and places. They can go on journeys with characters and share their adventures, their defeats and their victories. Ultimately, these children can develop a love of reading which will stay with them for the rest of their lives. If we can help the children to understand that snuggling up with a good book by a favourite author on a rainy Winter's day, is one of the most relaxing ways to pass their time, then we will have truly succeeded with our desire to help them learn to read.

Research and Reading A quick search on the internet will find you a vast body of evidence showing the link between reading and future life chances. Two studies are often quoted and stand out. The first from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2002 found that "reading enjoyment is more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status." Furthermore, in 2014 the Literacy Trust published a report called "Read on Get on" which explained in huge detail the significance of being able to read to the expected



standard at the end of primary school. The report found that adults who could read to this standard were 96% more likely to be able to be employed in occupations paying above the national average wage than those who had not mastered reading in primary school.

"We Can't Do it Alone" Like any skill, with reading the only way to improve is through regular practice, day after day until it is mastered. Whilst children spend approximately 1280 hours each year at school learning and playing, this works out as only 14.5% of the time available to the children. In other words, the children spend over 85% of their time away from their teachers in the morning, in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays. Whilst, the staff at school will give their all to help your child to learn all to help, clearly, much of the practicing and the refining and honing of reading skills has to be done during the time the children are at home. There simply isn't enough time in the school day, and that is why "we can't do it alone".



Reading Crucial in Reception and KS1 The development of reading (as well as writing and mathematical skills) are becoming increasingly seen as the bedrock of children's learning in primary school. In Reception and KS1 the children are expected to make rapid progress so that at the end of year 2 they are fluent and confident readers. Ofsted and the government feel that this is the best way to prepare children for KS2. Being successful readers at the age of seven then allows the children to flourish in years 3 and upwards, enjoying the curriculum and being stimulated and inspired without the barrier of finding reading perplexing and challenging.

Wanted — Parent Reading Guardians Every morning a small group of dedicated parent reading guardians come into school and hear a number of KS1 children read. These are normally children who need a little additional help and support. This takes place between 8.45 (when the school bell rings) and 9am (when Wake and Shake ends). If you'd be interested in helping in this way, whether it be for just one day a week or more, please speak to Mrs Strudwick who organised the Parent Reading Guardians and would very much like to have more parents get involved. The children and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parent Reading Guardians who are helping now or have helped in the past. Your support and commitment is much appreciated and really makes a difference.

Reading Volunteers Required At present a number of adults from the local community give up an hour or two of their time each week to come into school to hear readers. The adults clearly enjoy getting to know the children, who themselves appreciate the extra additional one to one attention they receive from the volunteers. They also find seeing the improvement the children make over time very satisfying. The school is always looking for more volunteers to help with reading. If you would like to help in this way, or know of someone who you think would enjoy this role, then please speak to Clare or Sarah in the school office for more details.



Molly the Reading Dog Each Tuesday afternoon, Mrs Newell pops home to bring in her own reading buddy, Molly her canine companion. For children who are reluctant readers, the opportunity to read to a dog has been found to be highly inspirational. With Molly being a non threatening and yet completely captive and interested audience, the children relax and read to their full ability, whilst having a cosy cuddle with Mrs Newell's extremely friendly and good natured pet. The idea of children reading to dogs is recognised internationally and takes place in education systems all around the world. All the children involved would like to thank Mrs Newell for an opportunity to be with Molly which has really brightened up their day.



Year 6 Reading Guardians Every Friday morning a visitor to William Barnes will see a group of dedicated year 6s sitting side by side with children from across the school sharing their love of reading with younger children. These are the year 6 "Reading Guardians" who spend fifteen minutes each week inspiring a particular child (whom he/she partners up with for the whole year) to become an avid and enthusiastic reader themselves. The Reading Guardians have been a part of the school for a number of years now and were the brainchild of Mr Field our English leader.

The Morning Read If it's hard for you to find some peace and quiet at home to read with your child each day, then why not use our school library for a "morning read". Each day, the library is open and available to parents (from 8.30 to 8.45) who wish to have a few minutes of tranquillity reading with their child to start the day. You will find a couple of friendly year 6s there to make you feel at home, as well as Mrs Ridout from breakfast club who also brings over one or two of the younger children to read with.

Sturminster Newton Library William Barnes is keen to develop links with Sturminster Newton library. As well as supporting each Summer's reading challenge which many children enjoy taking part in, staff are now planning regular visits to then library for each class. Sturminster library has a fantastic range of books for children as well as friendly and knowledgeable staff who are always keen to welcome children and new members. The greatest thing about the library is that it is entirely free to join and borrow books. So if you are not already a member please join and increase the variety of books available to your child even more.



Scholastic Book Fayre Parent's evening are an exciting time for children in the Autumn term and Spring term; they know that if they have a good report it is likely that their parents and carers will treat them to a book from the Scholastic Book Fayre as a reward. The Scholastic book Fayre has been coming to the school for longer than anyone care to remember and it's a great funder raiser for the school. A generous percentage of the sales made is given back to the school to be spent on books chosen from a large catalogue of children's books given to the school. The money is normally split evenly between classes and each teacher is able to select the books most needed by their year group.

Wonder Librarian Mrs Howarth In September the school library was in a state of considerable chaos. Due to year 5 moving into two of the classrooms in the triple mobile, the whole library had to be moved by the staff on the afternoon of the day we broke up. However, although everyone had tried to keep some sense of order to the books as they were carried over, in the end all the different sections were muddled up. Mrs Howarth, who has been in charge of the library for a few years now, tirelessly reordered and reorganized all of the books into their correct sections, so that lending was able to begin again soon after term started. The school hasn't always had a library. At one time all the school's books were kept in classes. However, about fifteen years ago the PTFA raised the money to have the furniture built by then parent Gary Mullins. Additional books were also purchased to ensure the library had sufficient stock. All the books now have bar codes and can be taken out and returned using a computer based cataloging system. If you do find any books tucked away in book shelves that belong to the school, all the staff and children would be most grateful if you could return them. All William Barnes books are stamped so they are easy to recognize.



KS1 and EYFS Announce Reading Book Amnesty Over the last few years a primary focus for the PTFA has been the purchasing of brand new age appropriate books for the children in EYFS and KS1. The school has literally invested thousands of pounds into the Oxford Reading Tree scheme to ensure that the children have a progression of inspiring and up to date books to help them to learn to read. Unfortunately, with these books going home inevitably some of them have gone hidden under beds, tucked at the back of cupboards or sandwiched into book cases. All the staff are asking that parents have a good look at home for books from the Oxford Reading Tree and return them as part of the Oxford Reading Tree Amnesty. The PTFA are currently looking at purchasing new books for KS1 and any books that are returned will help the money we have all helped to raise go further.



School to Purchase New Phonics Based Reading Books for KS1 and Reception Class

As you will all know, the learning of phonics is a crucial aspect of the process of learning to read. Every day in years R,1 and 2 the children have a daily phonics lesson and in Reception class the children focus on a new sound every day. Although the current Oxford Reading Tree is divided into levels, there is a considerable range of difficulty within a single level. At present staff in KS1 are looking to organise our existing books so that there is a definite order in which the books need to be read by the children which matches the teaching of phonics exactly. Furthermore, staff are currently making bids for grants to purchase further books for KS1 which are organised to match the order in which new sounds are introduced. This will allow children to practice the phonics they are learning at school, when enjoying their reading books at home with their parents and carers.



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5 Times a Week This is the message to parents across the school from Reception class to Year 6;

Your children need to read at least five times a week. With the younger children this will require time each day sitting down with your child and listening to the children reading and helping them with their phonics, blending sounds into whole words and discussing and talking about the books. This continues in years 3 and 4, where children still need to be listened to read on a regular basis. Parents can discuss what will happen next in the story, help the children to read between the lines and encourage the children to read with expression to help them to bring their reading to life. By year 5 and 6, many children are fluent independent readers and these children can complete their reading journal themselves with parents helping by checking that it has been kept up to date. Some children who are behind still need to be heard read daily until they have caught up and parents may be invited in to discuss this with Mr Field.



"Love of Reading" Corridor Display At William Barnes, the school corridor displays are always linked to a common theme. This Autumn the staff, decided to choose 'a love of reading' for a common theme. In each class, the children reflected on their authors and books, painting pictures, writing blurbs, designing books and choosing favourite first lines. After much hard work and fun, each class's display was up on the wall and ready to be enjoyed. If you haven't had a chance to have a look at the variety of ideas the children, please feel free to have a look along the main corridor.

Getting Ready for the Nativity After learning the Nativity story the children were very excited about the performance and were particularly delighted in being able to choose their own costumes and deciding what characters they would like to be. The children have been busily practising the nativity. They have been rehearsing and preparing their costumes! Thank you to all the parents that have helped the children with their costumes, the children are looking very realistic! The Nativity is coming together and is beginning to look lovely and the children are remembering where to walk and stand in the right place. I am sure it will be alright on the night! On Monday 16th the children will be practicing in the church ready for the Nativity Service the following day. We are looking forward to seeing you all there. (SR)

Year 1 Library Visit Year 1 recently enjoyed a fun and informative trip to our local library. We found out about all the services the library offers and were guided through how the books are labelled. The children really enjoyed exploring the books and thinking about what to look for to help them choose a book. They were amazed to learn that Harry Potter has more than 600 pages and are looking forward to reading it in the future. All the children were able to choose a book to bring back to school. They have had the opportunity to regularly delve into their library books in class and are looking forward to revisiting the library in the New Year to choose a new book. We would like to say a big thank you to all the library staff for ensuring our visit was so enjoyable. (JH)



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Gardening Club It has been a busy term for Gardening Club. We decorated pots and planted them up with bulbs and pansies. Our daffodils have just started poking through the soil and will provide a splash of colour around school in the spring. We have been amazed by how quickly a clove of garlic grows. As you can see, all the children worked really hard to help clear up the fallen Autumn leaves. To end this term we have been thinking about all the different creatures that help in the garden and have made some eco friendly (no plastic!) bird feeders to help our feathered friends through the colder months. We are all looking forward to getting growing in the summer term. (JH)



A Happy William Barnes Christmas So here we are again - the festive season has well and truly arrived at William Barnes (oh yes it has!) Our newly painted hall is looking festive

thanks to a beautifully decorated tree, arranged by our wonderful PTFA and featuring some amazing, colourful home-made decorations created by the children as part of the School Council's competition.

At this time of the year, our fantastic PTFA support us in so many ways, not least of which being our highly profitable and enjoyable Christmas Market. With a special visit from Santa, gifts and decorations made and sold by each of our classes and plenty of games, crafts and things to buy available at very reasonable prices, it's no wonder that this is such a highlight of our Christmas season.

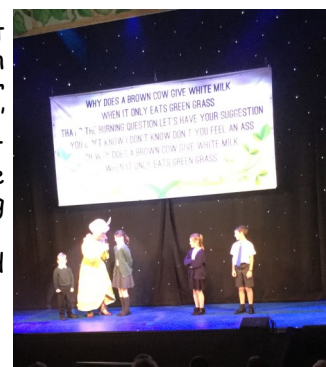


Next on the festive calendar was our annual whole school pantomime trip. This year to watch Jack and the Beanstalk at Poole Lighthouse. With 4 coach loads of excited children (and staff) we headed to Poole for a highly entertaining live show filled with singing, dancing, forgotten lines, famous faces and most importantly ice creams during the interval! Again, the staff and children would like to thank our PTFA for paying for the coaches and ice-creams to ensure that this trip was affordable and able to be enjoyed by everyone.

Finally, having watched the professionals perform, it is now the turn of our talented Year 1 and 2 children who at the time of writing are busy rehearsing for their much anticipated production 'A Midwife Crisis'

which we are confident will be a roaring success. Filled with catchy songs and confident actors, we look forward to taking our spectators on a special journey as we help the midwife and her donkey search for Bethlehem Palace - for where else would a baby king be born?!?

So all that remains is to thank you all for your support during this busy time of year and to wish each and every one of you a very merry Christmas and a happy 2020. (SS)



Cinquain Day As part of our current focus on Poetry, December saw our first 'Cinquain Day' at William Barnes. This was a day dedicated to developing an understanding of the Cinquain Poetry, reading examples and writing, editing, developing and reading their own.

The staff had already attempted their own, as part of Mr Field's training day in September, so they were very ready to explain the criteria for the style of poetry called Cinquains. A celebration assembly capped the day off.

Line 1 - 2 syllables - noun/title Line 2 - 4 syllables - adjectives/describing

Line 3 - 6 syllables - verbs/doing or being - Line 4 - 8 syllables - creative/emotive

Line 5 - 2 syllables - alternative noun/title (RF)

Year 6 Cinquains

<p>Secretive Mysterious, wander Leaps from tropical trees Solitary, deadly, beautiful being Ocelot</p> <p>Max</p>	<p>Brother Caring, loving Grinning, comic, mentored Greatly admire his wisdom Harrison</p> <p>Eloise</p>	<p>Red dog Jumpy, careful Puzzling, trotting, creeping Heart-warming. I want to protect Fox</p> <p>Sienna</p>
<p>Gretta Joyful, funny Loving, decorating She understood me when needed StepNan</p> <p>Lewis</p>	<p>Beach Relaxing picnic Sparkling waves, calm surfing Love looking - beautiful dancing water, Seaside</p> <p>Robyn</p>	<p>Seaside Glamorous sea Glistening azure deep Ocean waves, giggling with felicity Cornwall</p> <p>Charlie</p>
<p>Dogs Sleepy, lovely Playing, sniffing, licking I appreciate her a lot Skye</p> <p>Jade</p>	<p>Ascot, Warm-hearted, loved, Reaching out with gentle hands, I feel over-the-moon valued, Grandad</p> <p>Daisy</p>	<p>Puppy Spinning, blithesome Dancing, shining, gleaming, I watch them fly through the air aglean, Candles</p> <p>Chloe R</p>
<p>Sefer Happy, playful Loving, harmless kitten I love my cat with all my heart Tomcat</p> <p>Rhys</p>	<p>Dogs Friendly, fluffy Loving, Caring, Joyful Helping me express my feelings Pets</p> <p>Lilly H</p>	<p>Puppy Lively, playful Heartful, peaceful, mindful She dances through my bursting heart, Bella</p> <p>Conrad</p>

Year 2 wrote a cinquain as a whole class.

Penguin
Black and white bird
Waddle, swim, eating fish
Stop their icy homes from melting
Pingu! (LG)

House Competition Ends in Astonishing Tie With final Autumn scores being counted by our sports ambassadors the House competition has been really hotting up this term.

Cedar 55 Bulbarrow 65 Meadow 50 Stour 35

Mr Hull and Mr Newman would like to thank the sports ambassadors for keeping the score board up to date. This is situated in the main hall by the pillar next to the curriculum cooking area.

Average Attendance at 96.5% for the Whole Year. The staff have been really pleased with attendance this year which continues to remain high. Children who achieve 100% attendance receive a special certificate and their names are entered into a raffle with a prize of a family day out. High attendance makes a huge difference to the children's progress; the staff and governors would like to thank the parents for playing their part in helping us to nearly reach our target of 97%.

Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
98.3%	96.2%	94.7%	95.5	97.8%	97.3%	95.6%

Out of THE COMFORT ZONE at PGL! Brilliant weather was enjoyed on the Year 6 residential trip to Osmington Bay, Weymouth in September, unlike last year, where there were some events changed due to storms! Year 6 had a fantastic 3 days of beaching, climbing, abseiling, giant swinging, fencing, quizzing, and zip-wiring! It was all about extending their comfort zone and trying new experiences. The children were never forced but still managed to push themselves to climb higher or improve themselves in all the activities. The sense of teamwork, challenge and achievement they gained from working together with the trained professionals was amazing; a real celebration of the values required for the final year of their primary education. Once again, the outstanding manners and behaviour displayed by the whole group was remarked upon by the team leader and the coaches and a wonderful time was had by all. (RF)



Outstanding Dance ! After weeks of development and rehearsal, year 6 displayed their dance for the whole school in December. It was an interpretation of the beautiful 'I Giorni' by Ludovico Einaudi and everyone in the room was astounded by how well they performed. Mrs Gilham, who has worked in many schools, declared 'That was the best ever dance I've seen in a Primary School!'



Mr. Field remarked how proud he was of the class, saying that he was amazed how committed the children were to making it such a detailed and moving performance. 'There were many children who were very worried about performing even in front of the class in lessons, initially. However, they were all totally committed to the best interpretation they could produce.'

If you would like to see the footage of the performance, it could be shown in the hall one morning around 8.45. Please see Mr Field if you are interested. (RF)

Shock Defeat for William Barnes!?! This year's Davison Cup tournament began with a home fixture against Child Okeford's St. Nicholas Primary School. The William Barnes football team were high on confidence going into this first round tie with a lot of fresh faces making the line-up. William Barnes started strongly, scoring quickly and holding the lead for the majority of the first half. However, things were not as plain sailing as Mr Newman would have liked. Child Okeford scored after missing a penalty and hitting the woodwork on multiple occasions to take the game to extra time. During a wet, windy but tense finish, Child Okeford scored the winning game and came out eventual victors. Full time score, William Barnes 2 - 3 Child Okeford AET. (JN)

The children were tasked to research, note take, plan, write and edit a non-chronological report about an animal of their choice; a challenging task for children aged just 7 and 8. Research was completed using books from our fabulous school library and with the use of iPads and laptops. The final results of these were extremely impressive with all of Year 3 teaching Mr Newman a thing or two about their animals. We ended our learning by presenting our final drafts to one another and sharing our favourite facts with the class. (JN)

Snow tigers

This report will tell people where ^{there} snow tigers live, what they eat, how they look and some fun facts about them.

Some tigers are very shiny white with orange & black stripes. Some tigers have more orange coats. The bottom one is to keep them warm and the other one is to protect them. Some tigers are very soft so they can protect their cubs. These cute cubs are very shiny when they are first born.

They



A group of feared ~~river~~
tigers are called a ~~streak~~
or an ambush.

God fact!

There are about 3,200 striped shear lions left in the world world.

- There are about one hundred snow tigers left in India.
- Baby snow tigers are called cubs. ✓

Some tigers are carnivores
so they eat meat like deer.
They eat deer, bleeds, horses, wild
rabbits, wild pigs, dogs,
goats and camels. They
leave all these things to
eat. They drink blood from these
animals, eat water and a little
of a lake with green
mosses.

have

Some tigers live in the jungle.
But some may also live in
dense jungles in a place
where it is like India and
China. They can live in a forest
where people are not allowed
to enter, that is well.

A group of approximately ten people, including children and adults, are posing for a photo under a large red canopy. In the center, a brown donkey is the focus of attention. To the left, a man is dressed as an elf in a green and red suit. To the right, a man is dressed as Santa Claus in a red suit with a white beard. The group is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a building with large windows and some outdoor furniture.



Circle Skills Day for Families Just before half term, the children in KS2 were treated to a day of circus skills from local outdoor education teacher **Steve Burroughs**. Each class was shown a range of skills including tight rope walking, plate spinning and diablo spinning. At the end of the day, the children were able to attend a parent's workshop where the children were able

Mrs Wrixon would like to thank all the pupils, parents, staff and supporters of William Barnes for a fabulous Autumn term. We are all so proud of our children. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. (KW)



Year Two - Wanted Down Under!

We have all thoroughly enjoyed our new Year Two topic 'Australia', which we have been studying this term.

The children were immersed in their learning from the off when they were issued with a passport and then taken off on a long flight to the other side of the world. Obviously, all the children had to fall asleep for a while - bliss!

We have developed heaps of Geography skills through studying world and country

maps and have compared human and natural life between Australia and the UK. We have covered plenty of Science skills too; learning about food chains and by comparing a range of habitats, including making our own 'Box Habitats'.



The life of indigenous people has featured heavily in our learning and we enjoying learning about Bush Tucker and then picking our own Bush Tucker from the local area and making it into a scrummy pudding!

It has been great to see the children enjoying all the writing opportunities that this topic has inspired and we now have a fabulous range of Dreamtime stories, poems, letters home and Information Texts that we have enjoyed sharing with parents. Our classroom is also covered in beautiful indigenous people inspired artwork. We would like to thank all our parents for their support in our learning this term and say well done to Year Two. (LG)



Our First Steps towards becoming a Single-Use Plastic Free School

For many years children's milk has been supplied to schools in individual cartons with plastic straws - great for convenience but horrendous for the environment. In Dorset these tetra cartons can't be recycled but even if they could several hundred of these cartons waiting for a fortnightly collection would make for a rather smelly wheelie bin! Our biggest concern, however, has been the damage that the small plastic straws can do to our oceans and wildlife that live in them.

William Barnes School Council reps did an initial survey to find out just how big the problem was here and they found we were using over **750 straws in just 4 weeks!** 750 straws from one small primary school in one small corner of Dorset. We knew we had to take action!

We asked our supplier, Cool Milk, if we could have our milk delivered in glass bottles and we set up a Milk Bar where children come to drink their milk freshly poured into beakers - beakers that are plastic but will be reused for years.

Our Milk Monitors are delighted with the smooth transition and said:

"Our milk bar is succeeding in every way. People are enjoying the taste of fresh milk poured from bottles into beakers AND we are getting rid of those dreadful plastic straws. We hope it continues to work and we are proving that we can make difference to the World."

Our campaign doesn't stop there. We have

set up a Terracycle collection point in the hall for items such as biro's, crisp packets, Tassimo pods and toothpaste packaging - items that can't go into our green bins but with the help of Stalbridge Primary School get sent for specialist recycling.

We have also drawn up a list of 'Top Tips for a Plastic-free Lunchbox' and asked teachers to only use the laminator for work cards that are going to be used over several terms.

A few small steps towards becoming **PLASTIC FREE AT WB!** (JN)



What is Jigsaw Families? Jigsaw Families is a 6-week programme that takes place on Tuesday afternoons in the library and is run by Emma Snow and Karen Rose, who are both ELSA teaching assistants.

They provide - as well as a cuppa and a cake - an informal and safe environment to explore the challenges of being a parent in today's busy society. You will build strategies to help meet your family's needs - whilst strengthening existing bonds with your children.

A story is shared with the whole group and then the children go to the Butterfly Room for a fun hour with Karen Rose. Here, they enjoy an exciting craft session and snack time. Celebrating their achievements, the children share goals with their Jigsaw Family Friends. The children benefit from the programme with increasing self-worth and resilience as well as the ability to manage their emotions and enhance their learning capacity.

Gaining more confidence in your parenting skills, learning how to negotiate difficulties and sharing successes (and sometimes failures) are some of the outcomes for the parents, along with the reassuring feel of 'Thank goodness; I am not the only one!'

Please find some extracts from the feedback we have been given by parents who have attended the programme:

"The course was very informative and I managed to put things in place that helped me and my child have a closer relationship."

"The course was well worth the time! My daughter and I really enjoyed it and it has really helped with my children."

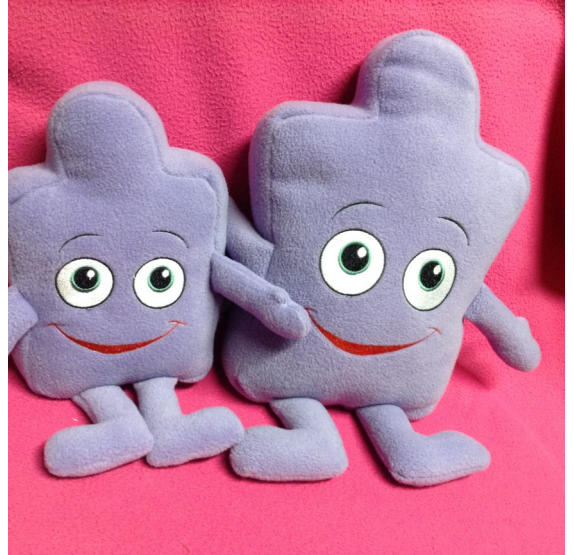
"The advice was useful and I enjoyed the 1:1 with my child."

"My son loved the craft. He still loves his Jonty Junior."

"What can I say... at first I was apprehensive and thinking why are we being asked to do it? All I can say is I'm so glad that we have done it, it was not what I thought it would be at all, and in a good way."

I have noticed such a difference in my child, their confidence has soared and they adore their time with Mrs Rose! As do I enjoy the rest of the session with Mrs Snow. They are both so, so welcoming and friendly, and a hot cuppa at the ready too!

I can truly say that regardless of why you are there your child is sure to get an awful lot out of the sessions, as will you. I know we have" (ES)



'Demon Headmaster' Author Gillian Cross Comes to William Barnes The children from year 2 to year 6 at William Barnes were thrilled to discover that author Gillian Cross had promised to spend day at the school at the end of the Autumn half term.

The arrangements for the visit began following a conversation shared at the Sturminster Literary Festival back in July with ex pupil and parent Tabitha and Laura Hayward. Gillian's interest in the school was passed on to deputy head Richard Hull who got in touch to finalise details. Currently in the spotlight with a new BBC adaptation of her recent book 'The Demon Headmaster - Total Control', Gillian managed to find a date in her busy schedule to come and work with the children.

Although Gillian is the author of sixty five published children's books, she was extremely friendly and down to Earth showing great skill when working with the children. In each class, she presented a different activity designed to open the children's imagination to create characters and stories of their own.



For example, in years 3 and 4, the children used bags with simple items hidden in them to create a plot, whilst in year 5 the children were asked a sequence of seventeen quick-fire questions to create a detailed character sketch. Gillian was only too pleased to sign books and answer questions about her long career, which began in 1979 when her first book was accepted for publication.

The day came to an end (following fascinating anecdotes about Roald Dahl and J.K.Rowling), when two children from year 5 presented her with flowers and chocolates to say thank you for all the inspirational advice and experience she shared with them during the day.

Three in a Row for William Barnes The annual tag rugby tournament led to a third successive Tag cup win for William Barnes despite an extremely close finish.



With bad weather causing the pitches to be flooded at Hazelbury Bryan, Child Okeford teacher Sarah Salisbury kindly offered the playing fields at St Nicholas as an alternative venue. The standard of the competition was very high, with Hazelbury, Stalbridge, Shillingstone, St. Nicholas's and William Barnes all having some very good players scoring excellent tries. After four games had been played, Shillingstone and Child Okeford both had equal numbers of points but Shillingstone had one game in hand. Unfortunately for Shill', in this final crucial match, William Barnes started well and eventually won 7 - 2. With all games played, Child Okeford, Shillingstone and William Barnes were all tied on points, but for the second time in three years William Barnes won the tournament because of their superior try difference. It was great to see such a close result and all the children involved were most grateful to St Nicholas for offering to host the tournament.

Fun Filled Roman Day To draw their Autumn term history topic to a close, year 4 recently enjoyed their annual Roman day.

Everyone dressed up to look the part and the children all looked fantastic in their Roman attire. To begin the day the children made their own laurel wreaths, pottage, delicious bread rolls and clay pots. After break, we devoured a magnificent Roman feast. Finally, we had guests from Shaftesbury Museum who brought in some Roman artefacts that we were fortunate enough to be able to look at and measure. The children then participated in some more Roman activities including: making oil lamps from clay, writing letters to Santa in Latin, making a Roman board game and making bullas (a Roman bag). (GM)



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Pauline Batstone ► Sturminster Newton News
2 hrs · 🌐

Some serious daffodil planting was going on this afternoon down on the Trailway thanks to the eight School Councillors from William Barnes School (plus the Town Grounds Team and the Dorset Council Rangers)..... another 500 wild daffodil bulbs planted thanks to donations from residents.



Brass in Pocket for Year 4 Music Spectacular Over the past ten weeks, year 4 have been fortunate enough to receive music lessons from brass expert Mr Randell.

The children were able to each take home a brass instrument to practice, culminating in an exciting concert for all to see. The progression from week one where the children could barely get a sound out of the instrument to the concert was phenomenal. They even composed and performed their own piece of music entitled 'Rocking Romans'. (GM)



Physical activity for children and young people (5–18 Years)



**BUILDS
CONFIDENCE &
SOCIAL SKILLS**



**MAINTAINS
HEALTHY
WEIGHT**



**DEVELOPS
CO-ORDINATION**



**STRENGTHENS
MUSCLES
& BONES**



**IMPROVES
SLEEP**



**IMPROVES
CONCENTRATION
& LEARNING**



**IMPROVES
HEALTH
& FITNESS**

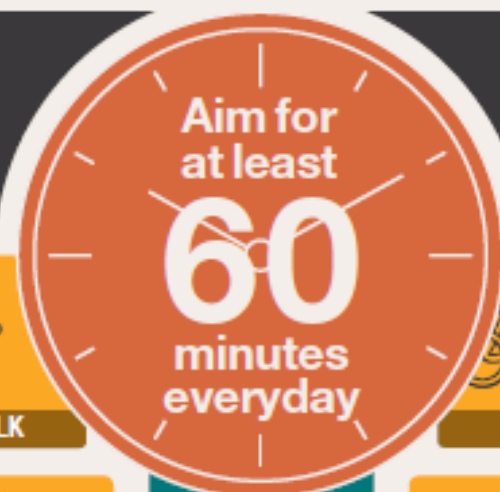


**MAKES
YOU FEEL
GOOD**

Be physically active

**Spread activity
throughout
the day**

**All activities
should make you
breathe faster
& feel warmer**



PLAY



RUN/WALK



BIKE



ACTIVE TRAVEL



SWIM



SKATE

**Include muscle
and bone
strengthening
activities**

**3 TIMES
PER
WEEK**



SPORT



PE



SKIP



CLIMB



WORKOUT



DANCE

Sit less



LOUNGING

Move more

**Find ways to help all children and young people accumulate
at least 60 minutes of physical activity everyday**

UK Chief Medical Officers' Guidelines 2011 **Start Active, Stay Active:** www.bit.ly/startactive

An inspirational,
stimulating well resourced
environment.

preparing all
children for
life

A high quality
professional
staff team

A Safe and Secure
School at the heart
of the community.

inquiry,
independence
and enthusiasm
for learning

Taking Pride
in all our
achievements

High Standards
of behaviour
From all



William Barnes Primary School
Where every child counts