



WILLIAM BARNES PRIMARY SCHOOL
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January Dates

Wednesday 5th January

Back to school

Monday 10th January

Flu Vaccinations Year R—6

Monday 17th January

NSPCC Speak out Stay Safe



January 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and we are all looking forward to a happy and healthy 2022.

A big thank you to everyone for all your cards and gifts, they were very much appreciated. Also a huge thank you for all your support in the autumn term.

Covid Update

As you will be aware from the email yesterday, we are open to all children. We have tweaked some arrangements such as not holding whole school assemblies or doing any wake and shake for at least the first week and a half. We will keep our arrangements very closely under review and adjust as necessary.

We want to continue to keep things as normal as possible for all our children.

As a reminder, since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Please see detail in previous email sent.

If you are a close contact, People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Travel Survey

Thank you for returning the parent and travel surveys. Your responses and comments really help us to examine our practices. As you will be aware the barrier has been installed. It will be down from 8.30am-9.15am and 2.45pm-3.30pm. The updated Travel Plan will be published later in the year.

School Closure

We always try to keep the school open, but many members of staff have a long journey and weather conditions at this time of year can mean a large number are unable to get here. Hopefully it will not happen this year, but in the case of school closure due to adverse weather please listen to local radio stations for announcements or log on to <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices> where a list of closed schools is posted. We will text all parents so please check your mobile phones and ensure we have your updated telephone numbers.

Safeguarding

As a reminder we have signed up to Operation Encompass which means that either myself as Designated Safeguarding Lead or Mr Hull as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed if there is a domestic violence incident. We can then offer support to the child in school.



Uniform Reminder

As a reminder children should be in the correct uniform at all times. This includes Black Shoes and Black/grey or white socks or black/grey or green tights. Can I also remind you to ensure your child has appropriate clothing for outdoors – we expect children to go out to play and also learn in the outdoor environment, even when it is cold or a little wet. Can we also remind you that smart watches and fit-bit watches are not allowed in school.

Wrap around Care

Our Breakfast and After School clubs are being well supported and the children who attend are having fun with the activities. If you would like to book your child in for a session, they are £3.50 per hour.

Breakfast Club at William Barnes is a relaxed and sociable place to have a healthy start to the day. Choose from a selection of healthy breakfast options.

After School club runs from 3.15—5.15 p.m. A healthy snack and drink are provided along with fun activities.

We would like to remind you that it is vital you book your child a place at both clubs, a weeks notice is preferable but no later than 24 hours please.

We cannot have children just turning up as we work on a staff/ child ratio.

All eat together day

We are having another “All eat together” day on Thursday 20th January.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will keep this to key stages rather than the whole school together.

We would like all Key Stage 1 children to participate in a hot school lunch that day. We appreciate that some children still prefer to have a packed lunch, and for those children who have not ordered a meal we have still booked a hot lunch so that they can try it as well as having their normal packed lunch.

Bikeability

Last term a number of year 6 children enjoyed completing their level 1, level 2 and level 3 certificates with our cycling proficiency coach Ben Timerberlake. When the children have completed their level 3 certificate they will be allowed to cycle to school, if their parents write a signed letter giving their permission. A parent and school governor will be organising cycle awareness sessions.—Please see attachment to this email with details.

Holidays & Absences

As you are aware, a few years ago the Government introduced strict rules about not taking holidays during term time. This means that I am unable to authorise any absence for holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances so please make every effort to book your holidays outside term time.

Of course it is essential to inform the school office of any absence for whatever reason. If your child is absent from school, please call the office and leave a message on the absence line.

Parents evenings

The next parent’s evenings are planned for Monday 28th February and Tuesday 1st March. We are very much hoping we can have parents in this year but will review nearer the time.

Family Learning Week

The next Family Learning week will be the week of 21st March the focus being World of Work. We are hoping to have visitors in to talk to the children about their jobs and opportunities available to them. If any parents would like to come in and



Forest School

We are delighted that Forest School will be starting this term. This half term, Year 4 will be having Forest School starting Wednesdays from 12th January.

Our Eco Warriors lunchtime group will also be starting along with the Afterschool First Aid Club.

PTFA

A big thank you to the PTFA for organising the raffle. If you are interested in joining the PTFA, please let a PTFA member know or contact the school office.

The children all thoroughly enjoyed their interactive Pantomime. A big thank to the PTFA paid for this and the doughnuts.

Dates

I have attached the school term dates for 2022/23 with the training days as well as dates with planned events.

Staffing

We welcome Ms Lisa Welch to the school office. Ms Welch has been a teaching assistant in Reception class for a number of years as well providing ELSA support for Key stage 1. Ms Welch will continue with ELSA support alongside her new office admin role. I will advise of the support arrangements for Reception class when they have been finalise

Office hours & emails

We very much encourage communication with families, and as with many things these days this is often electronically via email. Whilst some staff do work outside of school hours please be aware that you may not receive a response until the next working day.

The school office hours are 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday – Friday, term time only. Emails are not monitored regularly outside of these times.

And finally...

Welcome back to what promises to be a very exciting and busy term. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher should you have any queries or concerns. I look forward to seeing you all back for a new start to the year.

Best Wishes,

Karen Wrixon