



**WILLIAM BARNES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Bridge Street  
Sturminster Newton  
Dorset DT10 1BZ

**Tel/Fax: 01258 472257**

E: [office@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk)

W: [www.williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk)

## September 2022 Newsletter



### Welcome Back

A very, very warm welcome back to all our children, parents and carers. A special welcome to all the new children and families joining us this year. I hope you all had a lovely summer and enjoyed the beautiful sunshine. Thank you for all my wonderful presents and cards, they are very much appreciated.

I will be on duty at the beginning and the end of the day in the playground and so please come and see me to discuss any concerns - or just to say hello! If you would like to have a longer chat, please come in to the office to make an appointment to see me. I would really like to talk about any concerns you have so I can address them as soon as possible.

We are really looking forward to a year that will bring all our normal activities.

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Kendall, our Finance Officer. We congratulate her new appointment with the School Finance Team at the Local Authority. She will be very much missed and we are looking to recruit a new Finance Officer soon.

We welcome Mrs Catherine Hughes to Year 3 and Mrs Ginny Joyce to work in Year 5 on a Friday. We know you will make them feel very welcome.



As we start the new term and the children all look splendid in their uniforms please could I ask you to put your child's name in their clothes so that we can return them as soon as possible if they lose them. If you have not been able to we are going to ask children to write in their own names in class. As you will remember from last term, we will not be storing lost property but giving to the clothes bank.

Only children who have completed all 3 levels of bikability training are able to ride their bikes to school. We are offering bikability training for Year 6 children this term. The letters have been handed out but if anyone is interested please email [Year6@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:Year6@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk). If your child is riding a scooter to and from school, you are responsible for their safety on the way to and from school.

We are very pleased to be providing an after school club from 3.15 until 5.15 as well as our breakfast club—7.30—8.30 a.m. at a charge of £3.50 per hour. Please book in the school office and come in for more details.

We believe that Every Child counts at William Barnes Primary School and want to ensure every child achieves and thrives. Parents are of the utmost importance in helping their children to achieve. One of the ways of

helping us is by ensuring your child attends regularly. If there are any reasons why this may be difficult please come and see me. We will be sending a reminder letter about attendance later this week.

Can I please take this opportunity to remind you of a few details. Please inform the office before 8.45 a.m. if your child is unable to attend school. We all need to know that the children are safe and by keeping the school informed we are able to do this. Please also ensure that your child is in time to school at 8.45 a.m. The government has made clear that we may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If a child is on holiday for 10 sessions- each session is a half day- the school may ask the Local Authority to issue a penalty notice.



We will continue to remind children about good hygiene practice- such as coughing/ sneezing into an elbow and disposing of tissues in the tissue bin and sanitising or washing hands. This will hopefully help reduce the winter bugs.

For children to achieve and thrive it is important to have a healthy lifestyle. As a reminder, children can only bring water to drink in the daytime - squash at lunch if wished - and we strongly recommend that they only have fruit or vegetables for break snacks. Children cannot have any crisps, chocolate or confectionary at break times. By encouraging children to have a healthy breakfast and then fruit or vegetables they will be learning lessons for a healthy lifetime. We are a very active school and so please can you ensure your child has sensible black school shoes that they can run around in or trainers to change into if necessary. Please can you also ensure your child has the correct school uniform, particularly black, white, grey or green socks or tights! Many thanks.

Congratulations to Ivayla (KS1) and Riley (KS2) for winning a family day out for the summer attendance raffle prize.

We are holding Meet the Teacher meetings (All at 3.20 p.m.) Please do take advantage of these meeting if you are able to. The teachers will let you know where these are being held.

In September our Year 6 children will be going to PGL MultiActivity Centre for 2 nights, accompanied by Mr Field, Mrs Howarth, Mrs Chant and Mrs Warwick-Price. I am sure they will have a wonderful time and enjoy some exciting and challenging activities.

We have been very lucky to have amazing volunteers, who come into our school on a regular basis to help in classes, some of whom are parents and some other members of our local community. If you would be interested in doing this, or know someone who might like to get involved, please ask them to contact me. You will also be receiving a letter about joining our governing body. Please do come and speak to me if you are interested.

After school clubs are being decided and you will receive a letter with details of the clubs being offered soon.

The Life Education van no longer visits schools but they will be coming to talk to the classes. There will be a session for parents on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2.45—3.15 p.m. We do have to ask for a contribution to this wonderful resource and a letter will be with you soon.



We have booked tickets for the pantomime at the Lighthouse in Poole. We are really hoping that this can go ahead but we are aware that the cost of living crisis will have a big impact on many. If we can help at all or you would like to speak to me with any concerns, please do not hesitate to come in and see me. The energy price increases will have an effect on all of our budgets.

We are approached at times by the press to have articles about the school published in local newspapers, and we have also been asked by some of our artists working in school if they can publish photographs of their work with on their websites. We try to avoid having children's names published without specific permission of parents, but otherwise generally allow the publication of photographs. We also as a school make videos and take photographs of children taking part in productions and other events. A form has come out for you to return saying yes or no to photos in any general publications about William Barnes Primary School. Please do not take photographs of children at events unless given permission to do so. Please do not upload any photographs including children other than your own to social media.

If your child has to take medication (even if it is cough sweets) we need a permission form to be completed. If you require a form, please collect one from the school office. All medicines need to be labelled with the child's name.

Later this term, children in Years R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be given a nasal flu immunisation. More details will be sent out nearer the date but the link for the site is [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu) if you would like more information now.

As it is the beginning of the school year, there will be quite a bit of paperwork coming out from the office - please bear with us and return any necessary forms as soon as possible. We particularly ask that you check contact numbers and inform us of any changes so that we are always able to contact you in an emergency.



Also, we need to know if your child is entitled to free school meals, even if they don't actually have them. This has a big impact on our funding, so please contact the school office if you think this may apply to your child—below are details for those who think they may be entitled to free school meals. If you are eligible for this, you will also receive help with school residential trips.

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support □ income-based Jobseeker's Allowance □ income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 □ the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit □ Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child might also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both: younger than the compulsory age for starting school □ in full-time education

As you will be aware all EYFS and Key stage 1 children are entitled to a free school meal but this is not the same as Free School Meals so please check online or in the office if you think you may be entitled.

The Parents Teachers and Friends Association will be holding their annual general meeting on 13th September at 7.00 p.m. We rely heavily on the PTFA committee to organise fundraising and social events and it would be good to have representatives from every class at the meeting. We are a friendly bunch, but really need more of you to join us. Bring a friend and ideas for future events. The more the merrier.

We are hoping to hold Family week on the week of 7<sup>th</sup> November. The theme will be an introduction to STEPs focusing on positive language. STEPs is a therapeutic behaviour approach that the school is following.

### **Important Key Dates for Next Year**

Year 6 SATs - Week of 8<sup>th</sup> May

Year 2 SATs - Month of May

Year 1 phonic screening - W/C 12<sup>th</sup> June

Please can you ensure that your child attends school at these times, the class teachers will be holding meetings during the year to give you more information regarding these.

Our training days are January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

Once again a warm welcome back to school and I hope to see you all to say hello to in the coming days.  
Best wishes

Karen Wrixon

### **Dates For Your Diary September 2022**

W/C 12<sup>th</sup> September

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept

Monday 17 and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept

Meet the Teacher

PGL

Parents Evening

Open Afternoon and New Parents Evening