



**WILLIAM BARNES PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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## February 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

January seems to have flown past yet again.



### Weather

The weather remains cold and wet so please ensure your child has a coat every day. Also please listen out on local media and check [Closed services in Dorset - Dorset Council](#) for updates on any possible school closures. We will text all parents before 8.00 a.m. if school is closed. To this end, please ensure that there are current telephone numbers held in the school office so that you can be contacted either if school is closed early in the morning or if we need to close school earlier than 3.15 p.m.

On icy mornings the car park and driveway can become very slippery so please do take care. We will put grit down as much as possible. Please can adults ensure the children do not slide on the ice.

We have sent out a letter about the Strike days. As far as we are aware, school will be open but we will inform you as soon as possible if this changes.

### Road Safety

Some parents have raised concerns about parents collecting children in cars where the children are not wearing the correct seatbelt. There have also been instances of parents using mobile phones while driving. Our Community Police Officer, Mandy Robinson, is aware and will try and be around at the end of the day when possible. We have text you the information about seatbelt requirements and have attached it again.

### Internet Safety

You may have heard the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, talking about the worry of primary school children accessing inappropriate material on internet and social media sites. We talk about online safety at all times in school. If you have any concerns or would like support, please come and talk to myself or your child's class teacher. We have useful links on our website for you to look at. Please can you apply parental filters and check all that your children are accessing if they have access to the internet. It is important for children to know that they can always come and speak to you if they see anything upsetting. We know seeing inappropriate material too young has an effect on a child's wellbeing and so by working together, we will be improving all our children's well-being.

### Pancake Race

We are once again hoping to hold a Pancake Race with SturQuest. This will be held in the Recreation Ground on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February at 2.00 pm. We hope you can join us and take part in the parents' race!

We ask that if you take any photos that you do not upload any to social media which contain other children. We will ask SturQuest to only publish photos we have agreed.



### **Parent Pledge**

We really hope you found the Parent Pledge meetings useful for those children not on track for Age Related Expectations. We have parents' evenings in February and invite all parents to come in and discuss their children's attainment and progress.

### **Y6 SATS**

Mr Field will be holding a meeting for parents to discuss the SATS on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - 8.50 - 9.20 am and 2.45 - 3.15 pm.

### **Rising 5s**

Following the GDPR act, we cannot contact prospective parents for September 2023 before a place is accepted at our school in April. We would still like Rising 5s to commence in the summer term. The children who are starting with us in September 2023 are invited to come into our Reception class every Wednesday afternoon from 1.10 - 2.10 pm. If you know of any parents who have given William Barnes as their first choice school and do not attend Stepping Stones, then please ask them to contact the school office for details.

Please be aware that when a child leaves our school and when Year 6 move on to the High School we pass on all children's records including copies of letters, relevant emails, meetings, concerns. If you have any questions, please come and see me to discuss.



### **Policies**

Just a reminder that our Positive Behaviour policy is published on our website. We have updated the policy with our STEPS therapeutic thinking strategy. Also a reminder that I am the e-safety champion, anti-bullying lead and Designated Safeguarding Lead in the school. Mr Richard Hull and Mr Russell Field are the Deputy Safeguarding Leads.

We have a critical incident policy where if we need to leave the school building we will go to the Exchange. Part of our critical incident policy is, if necessary, to congregate in the school. We hold a practice as well as our usual fire practice.

### **Family Learning Week**

We would like to hold Family Learning Week entitled Science Week the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> March. The Science Dome will now be in school on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Leeson House**

Year 5 pupils will be going off for their residential visit to Leeson House on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March accompanied by Mr Hull, Mr Field and Mrs Howarth. We wish them a fantastic time and look forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return.

Consent and payment are completed online through Parent Pay. If there are any concerns or problems, please contact the office.

### **World Book Day**

William Barnes are holding their World Book Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will not be asking the children to dress up in costume. You will receive a letter with more details soon.

### **0-5s Learning Together sessions at Sturminster Library**

Sturminster Newton Children's Centre are holding free 'Learning Together' Sessions on Thursdays at 10.00 am to 11.30 am for children aged 0 to 5. These popular term-time sessions involve fun with books and stories to support speech development and school readiness. Booking is essential: either phone 01258 474036 or email [northlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:northlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

## Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is on 17<sup>th</sup> March. This will be non-school uniform and a donation.



## Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones are now taking bookings for the 2023/24 academic year. If anyone would like spaces, they can contact us for a booking sheet. Contact Telephone Number: 07778336928.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful half-term when it comes. Hopefully, March will bring better weather. Thank you all once again for all your support. As ever, if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Warmest wishes

Karen Wrixon  
Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 and 6 Netball - Stalbridge
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term Begins</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term Restarts</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Pancake Race with SturQuest
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 8.50 am – 9.20 am and 2.45 pm – 3.15 pm	SATS Meeting (Year 6)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening
1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y5 go to Leeson House
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
W/C 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Family Learning Week
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Dome Visit