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| **October Newsletter 2023**    What a fantastic start to a new school year, you can all feel very proud of your children; my staff and I certainly do. The children all look so smart and ready for learning in their school uniforms, thank you so much for your support with this. You will have received the updated uniform policy which has been approved by the Governors.  At William Barnes we value our relationship with parents and carers. Please come in and talk to your child’s teacher or myself if you have any concerns. Working together is invaluable for children’s progress.  As Autumn is here please make sure your child has a coat, 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.  If there is a school closure due to bad weather, or for any other reason, it will be dealt with through Texting Parents. If you feel that this is a problem, please contact the office. You will also be able to hear about the closures on local radio stations and our website can also be checked. www.williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk  You will receive details about our Family Learning Week which starts the week commencing 6th November 2023 from your teacher. The theme is Outdoor Learning. . Please come in and enjoy learning with your child.  **Harvest Festival Assembly**    A special Harvest Festival Assembly was held in school on Tuesday 3rd October. Please send in Non Perishable items for the Trussell Trust Foodbank – particularly UHT Milk, UHT Fruit juice, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Meat, Rice Pudding, and Steamed Puddings. Contributions are preferred in smaller sizes i.e. 100g coffee, 80 tea bags, 300-500g cereal packets, or packet soup (not tinned) by 4th October if you haven’t yet.  **Light Party**  30th October St Mary’s church is holding a Light Party- please see the flyer for more details.  **How Pupil Premium can help your child and the school**  Every October, January and May the school has to produce a Census on the numbers of children at the school and, also in January, we report the number of children entitled to Pupil Premium. From this data the school gets **£1300 per child**. Please let us know if you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals (which is different to the school meals that children get in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2).  We really need to sort this as soon as possible so please pop into the office if you think there is any likelihood of you being entitled to Free School Meals. It takes a very short time to check and is totally confidential. Thank you. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, they will also receive a free jumper in Key Stage 1 and then another in Key Stage 2. You will also be able to have financial help with residential trips in Years 4, 5 and 6.  [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/pupil-premium](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/pupil-premium)  **Free School Uniform**  The Boutique in Sturminster Newton have asked us to inform you that they are offering free school uniform items, some of which are brand new! They are also delighted to receive any donations of school items.  **Y4 and Y5 Residential Trips**  A letter will be out soon about Year 5 trip to Leeson House in March and Year 4 trip to Carey Camp.  On 5th October, we are having a Years R, 1 and 2 All Eat Together where we have ordered a hot school meal for every child in those classes.  **New Parents Meeting**  New Parents Meeting will be on Wednesday 11th October - New Parents Meeting is for children starting school in September 2024, 6.00 p.m. in school hall. If you know of anyone who has a child due to start school in September 2023, please let them know about this first meeting regarding the educational opportunities offered by our school. There is also an open afternoon when new parents can a have a tour around the school at 1.30.  **PTFA News**  It is likely there will be a letter to confirm that the PTFA will soon be forced to close due to a lack of volunteers. At the time of writing, it is unlikely that the planned October Disco will be going ahead.  **Parents’ Evenings**  Parents’ evenings will be held on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th October although some teachers may have different days. We have put on a later evening as this was requested in our parental engagement survey, if this is not late enough please let us know. Lists will be on the classroom doors soon.  **School Photos**  Class Portraits will be visiting the school on November 1st 2023. Your child will have their photo taken with their siblings unless you let us know otherwise. Single children will have theirs taken individually.    **Year 6 Secondary Applications**  The Year 6 applications for secondary school must be with County Hall by 31st October. The applications are to be submitted online but if you have any queries, please contact the school office.  **Half-Term**  Half-term starts on Monday 23rd October and children are back in school on Monday 30th October.  **Rotary Christmas Shoeboxes**  We will once again be sending Christmas Shoeboxes via the Rotary Club to disadvantaged children. Information has been sent out. The deadline is Friday 20th October.  **Children in Need**  Children in Need is on Friday 17th November. We will be holding a non-school uniform day and asking for donations towards this charity.    **School Carol Concert**  Our school carol concert will be held on Monday 11th December 2.00pm at St Mary’s Church. where you are all welcome to attend. Details to follow.  **Bikeability**  We will be running the Bikeability Course in school during October for Year 6 children.  Level One takes place on the playground on Monday 2nd October (2 hours) and Level Two takes place on the roads on Tuesday 3rd or Wednesday 4th October (6 hours).  The course is led by Ben Timberlake NSIQ (National Standard Cycle Instructor for Wiltshire & Dorset).  Children will need a fully working and fully checked bike but the course in completely free and covers Level 1, 2 and Level 3 if required.  The coach has 3 bikes for loan on a first come first served basis  Remember, children are not allowed to cycle to school in Year 6 without this qualification.  **Pantomime**  Pantomime for the whole school is on Tuesday 12th December with the production of Aladdin. You will have received a letter and hopefully all paid via ParentPay. The deadline for payment is the end of October. If you have any questions, please see the office staff.    **Safeguarding Info**  A reminder that we have signed up to Operation Encompass which means that we will receive police notifications of domestic incidents. The Headteacher, Mrs Wrixon is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mr Field is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead. If we have safeguarding concerns, we will try and speak to you first but in some circumstances a referral may be made to Social Care. As ever if you have any concerns please come and speak to me or the Class Teacher. Communication is always essential to good relationships and we really value these.  I hope you all have a wonderful half term when we get there. |
| **Dates for Your Diary**  **October 2023**  Wednesday 11th October New Parents Meeting |
| Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th October Parents’ Evenings  Wednesday 1st November Class Portraits  Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October Half-Term  October 31st Deadline for Y6 secondary school applications  **November 2023**  Week commencing 6th November Family Learning Week  Week commencing 13th November Anti-Bullying Week |
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