



WILLIAM BARNES PRIMARY SCHOOL
Bridge Street
Sturminster Newton
Dorset DT10 1BZ

Tel/Fax: 01258 472257
E: office@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk
W: www.williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk

December 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

It is difficult to believe that we are in December already! It has once again been a wonderful start to the new school year.

I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work and all our parents and carers for their hard work and support as we know working together means success. We have all worked together to ensure the wellbeing and the continued academic progress of all our pupils. The fact that we have had such an amazing term is due to our amazing partnership.

We do ask that if your child has the norovirus please keep them off school for the full 48 hours from time of sickness. If your child is off for any reason please contact the school office before 9.00 a.m. The school office staff do chase up absences but if your child is absent and we hear no reason, they will be marked as unauthorised.

If you need advice or support regarding your child, you can email dhc.snadmin.hub@nhs.net or call 01929 557 558 with your child's details and a contact number.

Attendance is of extreme importance for children to make progress and so I will still be meeting with parents and carers if there is a concern about your child's level of absence so that we can look at what support can be offered.

It is also very important to stay wrapped up as the seasonal weather continues to be very changeable, and children are walking to and from various venues over the next two weeks. Please make sure your child has a coat every day, 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. Also, children do need a pair of sensible school shoes which are waterproof, as well as trainers. Our site means that every class has to move around outside between classes and the hall, and it is important for children to have the right kit at the right time.

Parent Pledge

You will be receiving a form to inform you whether your child is on track or needs support to reach age related expectations at the end of the year. You will be invited to a meeting to discuss how we can work together to make progress.

If your child is on the SEN register you will be invited to a meeting to discuss their Individual Education Plan targets and progress towards these.

Fund Raising

A big thank you for raising £128.50 for Children in Need and for all your contributions to the Vale Pantry. Also thank you for buying Remembrance poppies, we raised £163.52 for the British Legion this year, which is brilliant.

RSHE

As you will be aware I always hold an annual RSHE presentation in May so that all parents and carers will be able to look at the material for our RSHE lessons. We always message parents before these lessons so that you will know they will be coming up to discuss any questions with your children. We use the highly acclaimed Jigsaw PSHE scheme. The secretary for State Education, Gillian Keegan, has made it clear the need for schools to share these materials with parents, which we do at the presentation and when parents ask to see anything. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to come in to talk with myself or the class teacher. All parents were sent a leaflet about our Jigsaw programme last month.

School Car Park

A reminder that the staff car park is only for the use of staff members, visitors and parents granted permission. For those granted permission they need to arrive before 8.30am and after 3.30pm or before 2.45pm. Even if the barrier is up, please do not use the school car park. We sometimes leave it open if a visitor is arriving early or a staff meeting is running late to avoid congestion at the wall.

We have several events happening to make the time pass very quickly up to the holiday!

Pantomime

Our whole school Pantomime is on Tuesday 12th December. The bus will leave promptly at 8.45am. Please ensure your child is in school by 8.30am at the latest, they should go straight to their classroom.

PTFA Christmas Market

As you will be aware there will be no Christmas Market this year. There have been several volunteers to join the PTFA so look out for events in the coming year.

Y1 and Y2 Christmas Production

Years 1 and 2 will be holding their Christmas production in the school hall on **Thursday 14th December at 2.15pm**. We are also asking parents of other classes to come at 2.45pm on that date when the choir will be singing in the playground. You will then be able to go to your child's class to buy their decoration; you have the opportunity to take your child home then if you wish.

Christmas Service

The Christmas Service is at St Mary's Church on Monday 11th December at 2.00pm. The Reception class will play the parts of the characters in the Christmas Story and some of our Year 6s will read the Christmas Story.

Whole School Christmas Lunch



This year, our whole school Christmas lunch will be in the school hall on Wednesday 13th December. A letter has been sent out regarding this.

The children can wear non-school uniform - particularly Christmas jumpers! We will not need any parent helpers this year.

After School Clubs

After school extra-curricular clubs run by Teachers and Sport Staff will not run during the last week of term (from Monday 11th December) unless the teacher informs you otherwise. The Extended School Breakfast and After School Clubs held in the hall will continue as normal.

Look out for a letter early next term advising you of which clubs will be run during the Spring term, a start date will be on the letter.

Sports Ambassadors

A note from all of the sports ambassadors:

'We would like to let you know that sports ambassadors are trying to get many of our pupils to be more active. We have been working hard to think of different activities to make their sporting life more exciting. The sports clubs your child might be interested in taking part in are Football, Tennis, and Tag Rugby. There are some other clubs that go on in the summer time and are not suitable for the winter. Usually every term you will receive a clubs letter in which you can sign and give in for your child to go every week. We would like to try and encourage all of you to take part in a club and have fun!

Thank you

From The School Sports Ambassadors'

School Closures

In the event of closure, we will inform Dorset Council, the information will then be available on their website and announced on local radio stations. We will also text all parents to inform them of the closure.

Friday 15th December is the last day of term – we finish at 3.15pm for the Christmas holidays, all children return to school on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Thank you

Everyone at William Barnes wants to give a huge thank you to Harts of Stur for their generous donation of our Christmas tree and for the plants they have donated to Year 6 and to the Forest School throughout the year.

Attached are details of Sturminster Christmas events.

I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to make this term so successful. The children have all been a credit to yourselves.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We hope that the New Year will bring health and happiness to all.

Warmest Wishes

Karen Wrixon
Headteacher



December Dates	
Wednesday 6 th December	Choir singing at Nazareth Lodge at 2pm
Monday 11 th December	Carol Concert and Reception Nativity Tableau at 2pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Pantomime at Poole Light House
Wednesday 13 th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch – Non School Uniform
Thursday 14 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Show at 2.15pm
Friday 15th December	Last Day of Term – Finish at 3.15pm
Return on Tuesday 2nd January 2024	