



WILLIAM BARNES PRIMARY SCHOOL
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November Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had an enjoyable half-term and returned to school refreshed and ready for the exciting events over the next few weeks. Thank you for your understanding and help with the weather yesterday. Our prime concern is always to keep children and adults safe.

Please do call in for any of the events happening, it is your school and you are very welcome anytime.

Thank you to everyone who brought in a shoebox for the Rotary collection. I am sure the children who receive them this Christmas will appreciate them enormously.

As the seasonal weather can be wet and windy with some very unpredictable weather, please make sure your child has a coat every day, even if it seems sunny in the morning. As a reminder, please 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, so it is important for children to have the right kit at the right time.

If the school needs to close, we will inform you by text. Thank you to those parents who updated contact numbers yesterday, please notify the office of any other changes. Do also listen to local radio for any updates and visit the Dorset Council website.



We are very aware that the cost of living crisis affects everyone. We will try to keep costs to a minimum. If you need help or someone to talk to please do arrange to come and talk with myself. I can also arrange support from a family worker.

Remembrance Service



If you would like to join the Remembrance Service at the war memorial in the Recreation ground on Friday 10th November at 10.55am to observe the minute's silence, you are very welcome. There will be a child from William Barnes to lay the wreath. Poppies are being sold every morning and afternoon by Year 6 in the playground or the school hall if it is raining.

Children in Need

We will be holding a non-school uniform day for Children in Need on Friday 17th November. Donations can be made on ParentPay or by cash.

PGL and Leeson House

Year 5 parents should have received a letter regarding Leeson House and PGL visits. The deposit for PGL was due in October and the deposit for Leeson House is due in November. We really need parents to keep to the payment plan to spread the costs for yourselves and also so we are not chasing late payments prior to your trip.

September 2024 intake

I hope you were able to attend our open evening and/or day on 11th October, if you were unable to visit and you would like to be shown around please contact the school office and we will arrange a visit.

We will be running our Rising Fives in the Summer term, due to GDPR (general data) regulations we will not be able to email prospective parents until their school place is confirmed. Once the place is confirmed we will send out information to all parents.

Pupil Premium

The government supports schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. For every child registered, William Barnes Primary School receives £1300 per year to help target pupils' specific needs and provide additional support for learning. If you are registered for Free School Meals, you will also qualify for a free school jumper in KS1 and KS2 and may be able to access help with costs of residential visits. Please speak to the office staff if you think you may be able to apply. The process takes a very short time and will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Adult Literacy Support

If you know anyone who would like support with reading; then ReadEasy may be of interest. ReadEasy teaches reading to adults who are struggling with their reading skills and would like to learn. The sessions are one-to-one, confidential and free. Many non-readers are unaware that help is available and don't know how to access services, if you would like to find out more please message ReadEasy (07510 250365).

Anti-Bullying Week



Anti-Bullying Week commences on Monday 13th November. Children can wear odd socks if they choose on Monday 13th November.

PTFA

To officially run, the PTFA need a committee as well as volunteers to support the running of events. Please contact the school office if you are able to help in any way. It would be a shame to lose them as the funds they raise provide all our pupils with 'extras' which the School budget would not cover.

Last year they paid for the coaches for the Pantomime, the visit of the Science Dome, support the running of the Swimming Pool as well as hosting fun events for the children and their families.

Christmas Events

Over the next few weeks we have a number of events planned, some of them leading up to Christmas, so please do come and join us and help your child take part.

The Christmas Carol Concert is on Monday 11th December at 2.00pm in St Mary's Church. Reception will be enacting the Nativity tableau.

School visit to the Panto will be on Tuesday 12th December.

The whole school Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 13th December. Christmas Lunches are available now to order on Local Food Links. The children can wear non-school uniform.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still have their meals free but we still require you to let us know whether they will have the meat or vegetarian option.

The Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Play will be held on Friday 15th December at 9.30am.



The date of the Pyramid Christmas Concert is yet to be confirmed for the choir.

The choir will be singing in town for the turning on of the lights on Saturday 25th November at 12noon. The choir will receive more information about these nearer the time.

The choir will also sing at Nazareth Lodge on Wednesday 6th December at 2pm.

The PTFA are hoping to organise a Christmas event however this will rely on volunteers coming forward. At present the children will make their Christmas ornaments and sell them to raise funds for class trips.

With best wishes for a very happy and busy half term!

Karen Wrixon
Headteacher

November Dates for Your Diary

- w/c Monday 6th November - Family Week
- Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th November Life Education Workshops
- Friday 10th November - Remembrance Service at the Recreation Ground at 10.55am
- w/c Monday 13th November - Anti-Bullying Week
- Monday 13th November - Odd Sock day - wear odd socks
- Friday 17th November - Children in Need - non-school uniform day
- Saturday 25th November at 12noon - Choir sings in town for the turning on of the Christmas lights.