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## April 2024 Newsletter

I hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday. The weather is turning warmer and spring is truly here. The spring term is now finished and we are entering the final term of 2023/24.

### Afterschool Clubs

Clubs including Forest School will restart the week beginning **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**. Please complete and return the booking forms to school by **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**.

### PTFA

We are delighted that the PTFA will be starting up again. We have people who have volunteered for the official roles, thank you very much. Please come along on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 3.30pm to see how you may be able to help with future events. Any time you can give for any events is much appreciated. At present, we have very little money left to be able to buy anything for our children.

The first Fundraising event will be a Textile donation collection. Please bring your bags of unwanted textiles into school on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April in the morning, Astra Recycling will make a collection on this day.

### Red Nose Day

We sold nearly all our red noses and raised £138.32 in donations for Red Nose Day. Thank you for your caring and compassion in these financially tough times.



### WE Day

We thank you for bringing in your copper coins to help Water Aid.

### Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who purchased books from the recent book fair. The school received commission of £278.58 to purchase books for the school.

### SATS Dates

Please remember the important dates for SATs for Year 6 - the week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Phonics screening will take place the week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Year 2 will complete the Year 2 SATs by June.

### Transition Days

Transition day will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July. Year 6 will go to the High School for the day. They will need to get there themselves in the morning. Our new Reception children will join us in the morning and the other classes will visit their new teachers. Mrs Fiona Locke, our newly appointed Headteacher, will also be visiting us that day. Mrs Lewis and Mrs Dyke will be visiting Stepping Stones after Easter and our new children who are not from Stepping Stones when we have the confirmed list of who will be joining us. We will inform the new parents when visits by Rising 5s to the Reception class will start.

## Relationships and Sex Education

Every summer term, I hold a parents' meeting on our Relationships and Sex Education curriculum. As you will be aware the Government made Relationships education statutory from September 2020. I will be holding our annual meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm. As ever we will text to let you know when the lessons—usually 2- on sex education are in the summer so that you can have a chat to your child about any questions they may have. The sex education aspect is non-statutory in primary schools but we feel it is a vital aspect of a child's development. In today's world it is better for young people to be educated in order to keep themselves safe. Please do come and talk to us if you have any questions.

Attendance is so important to keep up-to-date with all the learning possible. We hold a termly raffle for a family day out.

Each week your child has 100% attendance their name will go into the raffle so that the more weeks they are here the greater the chance of a prize! Prizes will be from a choice of activities such as family cinema tickets, bowling for the whole family, Monkey World, Tank Museum, Abbotsbury Gardens/Swannery and Farmer Palmers.

We have had some warm weather but I would like to remind you all that your child does need to bring a coat as weather conditions can still be changeable. Thank you for putting names in your children's clothing, it has helped us to return items straight away. During periods of warm weather, please can children bring a water bottle, sun hat and sun cream to school each day. When we get a very hot spell, children without sun hats will need to stay in the shade.



## Uniform Reminder

We have made sure that our uniform is affordable and in line with government policy.

A reminder of our uniform policy; Plain white shirt, Plain dark green sweatshirt or cardigan. Plain grey/black skirt, pinafore dress, trousers or shorts Summer dress optional - white and green check print Plain grey, black, white or dark green socks or tights Please also remember that the policy is for black, sensible shoes so that children can walk and run around safely, we are seeing more children with boots and shoes which are not suitable for school. In Key Stage 2 we have a daily mile run twice a week and so it is important that children have shoes they can run in—trainers can be worn for this and then a change back to school shoes. PE Kit -No jewellery. long hair is to be tied back. All kit should be named and kept in a drawstring bag. Inside - plain white T-shirt or polo shirt, navy or black shorts, black or white plimsolls, extra socks. Outside - tracksuit trousers and plain jumper or sweatshirt over recommended PE kit. Trainers are required for outdoor games in winter. Children who play football at after school clubs or for the school teams must provide their own football boots and shin pads.



## Headlice

Tying long hair back will help stop head lice spreading. They are notoriously hard to get rid of as I well know! We would advise parents to put conditioner on hair and comb through with a nit comb after washing. If you have concerns, please ask for the number of our school nurse or call the school nurse support line (01929 557 558)

## School Nurse Visit

The school nurse will be visiting the school on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April to measure Reception children's height and weight. If you would not like your child's measurements recorded, please inform the school office.

## Swimming Pool training for volunteers

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, we are holding our Reach, Rescue and Resuscitation courses. Please let Mr Newman know if you would like to attend one of these courses.

**Trips**

We appreciate that times are difficult for families and try to keep costs of trips down as much as possible. We are lucky that Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are being given a free trip to watch the BSO orchestra perform on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

**Residentials**

The next PGL payment is due by 26<sup>th</sup> April, followed by payments due on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 28<sup>th</sup> June. The final Carey Camp instalment is due by 26<sup>th</sup> April. Please keep to the payment dates where possible. Please do come and talk to Mrs Wrixon if you have any concerns as we would really like all our children to attend. Thank you.

**Allergies**

I would also like to remind parents that we have children in school with allergies to nuts and kiwi fruit. Please can you make sure that no food is sent into school containing nuts and kiwi fruit, including in lunch boxes.

**Governors**

We currently have a vacancy for one parent governor. Please email the clerk at [c.dunkleyjones@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:c.dunkleyjones@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk) if you would like to apply for this role.

Once again I cannot thank you enough for all your wonderful support. It truly takes a village to raise a child and we are all in that village for all our children. This was really shown in our spring term Barnestorm.

With warmest Wishes

Karen Wrixon

**Dates For Your Diary**

Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> April - after school clubs start

**Please see the attached Summer 2024 Dates document.**