



William Barnes Primary School

Head teacher: Ms F. Locke
office@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk
01258-472257



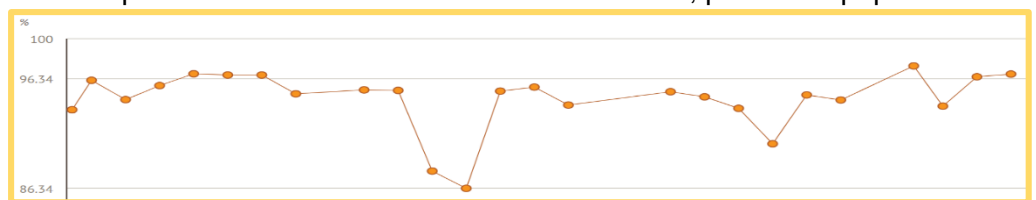
March 2026 - Spring Term 2

Head teacher Update

As I write this before school starts, the grounds team have come in to cut the grass; does that mean I can declare that Spring is here? It has certainly been lovely this week to be with the children in the sunshine during breaks, and see them learning outdoors. Although this half term has been short, we seem to have packed an awful lot in: it was great to have so many of our families booking slots for parent/carer consultations, we've taken part in a number of sporting events, Year 5 have had a wonderful time at Leeson House, we've raised money for Comic Relief, everyone got to visit the Science Dome (many thanks to the PTFA and a local benefactor), we've enjoyed the Scholastic Book Fair, had a wonderful Book Rehoming. We've also been proud to invite head teachers from other schools to look around – it has been particularly wonderful to hear their comments about the strong relationships and great learning behaviours observed all around school. Summer term is going to be busy too so please see below for some key dates.

Attendance

Last academic year, our overall attendance was 95.3% - above the national average, and the top in our group of schools although a little short of the 96+% to which we aspire. This year, thanks in part to a rotten November for many of us, we have 94.5%, against a national figure of 94.6%. We know that children can get poorly and always like to work with our parents & carers to do what is best for them; please do pop into the office to fill in a medicine form or let us know if they're not feeling their best. You can check attendance on the Arbor app.



Part of good attendance is arriving at the right time. The school gates are opened at 8:35am and the school day starts at 8:45. If you arrive after the bell, your child must come to the office so that we know they are here. Please don't walk them through the playground once children have entered school as this is a safeguarding concern.

It has also been brought to my attention that some of our older children are arriving at school quite a while before the gates are open. I am sure you are aware that we cannot supervise these children before 8:35am so this is not a safe action to take. If it is noted more than once, it will be logged as a safeguarding concern.

Parking

If you have not been issued with a permit, do not park in our car park unless you are collecting a sick child. As it is part of our premises, we reserve the right to shut the gate at any time, including evenings and weekends.

We are a nut and sesame-free school; thank you for helping to keep all our children safe.

William Barnes



Where every child counts



William Barnes Primary School

Head teacher: Ms F. Locke
office@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk
01258-472257

Sports News.



The spring term has brought many sporting successes to William Barnes, highlighted by the fantastic efforts of the girls' football team in this year's Davison Cup.

In mid-February, the Year 5 and 6 netball team were triumphant once again, showing excellent teamwork and resilience throughout the competition. The ever-popular football tournaments have also been a great success, with both the Year 5 and 6 mixed team and the KS2 girls' team topping their tables and bringing home trophies. Although the Year 3 and 4 team were unable to maintain their unbeaten run, they represented the school brilliantly and are already looking forward to improving next year! JN



#WB Proud



We still have parents & carers who tell us that they are not getting our messages so please do check that you have the Arbor app downloaded and have **enabled 'in-app notifications'**. You can also register a child's absence, change an address/phone number or add medical information for us to review. Except in cases of emergency, please **book in any Extended School sessions on Arbor**. This means that you will have a confirmed place and will save our busy office team having to put the sessions on manually.

Dates for your diary



Thursday 26th March
Thursday 26th March
Friday 27th March
Friday 27th March
Sunday 29th March
Monday 13th April
Thursday 30th April
Monday 4th May
Wednesday 6th May
11th – 15th May
Wednesday 13th May
Friday 15th May
Tuesday 19th May
Friday 22nd May
23rd May – 1st June
Wednesday 3rd June
8th – 12th June
Friday 12th June
Tuesday 16th June
Tuesday 23rd June
Wednesday 24th June
Friday 26th June
Friday 26th June
Wednesday 1st July
Thursday 2nd July
Wednesday 8th July
Wednesday 8th July
Thursday 9th & Friday 10th July
Friday 17th July
Monday 20th July
Tuesday 21st July



Rocksteady Music School assembly & workshops
Davidson Cup Finals
Year 5 trip to the Curiosity Cube
last day of term
clocks go forward
back to school
Year 1 trip
Bank holiday – no school
Year 4 trip
Year 6 SATs week
Cross Country @ Shillingstone
Year 6 Mill walk
KS2 BSO trip
Non-uniform Day (PTFA)
half-term break
Year 2 trip
Family Learning Week/Great Big Green Week
Family Festival (PTFA)
Class photographs
Mental Health Schools Team – Year 5 & 6 Transition sessions
Sports Day
Year 6 trip
Year 1 & 2 Rounders tournament (a.m.)
Aquathlon
Year 5 'Step Up' Day @ Sturminster High School
Transition Day
Year 5/6 Rounders @ Child Okeford
Year 6 performances
Year 6 Leavers' event (PTFA)
Year 6 Leavers' assembly
Last day of term



F. Locke

Head teacher

We are a nut and sesame-free school; thank you for helping to keep all our children safe.

William Barnes



Where every child counts