



Barnsbury Primary School and Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs J Harrup

10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. It was lovely to see all of the children coming into school this week and hearing about their Christmas breaks. The school is calm and purposeful with the children (and adults!) getting right back into the swing of things.

Uniform and presentation for school

A few reminders for parents for the New Year:

- 'Tramlines' in haircuts are not permissible at school.
- Hair extensions should be a 'natural' colour and hair accessories should be small and discreet.
- Earrings are permissible but these should be small studs only.
- Children should come to school in black shoes and not trainers (unless it is a PE day).
- The KS2 gate opens at 8.30am, children should not be dropped off early as they are unsupervised.

Term Dates and INSET Dates for Academic Year 2025-26

Please find below term dates and INSET days for the next academic year (2025-26).

	Start Date	Half Term	End Date	INSET Days
Autumn Term 2025	Thurs 4th Sept '25	27th to 31st Oct '25	Fri 19th Dec '25	Weds 3rd Sept '25 Mon 3rd & Tues 4th Sept '25
Spring Term 2026	Weds 7th Jan '26	16th to 20th Feb '26	Fri 27th Mar '26	Mon 5th & Tues 6th Jan '26
Summer Term 2026	Mon 13th April '26	25th May to 5th June '26	Weds 22nd Jul '26	

Please note that there is a two-week half term next academic year in May/June. For the following academic year, 2026-2027, this two week half term may change to fall during the Autumn Term. The SWAN Trust will be consulting on this in the future.

September 2025 Reception Applications

Just a reminder to parents that the deadline to apply for a Reception place for next September is Wednesday 15th January 2025.

Information for Parents about statutory testing

Further information from www.gov.uk is available for parents of children undertaking statutory assessments this year: reception baseline assessment (RBA), phonics screening check, multiplication tables check (MTC) and key stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum tests. This can be found [here](#).

Screens in the Earliest Years

We know that the early years is a time of phenomenal growth. Children are like sponges, soaking up stimuli around them and developing knowledge and new skills at an incredible rate. It is also a period that has a significant impact on the rest of an individual's life, with the foundations being laid for lifelong habits. Therefore, as parents and professionals we must think carefully about the input children receive in the early years, and more so than ever before, consider the role that online activity plays. The London Grid for Learning (LGfL) has an article over on their site, examining the issue. If interested, please click the link [here](#).

NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that can help children feel better and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply): earache (1-17 years), impetigo (1 year +), infected insect bites and stings (1 year +), sore throats (5 years +), sinusitis (12 years +), uncomplicated urinary tract (women 16-64 years) and shingles (18 years +).

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Harrup".

Mrs J E Harrup
Headteacher



Star of the Week



Effort Award



Barnsbury Values

Values Award

Oak	Sadie	Aadhya	Zara
Ash	Oscar	Matthew	Reggie
1B	Haziq	Yuri	Havanna
1M	Jake	Ohene	Liv
2M	Jack	Talia	George
2T	Hania	Saharsh	Jenson
3B	George	Theo C	Caitlin
3M	Catrin	Chloe S	Niyam
4D	Skylar	Abram	Jonathan
4J	Steve	Revaan	Daisy
5M	Ayush	Arvin	Jack
5T	America	James M	Bella
6G	Isabelle	Angela	Noah
6L	Caidence	Scarlett	Tabby

Congratulations to the recipients of a WOW certificate this week:

Harri, Emma, Bowen, Angela, Rita, Noah, Isabelle, Olivia, Evangeline, Matthew & Fatima (6G).

Will B, Oscar S, Abi, Adele & Zoe (5T)

Abiya & Cecilia (4D)

Emily R (3M)



Dates for your diary 2024-25

Spring Term

January

Friday 31st PTA pre-loved uniform sale

February

Friday 7th 6G Class Assembly

Friday 14th 4J Class Assembly

Friday 14th PTA Non Uniform Day—Love What You Wear

17th-21st Half Term

Monday 24th INSET Day

March

Friday 7th 9.00am Rock Steady Concert (Friday bands)

Weds 12th Local Governing Committee Meeting

Friday 14th 5T Class Assembly

Tuesday 18th 9.00am Rock Steady Concert (Tuesday bands)

Friday 21st 1M Class Assembly

Thursday 27th 9.00am Rock Steady Concert (Thursday bands)

Friday 28th 1B Class Assembly

April

2nd-4th Year 6 Residential to Avon Tyrell

Friday 4th 1:15pm End of Spring Term

Dates for your diary 2024-25

Summer Term

April

Tuesday 22nd	Start of Summer Term
Thu 23rd & Fri 24th	PTA Silent Discos (times TBC)
Weds 30th	Local Governing Committee Meeting (8am to 10am)

May

Friday 2nd	3B Class Assembly (9.00am)
Friday 16th	2M Class Assembly (9.00am)
Friday 23rd	2T Class Assembly (9.00am)
Friday 23rd	End of half term
26th May-6th June	Two week half term

June

Weds 25th	Local Governing Committee Meeting (8am to 10am)
Friday 27th	Oak Class Assembly (9.00am)

July

4th	Ash Class Assembly (9.00am)
Tues 22nd	End of Term (1:15pm finish)

Acorns

A few photos of Acorns children in their build up to Christmas. They had fun making decorations, singing carols and decorating the class Christmas Tree. The children enjoyed their class party where the children iced their own biscuits.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine at least a few days before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently: so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education as easy as possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-return-to-routine>



YOUR BARNSBURY PTA NEEDS YOU!

**Help us shape the future of
Barnsbury school and it's
children by helping us raise
vital funds...**

WE NEED YOUR:

**INPUT...your opinions matter
TIME...however much you can spare
DONATIONS...big or small and your
help CREATING AWARENESS**



**Contact your class rep or email:
pta@barnsbury@surrey.sch.co.uk**