

5th September 2012

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year. We especially welcome our new P1 pupils who have all arrived in school with happy smiles.

DIARY DATES

A calendar of all the known dates for the school year has been sent to you with this letter. Please keep this for reference throughout the coming months. I hope that there will be no changes to dates throughout the year but where these do occur I will notify you as early as possible.

A copy of the Diary Dates and Notes Home will now also be available in the Parents' section of the school website – www.barnishprimary.com

STAFFING

We welcome two new members of staff to Barnish Primary this term.

Mr Martin Bellew will teach P7 on Wednesdays and Thursdays for this term to cover for the Principal Support days.

Mrs Kelly Bredin, who is a shared teacher for this year in our P1EE partnership, will work in our school on Wednesdays.

HEALTHY BREAKS

As before, toast will continue to be available on Tuesdays and Fridays. It will remain 25p per serving and the money will be collected on those mornings.

At present we do not impose many restrictions on what our pupils can eat for snacks and packed lunches one exception being that we do not allow fizzy drinks. We would also encourage parents to provide mostly healthy snacks with treats on some occasions. You will be consulted on the possible introduction of a healthy eating policy later this term.

MILK & DINNERS

Milk is available for all pupils at a cost of 17p per day (85p for a full week). Milk must be ordered on Wednesdays for the following week.

The cost of school dinners is £2.30 per day (£11.50 for a full week). Diner money must be paid in advance on the first day of attendance in each week.

The school meals service runs a strict, no credit policy.

If you claim benefits your child may be entitled to free school meals and a grant to buy uniform. If you would like an application form please contact the school.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club runs from 8am. It is open to all our pupils and currently costs £1 per child per day.

Breakfast consists of cereal, toast and fruit juice. All club members have their own toothbrush and are encouraged into good hygiene habits.

UNIFORM

School uniform is compulsory. It is practical, convenient and inexpensive compared to other children's clothing. It also gives pupils a sense of identity with the school. Please remember that the school uniform is;

- Dark Green Sweatshirt with school logo
- Yellow Polo Shirt
- Dark Green Jogging Bottoms / Grey School Trousers / Dark Green Skirt or Pinafore
- Dark Green Waterproof Coat with school logo (optional)

PE

All pupils must have slip-on PE shoes. These should be clearly marked with the child's name and left in school. **For Health and Safety reasons, teachers will not allow pupils who do not have proper PE shoes to take part in PE.**

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

After-school clubs will begin again on Monday 17th September. Details of clubs for this term will be sent to you next week when the arrangements have been finalised.

ATTENDANCE

Please remember to send **written notice** of the reason for all absences as soon as your child returns to school. While we appreciate parents phoning to inform the teacher about an absence or speaking to the teacher about reasons for non attendance, regulations state that written notices are needed to be retained by the school for attendance audits.

Absences are recorded as unauthorised when no written notice of reason is given or when the reason given is not an authorised one. Authorised reasons for absence are:

- Illness
- Medical/dental appointments
- Bereavement in the immediate family
- Exceptional family circumstances

Absences for family holidays are recorded as unauthorised.

Attendance is recorded twice each day so if one session is missed it will count as 1 absence and a full day as 2 absences. **In the electronic recording system that we use, children who come to school after registration are automatically marked as absent for the morning session. Registers are only kept open until 9.30am.**

FRIENDS OF BARNISH

The Friends of Barnish group is open to parents and family members of all our pupils. The group provides invaluable support to us by raising funds and helping out at school events. We are having our first meeting of the year on Monday 17th September at 7.30pm. All new members welcome. If you would like to be part of the group but cannot attend this meeting, please send a note to school.

Several of our existing members have now left as their children have moved on to secondary school and it is important that new members join us to keep the group going.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We use a mobile phone to communicate with families in the event of an emergency closure or in other unforeseen circumstances. In order to update this system we need each family to provide their most useful mobile number. Please complete the form with your preferred mobile number and return it to the school by Friday 7th September.

PUPIL INTERNET USE

Every child has been given a copy of our Agreement for Acceptable Use of the Internet & Digital Technologies. In accordance with our Policy this must be completed each year by pupils and their parents before the child can use the internet in school. Please complete these agreements with your child and return it to school as soon as possible.

Every family received a full copy of our ICT and Internet policies last school year. If you need a new copy of this please send a note to school.

REMINDERS

Please note the following usual reminders;

- As no member of staff is officially on duty until 8.45am no pupils should be on the school premises before this time unless they are attending Breakfast Club
- For the safety of the children playing, parents are not permitted to drive into the school yard before school
- Please inform the class teacher, in writing, of any changes to arrangements for collection of your child. Remember that pupils may not leave school early without permission from the principal
- Head lice are a regrettable hazard of school life particularly among young children. Please check your child's hair regularly and take action if necessary.
- Teachers are available 3.15 – 3.45pm each Monday to discuss your concerns and queries. Let the teacher know in advance if you wish to make an appointment
- Please ensure that all items of school uniform, schoolbags and lunchboxes are clearly marked with your child's name.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Wisener-Clarke

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION 2012/13

Child(ren)'s Name(s)

Mobile Number_____

Name of mobile owner_____

Signed.....

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Signed.....