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Barnston Primary School

**‘a health promoting school’**

**Headteacher: Mrs.S. J. Pearson B. Ed. NPQH**

**OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Please note that the 2018/19 term dates are on the website with INSET days clearly marked on the calendar page (small calendar on ‘about us’ page just click on the date to see events and large on the ‘calendar’ page – **2nd May is an INSET not 3rd June as originally sent out.**

**November**

3rd - Bonfire at Barnston (look out for PA info)

7th – Open Assembly 9.10 am

8th Flu jabs F2-Y5 – letters to be sent out

**9th Remembrance Assembly – 100 years since WW1 – Open assembly for parents too**

14th F2 PSED parent workshop 8.50a.m – see website

15th – competitive sports day – come in sports clothes all day

16th Children in Need Day

16th Power of One – Anti Bullying Team

22nd RE Assembly

27th at 9.30 a.m New intake show around for 2019/20 – book in at school office 342 5229

30th – Christmas Fair 3.30-5.30pm

**December**

3rd – Open Assembly 9.10 am

3rd – F2-Y2 Play dress rehearsal pm

**4th – 1.45 Christmas play** – **2J, 2D** **(ticket only)** **and**

**5th same time – 1L, 1M, 2A, (ticket only)**

6th – pre-school play dress rehearsal 10 am

7th – pre-school play 10 am in the hall

7th – Christmas lunch for children – letter to be sent for take-up

10th December at 9.30 a.m. New intake show around for 2019/20 – book in at school office

14th – Santa a.m and Christmas party p.m – come in party clothes but sensible shoes

14th – Y6 Fancy dress 1.30pm (Y6 parents only)

17th – Dress rehearsal Y3-6 at 9.30 am

17th – Xmas Play Y3-6 at 6.30 pm (by ticket only)

18th – Xmas Play 1.45 and 6.30 pm Y3-6 (ticket only)

19th Barnston’s Got Talent

Christmas holiday 21th to 7th January 2018. (**Inset 21st/22nd Dec – no children in**)

**100 YEAR REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – 9/11/18 AT 10.30AM – 11.15AM**

This will be open to all parents and the local community – only KS2 children will come into the hall as space will be short. The children will be working on artwork/writing/discovery tasks about the WW1 era in the week running up to the special service. We hope that as many as possible can join us – tell your neighbours etc.

**E-SAFETY PANEL AND DRUGS AWARENESS PANEL – Y5/6**

As highlighted in the previous newsletter – we have now set up a Social Media Panel and our six federation schools have agreed to be involved with Barnston hosting and organising the Inter-schools panels. This will provide a fantastic opportunity for pupils to discuss modern issues relating to technology and drugs awareness – as a high percentage of pupils have some offer of drugs in their secondary education and higher education years and children/parents need to be made aware as soon as possible about dangers of online chat rooms/gaming rooms/texting strangers etc.

Barnston will also be engaging with Ariel Trust, which works on providing children with the skills to say no to strangers on line, or to influences outside school and their family. Previous work with children focused on giving them the knowledge of what can happen, but recent research and statistics have shown that knowledge is not enough and practical guides/role play providing children with the skills of how to say ‘no’ are much more effective. This is an exciting break-through from the Ariel Trust which has worked in partnership with Merseyside police.

**DRAMA CLUB**

Samantha who leads the new drama club actually realised fame herself last week by appearing on the One Show – how exciting that talent such as hers can lead to a TV appearance. All our aspiring actors/actresses are so talented and should believe that they can realise their dreams!

**CHINA BOX – MANDARIN FOR ALL KS1 PUPILS**

A grammar school retired MFL teacher, Carol Austin, has created a package of online resources for KS1 (she is working on KS2) and is providing this package to all Wirral primary schools, as it is her dream to see Mandarin taught throughout Wirral, so that Wirral pupils will be ‘ahead of the game in business’ and also so they will have a love of the Mandarin language (about 71% of China speak or understand Mandarin). Carol Austin has been in discussion with some secondary school heads to convince them to include Mandarin in their curriculum and hopefully she will be successful in this.

She has completed her package for KS1 and is working in the next few years on a KS2 package, which is very exciting for Wirral primary education – Carol has given this KS1 package free of charge to all Wirral primary schools in order that her dream can be fulfilled and we thank her for this gift. As soon as staff have had site of the package and training in the spring, it will be introduced into KS1.

**PA VOLUNTEERING AND EASYFUNDING**

Can I encourage as many of you as possible to take up the PAs easyfunding – it costs you nothing, but gains pounds for the school. As soon as the PA told me about this last year, I changed all my personal purchases to easyfunding, in order to donate to Barnston PA fund - I would encourage as many as possible to do the same as it will co-operatively make a huge difference to the funds we gain on behalf of the children – it is very satisfying when an e-mail pings in on your phone telling you what you have raised that month for the school!!

Our PA is brilliantly run and they have had so many fresh and innovate ideas over the last 6 years. Can I also encourage parents to be involved in the PA – the more people there are, the less there is for each volunteer to do and it is all the children who benefit from you giving up an hour or so of your time. Whilst my children were growing up, my husband took on Chair of their school PA and I always gave time where I could. It is a great social time for parents to plan, have a drink and fun together and a great way to get to know other parents – I still have friends from that PA involvement 10 years on! PLEASE, PLEASE GET INVOLVED – BARNSTON CHILDREN NEED YOU AND YOU CAN MAKE LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS!!!

**Y5/6 PARENT READING WORKSHOP – 14TH NOVEMBER 6PM**

We have been doing a great deal over the last 3 years to engage parental partnership in the higher expectations in reading throughout the school. This workshop will be run by Miss Nichols and I, to provide upper KS2 parents insight into how you can help your child through upper KS2 and beyond into High School. Please ring school office to let them know you will be attending. Mr Pipe will be arranging a lower KS2 reading workshop – date to follow.

**PLAY EQUIPMENT BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**

Could I politely remind all parents that the adventure play equipment in both playgrounds should not be in use before and after school for Health and Safety and Insurance reasons. The children know that they should not be on it, but some parents are still telling them that they can go on it. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping your children off the equipment.

**BRITISH VALUES AND CURRENT NEWS**

Two years ago, the school purchased a very low cost online package, which sends weekly current affairs news, posters, related British values and discussion materials. Scarlett R and Darcy H in Year 5 have taken charge of displaying the materials in the main corridor and promoting British Values as our Y5/6 advocates. Teachers use the resources in class assemblies, with older children running the assemblies and the children are learning a great deal and enjoying the current news discussions. Take a look on our main corridor.

**BARNSTON HAS ASKED TO BE INVOLVED IN 2019 PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW**

I have had a letter from the Rt Hon David Curry to ask if Barnston will share best practice within the review in order to ‘attempt to raise standards in education across the country’. I consider this a great honour for our school, particularly from the point of view of our outstanding teachers/teaching assistants, who have gained us the reputation we have for our very high and consistent standards across the whole school, before 2014 and in the latest harder framework with its higher expectations from 2014 onwards. As I always say, (and I must sound like a broken record!!) – Barnston is so much more than just the academic achievement, but we must celebrate all aspects of our school make-up.

**MUSIC FESITVAL HOSTED BY BARNSTON**

I have been aware over the last few years, that apart from Barnston’s Got Talent, productions, assemblies and Summer Fairs the brilliant singers and musicians in school have not had many other chances of showing their talents. I have therefore spoken to the other federation headteachers about the idea of a huge summer outdoor music festival. This will provide all musicians with the chance to perform a wide range of voice and instruments across different styles of music to a large audience. Parents will bring picnic blankets and picnics – a bit like the Proms in the Park!! Any musical parents who wish to volunteer to help organise this, please let me know.

**BARNSTON CHOIR**

Mrs Shuler and I are starting up a choir on Wednesday lunchtimes for children from F2-Y6. Mrs Shuler and I will alternate weeks and will cover a wide range of classical and contemporary music, making the experience fun for all – it does not matter if pupils are good singers or not, we just want them to enjoy singing. Again, if any parents love singing and wish to volunteer to add volume or help when keeping harmony going – please let school office know – there will be no charge for this club as it is lunchtime.

**RUNNING CLUB IS COMING BACK ON MONDAY 3.30-4.15 FROM 5TH NOVEMBER-17TH DECEMBER**

I will be sending out a letter by e-mail for running club – the cost will be £14 for the half term/child – please pay in full and we will give refunds if children are ill at the end, as we keep a register. This club does not just run - we focus on techniques, play games to enhance technique and learn differences between short and long distance running.

Mrs Pearson