



BARLEY CLOSE TERMLY NEWSLETTER

TERM 2 ISSUE 4 2025-26

The end of term 2 is here. For us the Xmas dinner has been served, parties have been had and the decs are down. Now it's time for us to do it all again with our own family and friends.

From everyone at Barley Close have a wonderful festive break and see you all in 2026!

Mrs J Williams



START AND END TIMES

A reminder that school starts at 8.45am. Children who arrive after 8.55am are classed as late. The gates shut at 9.00am and it is very distressing for children to have to walk into their classroom once lessons have started. Please **BE ON TIME**. The school day finishes at 3.15 pm. We have seen an increase in lateness in recent weeks with many children receiving a U code- this is classed as an unauthorised absence and can incur a fine.



ABSENCE

We have a dedicated line to report an absence.

Call 01454 867090 and choose option 1. Please let us know by 8.30am if your child will not be in.

The DFE have made it clear that attendance at school is everyone's responsibility. They have expectations for parents

- Ensure their child attends school every day that school is open except when a statutory reason applies
- Notify the school as soon as possible when their child is to be un-expectantly absent (e.g. sickness)
- Only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do so in advance
- Book any medical appointments around the school day where possible.

You will also get a fine if your child misses more than 10 sessions- 5 days of school- due to a term time holiday.



VIRTUAL BALLOON RACE

We have signed up the world's only virtual balloon race system. It is a seven-day computer simulation race where everything is real except the balloon. The software uses current live weather data to determine the progress of each balloon, and each entry can be tracked on Google Maps and Satellites once launched. It has no negative impact on wildlife, climate change, plastic waste or litter. You can buy a virtual balloon for £3

<https://ecoracing.co/cause/barley-close-primary-school-2784/>

and give it a name, shape and pattern. You can also select different features, such as weight, which will determine its flight performance to enhance the chances of winning a cash prize.

The race starts at the Eiffel Tower, Paris 12pm 14th February 2026. How far will your balloon go?



CBT SERVICE FOR CHILDREN

The local NHS has launched a new online CBT service, SilverCloud, which offers support for children and young people experiencing low mood and anxiety. Children aged 12 plus can self-refer to the service at feelingmixedup.uk and support is also available for parents and children aged five plus. The service is part of a range

of local wellbeing support for children and young people that also includes Kooth and Off the Record. You can find out more about these services in the Directory of Mental Health and Wellbeing services for children and young people for your area, available on the local NHS website at

<https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing/>

We also have Mrs Harris who children and families can get face to face support if needed.



FSM CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

South Gloucestershire's Holiday Activities and Food programme is open for bookings for this winter for children and young people aged 5 to 16. There are lots of fun clubs and activities to choose from generally between Monday 22 December 2025 and Friday 2 January 2026, although some providers may offer different dates. Places are fully funded for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals. Eligible pupils can be booked on up to 4 days of activities. See all the activities available and book at www.southglos.gov.uk/HAF



BUS TRAVEL

Children and young people under the age of 16 can travel for free on buses across South Gloucestershire during the festive season.

From Saturday 20 December to Sunday 4 January, children aged from 5 to 15 years old can benefit from free bus travel across the West of England – just by hopping on board, with no bus pass or registration required.

Kids Go Free first launched during the summer holidays where local visitor attractions and retail centres saw an uplift in footfall during that time.

The scheme is being funded using some of the £13.5 million Bus Grant funding secured from the Department for Transport by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.

[Learn more about kids go free](#)



FUNDRAISING

Term 4- penny wars- each class to collect loose change, the class with the most gets to keep their pot to spend on a class treat.

Term 5- break the rules day- pay to break the school rules!

8th July 3:15-6pm Summer inflatables event



SCHOOL NEWS

Sadly, we had to cancel a yr 5 trip. They were due to go to the cinema to see Wicked as this linked with their music topic of musical theatre. Due to a lack of voluntary contributions, we had to make the decision to cancel. Although all school trips are a voluntary contribution without these, we cannot afford to cover huge losses.

Rec, Yr 1 and 2 put on an amazing production of Lights, Camera, Camel... the sequel. A huge thank you to all the children who overcame nerves to perform, you for helping with costumes and learning lines and the adults who worked so hard to pull the show together.

Thank you to Maria, Becky and Jenny who produced a tasty Christmas lunch. Sadly, no sprouts on the menu this year! Several classes have been cooking, and Yr 4 were able to use the pizza oven.

We all loved our festive sing a long in assembly last week. A few classics as well as a traditional song thrown in. Singing with gusto sums it up!

The last-minute milkshake fundraiser raised £170. The money will be used to buy workshops and experiences for the whole school, for example the panto visits.



BREAKFAST AND OSC

OSC (Out of School Club) must be pre-booked. If you require a space, please email the office at enquiries@barleyclose.org.uk. Due to lack of numbers, OSC is now only open Monday to Thursday. Breakfast club is £2 a day per child and does include breakfast.

Please pay in advance on Parentpay and state which days you are paying for in the comments box.

We kindly ask that Parents wishing to pay by Childcare Vouchers/Invoices, please email the school office at the beginning of term to book the relevant dates & then we can raise an Invoice for that term. As we are becoming busier lately, we have noticed an increase in children not being booked in, in advance.

We will not be open over the Christmas school holidays. If you need a space for Feb half term, please book by 16th January 2026. Bookings cannot be added after this time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19/12	2:45 pupil of the term End of term
5/1/26	Back to school
8/1/26	Year 6 Lifeskills trip
26/1	INSET
13/2	2:45 pupil of the term End of term
23/2	Back to school
2/3	Class & leavers photos
17 & 19/3	Parents evening
25/03	Year 5 Techniquetrip
2/4	Pupil of the term End of term
20/4	Back to school
11-14/5	YR 6 SATS week
18-22/5	YR 6 camp 2:45 Pupil of the term End of term
1/6	Back to school
26/6	INSET
29/6 – 3/7	Sports week
10/7	Reports going home
17/7	Pupil of the term
21/7	9:30 Year 6 leavers assembly End of term

Future term dates 26-27

1/9/26 - 23/10/26
2/11/26 - 18/12/26
4/1/27 - 12/2/27
22/2/27 - 25/3/27
12/4/27 - 28/5/27
7/6/27 - 21/7/27

Confirmed INSET days

1/9/26
30/11/26
22/1/27
25/6/27
Another TBC

The INSET days are always on a Mon or Fri so always ideal if you want a long weekend away that doesn't affect your child's absence.