



BARLEY CLOSE TERMLY NEWSLETTER
TERM 1 ISSUE 2 2024-25

We continue to have a lovely start to the school year; the weather is certainly helping! It was lovely to see so many of you at 'Meet the Teacher' yesterday. We are running the same next Tuesday 24 September in case you could not attend, or if your class has a job share, you can meet the other teacher.

Mrs Jo Williams



SCHOOL DINNERS

As we are all aware the cost of everything, including food, has increased. The cost of school dinners has therefore increased to £2.40 a meal. If you are on benefits, you may be entitled to claim Free School Meals. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal infant free school meals. However, if you are entitled to claim for Free School Meals, you do get vouchers and other benefits.



OFFICE

Mrs Moorcraft, after 21 years of working at Barley Close, is leaving us. Her last day will be Tuesday 25 September. If you need to contact us regarding Out of School Club, please email enquiries@barleyclose.org.uk, where the office will be able to help you. Mrs Ridley will continue to be in the office Tuesday – Friday and Mrs Van Mazyk will be joining us on a temporary basis every Monday and Wednesday. She currently works in other school offices locally.



RECEPTION 2025 CHILDREN

Applications are due to be submitted to the Local Authority in January 2025. Open days are Tuesday 19 November at 9.30 am and Thursday 21 November at 2.00 pm. We can also accommodate other times so if these dates are not convenient, please let us know and we can arrange a mutually convenient time.



ROAD SAFETY

Dear Parent/Guardian

Introducing children to Road Safety at a young age is a vital step to them learning how to stay safe. Learning is most effective when parent/carers are involved in promoting good messages, especially if modelling safe behaviour.

With that in mind, we would like to encourage all parents/carers to access the links below to gain information to help keep their child/children safe when travelling in vehicles.

www.carseatsmarter.co.uk

FREE CAR SEAT CHECKS

South Gloucestershire Road Safety Team offer a child car seat checking service which is available via booking an appointment to attend Council Offices in Yate. To book or ask for further information regarding road safety, please feel free to get in touch via email:

roadsafetymeducation@southglos.gov.uk



START AND END TIMES

A reminder that school starts at 8.45 am. Children who arrive after 8.55 am are classed as late. The gates shut at 9.00 am 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.



ABSENCE

We are aware of a bug that is going round at the moment- temperatures, rashes etc. However, we are still seeing parents taking term time holidays and not informing us of their child's absence or giving a valid reason for absence. Attendance is a big agenda for the Government now and a feature of OFSTED. This is something we are aware of as it limited the judgement our school could receive when they visited us in May. Last year 754 days were missed due to term time holidays and children were late 1247 times. We all need to work together to improve this so that we can ensure children get the education they deserve. If you have concerns about your child's attendance, please contact us so we can help you.



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.

If you need a space for OSC for October half term, please email ASAP as places book up fast. We will not be open over the Christmas school holidays.

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.

Share your views to help your school:





Increase inclusivity for Neurodiverse students

Support Mental Health and wellbeing

Support Learning and attendance



Improve the classroom environment



Barley Close Primary School
9:30am, Thursday 3rd October ONLINE



SCHOOL NEWS

Our Reception children have all started school full time and enjoying their learning with their new friends.

Our new school improvement partner, employed by South Gloucestershire, has been in to visit us. He commented on how well behaved the children are and how well established the routines are for the children.

The Local Authority have also been in to review our curriculum and the plans we have in place. The area we are focusing on is children's retrieval of past knowledge.



SCHOOL CURRICULUM

In our OFSTED, we had some development points linked to the curriculum. Our curriculum will be on display during the Parents' Evenings coming up on Tuesday 19 November and Thursday 21 November, so you can see what we are teaching. The website also has information on this. We have written some of our own curriculum plans along with other local schools and for other subjects e.g. PE, music, MFL, PSHE and computing, we use national published schemes. We have detailed plans in place for our lessons with a focus on vocabulary as well as building on skills learnt in past lessons. We are currently working on the assessment we are using to ensure children remember what they have been taught.



FOBC

Our Friends of Barley Close organise some amazing events for the children and community. We have a Disco and Christmas Fayre in the diary. If you would like to help, please message them via their Facebook page or the school website.



EXPECTATIONS

Since returning to school, we have noticed that many children are struggling with being independent. We all know that sometimes it is quicker to do things ourselves, but this does not help our children in the future. Some things we have noticed that we would like you to ensure your child can do include:

- Be independent in their toileting, including wiping their own bottom and washing their hands.
- Be able to put on their own coat, including doing it up.
- Put on their own shoes - if you wish your child to wear shoes with laces, they will need to be able to do them up.
- Recite numbers, and recognise numerals to 20 by the end of Reception and by the end of Year 1 be able to count to 100.
- Play board games, dominoes, jigsaws - helps with taking turns, experiencing losing and motor skills.
- Reading to your child - introduces them to vocabulary and helps develop their imagination.
- Use a knife and fork to cut up food and to eat from.
- Using money to pay for things in shops.
- Telling the time- by the end of Year 1 your child should know 'o' clock and half past, by the end of Year 2 your child should know how many hours in a day, by the end of Year 3 be able to tell the time to the nearest minute and how many days in each month, by the end of Year 4 know analogue and digital times.
- Hear your child read 5 times a week and record in reading record.
- Encourage independence- make sure they have the things they need to take to school- water bottle/coat/reading record.
- Practise times tables- by the end of Year 4, your child needs to be able to recall up to 12 x 12.
- Know the days of the week, months of the year and how many days in each month- the famous rhymes are great to say on journeys!
- Have a good sleep routine- The NHS recommend 3 - 5 year olds need 10 - 13 hours of sleep each night, 6 - 12 year olds need 9 - 12 hours and 13 - 18 year olds need 8 - 10 hours of sleep each night. The link below may also help establish good sleep hygiene.

<https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/conditions-and-treatments/procedures-and-treatments/sleep-hygiene-children/>

- Reduce screen time. The NHS recommend no more than 2 hours a day and some non-screen days are also healthy. If you want advice or support on parenting, please contact Mrs Harris, based in The Hive, or look on the Barley Close CAN area of the school website, which has links and invites to support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24 Sept	Meet the teacher 3.30 – 4.30 pm
11 Oct	INSET
23 Oct	Halloween Disco Years 1-6 5.00 – 6.30 pm
25 Oct	Pupil of the term End of term
4 Nov 2024	Back to school
8 Nov	Siblings and individual photos
19 & 21 Nov	Parents' Evening
19 Nov	9.30 am Reception 2025 visits
21 Nov	2.00 pm Reception 2025 visits
22 Nov	Christmas Fayre
2 Dec	INSET
11 Dec	EYFS and KS1 performance
20 Dec	Pupil of the term End of term
6 Jan 2025	Back to school
31 Jan 2025	INSET

14 Feb	Pupil of the term End of term
24 Feb	Back to school
10 Mar	Class and Y6 leavers' photos
18 and 20 Mar	Parents' Evening
4 Apr	Pupil of the term End of term
22 Apr	Back to school
5 May	MAY DAY
12-15 May	Year 6 SATS week
19-23 May	Sports week
21 May	Sports day
23 May	Pupil of the term End of term
2 June	Back to school
9-13 June	Year 1 and 2 Phonics tests
27 June	INSET day
18 July	Pupil of the term
22 July	9.30 am – Leavers' assembly End of term
Term dates 2025 - 2026	1.9.25 – 24.10.25 3.11.25 – 19.12.25 5.1.26 – 13.2.26 23.2.26 – 2.4.26 20.4.26 – 22.5.26 1.6.26 – 22.7.26