



## BARLEY CLOSE TERM 1 NEWSLETTER TERM 1 ISSUE 1 2024-25

I would like to give a warm welcome to all our new families, and I hope you and your family enjoy your time at Barley Close. Please keep an eye on Facebook and Twitter as well as the fortnightly newsletters so you can keep up to date with all that is happening. Each class also has a class page on the school website, which is updated regularly. Please ensure we have your current email address and that you have registered with Parentpay so we can send you everything via email. Please check your junk/clutter to make sure you do not miss any emails. If you have anything you want to discuss, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Mrs Williams, Mrs Daniel and Mrs Drake are often around on the playground at the start of the school day if you wish to talk to us, or please email the school office at [enquiries@barleyclose.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@barleyclose.org.uk) and we can contact you.  
Mrs Jo Williams

### welcome

#### NEW STAFF

We are delighted to welcome back Miss Jessica Sheppard as our Year 2 teacher. She was previously a student in Year 5 so knows the school well. Mr Nat Hall has also joined our SEND provision and supporting children across the school. Anthony, Jaz and Nick are continuing as our sports coaches and will be running a variety of lunchtime and after school clubs.



#### SAD NEWS

Mrs Moorcraft, after 21 years of working at Barley Close, will be leaving us on 30<sup>th</sup> September. She is off on a new career adventure and we wish her lots of luck. She will certainly be missed and I would like to thank her for all she has done for all the adults, children and families at Barley Close.



#### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are on a qualifying benefit, please apply for benefits-related free school meals for your child as soon as possible after starting school.

You could be one of thousands of families across South Gloucestershire missing out on saving over £400 each year, per child.

All children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 get universal infant free school meals so you do not need to apply for them, but please do apply to receive benefits-related free school meals and the extra help they offer your child and family. This includes funded holiday club places in the main school holidays and help towards school uniform and school trips. You will also be helping our school, as we get extra funding that is called Pupil Premium Funding, to improve educational outcomes.

[This flyer](#) explains more about applying for benefits-related free school meals and the extra help it offers your child and family. Or visit [www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)



#### READING BOOKS

We will be sending reading books home by next Friday at the latest. We ask that you listen to your child read at least 5 times a week and record it in their reading record.



#### 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.



#### 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 have a dedicated line to report an absence. Call 01454 867090 and choose option 1. Please let us know by 8.30 am if your child will not be in.

The DFE have made it clear that attendance at school is everyone 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 unexpectedly 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.

#### [Changes in relation to Penalty Notices from 19 August 2024](#)

The Department for Education have announced changes in relation to the issuing of Penalty Notices, which will come into effect on 19 August 2024, in relation to absences which begin after 19 August. This means that for an absence (for example an unauthorised holiday in term time) which began prior to 19 August, the existing rules on Penalty Notices would apply.

A new national threshold for Penalty Notices

If a child has 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks, with the period of absence beginning after 19 August 2024, a parent may be issued with a Penalty Notice. There are two sessions in each school day (morning and afternoon). The sessions of absence can be consecutive (for example 10 sessions of unauthorised holiday in one week) or not (for example 10 sessions of unauthorised absence, spread across the 10 school weeks). This is a change from South Gloucestershire Council's current threshold.

On the first occasion that a parent is issued with a Penalty Notice in respect of their child, in relation to absence beginning after 19 August 2024, the Penalty Notice will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This amount will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

If a second Penalty Notice is issued, within 3 years of the date of issue of a previous Penalty Notice which was issued after 19 August 2024, to the same parent in respect of the same child, the Penalty Notice will be charged at a flat rate of £160. There will be no reduction if the Penalty Notice is paid within 21 days. This will apply even if the previous Penalty Notice has been issued by another local authority.

If the threshold for issuing a Penalty Notice is met for a third time (or subsequent times), within three years of the first Penalty Notice (issued after 19 August 2024) being issued, a third Penalty Notice cannot be issued. Instead, alternative action will be considered, which may include prosecuting a parent for the offence of failing to ensure their child's regular attendance at school. This will apply even if one, or both, of the previous Penalty Notices were issued by another local authority.



#### 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](mailto: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.

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

## 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

We have started the school year with high expectations for all. This week we have been focusing on behaviour- how we move around school and conduct ourselves in lessons.

We have been reminding the children of our school values- kindness, resilience and curiosity.

Congratulations to our pupils of Term 6 - Benjamin, Jaxon, Sydney, Fatima, Alfie JM, Jack P, Kyron-Lee, Phoebe F, Hilary and Thomas Daw.

This year we are also upgrading our certificates. As well as having pupil of the week which is linked to our school values, we are also giving certificates for super scientist, technology wizards, worldly wonder, reading ambassador, wicked writer, super sport star, marvellous mathematician and creative champion. We are continuing with our pupil of the term also.

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

For information regarding After School Clubs, go to the school website under News and Events/After School Clubs.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>2 Sept 2024</b>	<b>INSET day</b>
<b>3 &amp; 4 Sept</b>	<b>Reception in AM or PM</b>
<b>5 &amp; 6 Sept</b>	<b>Reception all in until 1.15 pm</b>
<b>9 Sept</b>	<b>Reception in full time</b>
<b>11 Sept</b>	<b>2.00 -3.00 pm Reception Parent and Carers' Phonics meeting</b>
<b>19 Sept</b>	<b>Meet the teacher 3.30 – 4.30 pm</b>
<b>24 Sept</b>	<b>Meet the teacher 3.30 – 4.30 pm</b>
<b>11 Oct</b>	<b>INSET</b>
<b>25 Oct</b>	<b>Pupil of the term End of term</b>
<b>4 Nov 2024</b>	<b>Back to school</b>
<b>8 Nov</b>	<b>Siblings and individual photos</b>
<b>19 &amp; 21 Nov</b>	<b>Parents' evening</b>
<b>19 Nov</b>	<b>9.30 pm Reception 2025 visits</b>
<b>21 Nov</b>	<b>2.00 pm Reception 2025 visits</b>
<b>22 Nov</b>	<b>Christmas Fayre</b>
<b>2 Dec</b>	<b>INSET</b>
<b>11 Dec</b>	<b>EYFS and KS1 performance</b>
<b>20 Dec</b>	<b>Pupil of the term End of term</b>

<b>6 Jan 2025</b>	<b>Back to school</b>
<b>31 Jan 2025</b>	<b>INSET</b>
<b>14 Feb</b>	<b>Pupil of the term End of term</b>
<b>24 Feb</b>	<b>Back to school</b>
<b>10 Mar</b>	<b>Class and Y6 leavers' photos</b>
<b>18 and 20 Mar</b>	<b>Parents' evening</b>
<b>4 Apr</b>	<b>Pupil of the term End of term</b>
<b>22 Apr</b>	<b>Back to school</b>
<b>5 May</b>	<b>MAY DAY</b>
<b>12-15 May</b>	<b>Year 6 SATS week</b>
<b>19-23 May</b>	<b>Sports week</b>
<b>21 May</b>	<b>Sports day</b>
<b>23 May</b>	<b>Pupil of the term End of term</b>
<b>2 June</b>	<b>Back to school</b>
<b>9-13 June</b>	<b>Year 1 and 2 phonics tests</b>
<b>27 June</b>	<b>INSET day</b>
<b>18 July</b>	<b>Pupil of the term</b>
<b>22 July</b>	<b>9.30 am – Leavers' assembly End of term</b>
<b>Term dates 2025 - 2026</b>	<b>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</b>