



## Diary

8<sup>th</sup> January-12<sup>th</sup> January



Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Swimming starts</b>	
	<b>Club timetable starts</b>	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Celebration of work</b>	From 2pm

### Welcome to Mr Dunk

Mr Dunk will be joining Squirrel class for the duration of the Spring Term. Mr Dunk is in his final year of teacher training. Following an excellent report from his previous school, he will be working alongside Mrs Aitken to deliver an exciting and challenging curriculum.

### Notification of absence

If your child is too ill to attend school, please let the office know as soon as possible by leaving a message on the school telephone. If we have not heard from you and your child is not in school, we will contact you by 10 am. If we have not heard from you and we are unable to contact you, we may contact the police and/or social services to ensure that your child is safe.

### 2018 SATs

This May our Year 6 pupils will take their Statutory Assessment Tests. In December we held a workshop for Parents and Carers of these pupils. Unfortunately, only 2 Y6 Parents attended (a further 2 sent apologies).

This year, the order of the Year 6 test has changed.

<b>Monday 14 May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions</li> <li>English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 15 May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English reading</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 16 May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic</li> <li>Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 17 May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning</li> </ul>

We were pleased with our outcomes in 2017.

Subject	Barns Green Primary - % of pupils meeting age-related expectations	West Sussex average	National average
Reading	79%	70%	72%
Writing	64%	69%	76%
Maths	79%	71%	75%
Combined Reading, Writing & Maths	57%	55%	61%

We know that our current Year 6 pupils will have to work hard to show good progress from their starting points. In order to support them, I will be releasing Mrs Aitken & Mrs Newbold (our Maths & English specialists) to work alongside Miss Bennet for some of the time. I will also be meeting with each pupil to look at their work, their progress over time and make sure they know what their next steps are to achieve the best possible outcomes. Following these meetings I will be monitoring their books on a regular basis to ensure they remain focussed.

It is important that the children face their challenge with maturity and determination.

How you can help:

- Screen time. Children need your help to know when they have spent a sensible amount of time playing computer games or watching tv. Make sure that you are able to explain why it is important. If all else fails, make sure you know how to turn off the router or change your wi-fi password. I am surprised at the number of children who come to school in the morning having already fallen out with their classmates because of on-line gaming.
- Sleep. Possibly linked to the above. School is a busy place and if they are working hard, your child should be coming home tired. They need your help to know when to go to bed and when to go to sleep. If a child is too tired to work in school, then we will treat them as if they are unwell and ask that they be collected from school for that day.
- Reading. The best (and cheapest) support you can offer your child outside school is to provide them with space and books to help them build their reading stamina. We have already sent out suggested lists of readers. Librarians, book-sellers and your child's teacher can all offer recommendations for appropriate quality texts. You should be expecting your child to read independently for at least an hour each evening.

Enough time has passed following the introduction of new tests for secondary schools to be making good use of the results. Having spent time deciding which school you wish your child to attend it is now important that they are able to show their best so that they are able to 'hit the ground running'.

## **INSET**

Some previous date lists had 9<sup>th</sup> February as an INSET. Due to a change by providers, this is now a normal school day. The final 2 INSET days are Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Parenting sessions**

One of the things you learn very quickly when you have children is that they don't come with an instruction book! At the start of last term a number of parents explained to their child's teachers some of the challenges they were facing at home. As a result of these conversations, Mrs Sands ran a series of 'Confident Parenting' sessions for a small group of parents. This is what they had to say:

*"The confident parenting course helped us both to better understand our children's behaviour and gave us a number of practical strategies for avoiding some of the triggers for undesirable behaviour and for dealing with it when it does happen. It also helped us to think about our expectations of the children and how they were not always appropriate and actually caused some of our frustration.*

*The course is relaxed, well run and surprisingly enjoyable. I enjoyed being able to chat with parents in a similar position and understand that our family is not alone in its struggles for harmony. It's still not perfect at home but we are a happier family as a result of the course."*

*"I must admit to being more than a little sceptical when offered the opportunity to attend this course and more than a little embarrassed and awkward walking into the meeting room that first session. Never in a million years would you ever hear me admit out loud (except maybe to my husband and perhaps my closest friend) that I struggle to control / cope / understand my kids, yet here I was in a room with three other parents about to embark on a course for exactly that reason.*

*Sitting in that first session, I very quickly realised that these parents were feeling the same feelings and experiencing some of the same issues and difficulties I was facing daily and that I was not the only one. It was this, along with being able to talk honestly and freely about these problems with other parents who did not judge but understood and sympathised with what it's like that was the biggest benefit of the course for me.*

*From a more practical side, the course taught us some very workable strategies for diverting and coping with unwanted behaviours at home and some very practical tools which aim to make life that little bit easier for everyone - from a visual time table for the morning routine so the children know what they are meant to be doing and when to drawing up a family charter that the whole family has developed and agreed to. The course also helped us re-evaluate the expectations we have of our children and how we often set these too high which can lead to frustrations.*

*I only wish I was able to attend a course like this 5 -6 year ago."*

*"I have just finished the 6-week "Confident Parenting" course provided free by the school, hosted by lovely Jo Sands.*

*Any parents of any pupil at the school are warmly welcomed to take part in the course, and we met once a week for a relaxed, informal and totally confidential session of two hours each week.*

*I found it hugely reassuring to be able to talk freely and openly with other parents and almost immediately I discovered I was not alone in my daily parenting battles, and that a great many families have their own personal difficulties and struggles with their children's unacceptable behaviour. We were able to share and discuss these issues; to understand our children's behaviour better; to change our expectations to more realistic ones; and to come up with new strategies we might try out to help build our confidence and positive attitudes towards parenting.*

*Of course, it is important to remember that this course is not a magic wand, and will not lead to immediate results at home, but it is a good, positive, proactive start - and has certainly improved my awareness and confidence that I now have some subtle tools and strategies which are proven to work in school that I can try to implement at home."*

I would like to thank these families for their feedback and for the bravery in turning up to the first session. We are considering running the course again after half term. If you think you would be interested in participating, please let your child's teacher know. We would let you know if we have enough interest by the end of January.

## Star of the Week – (w/e 8<sup>th</sup> December)



### Diary dates

#### Diary dates Spring Term

January 8<sup>th</sup> – Swimming for Y2, 4 & some 5s commences

January 12<sup>th</sup> – Celebration of Work

January 16<sup>th</sup> – Messy Church

February 5<sup>th</sup> – PTA (7pm)

w/c January 29<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Bikeability

February 12<sup>th</sup> – Half Term

February 20<sup>th</sup> – Messy Church

February 26<sup>th</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Book Week

March 1<sup>st</sup> – World Book Day – Dress as a Book character

March 6<sup>th</sup> – Brian Moses author visit

w/c 12<sup>th</sup> March – Book Fair

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Parent Teacher Consultation – 5:30 – 7:30

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Parent Teacher Consultation – 3:45-5:00

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Hedgehog Class Assembly – 2:55

March 20<sup>th</sup> – Messy Church

March 21<sup>st</sup> – Class photos

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dormouse & Hedgehog trip to Amberley Museum

March 28<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg hunt

March 29<sup>th</sup> – Break up at 1:30