

**Barlby Bridge CP School**  
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**School**  
**Newsletter 8**  
**13.12.20**

**Headteacher –Mrs C Hughes**

**Deputy Headteacher/Co-Headteacher – Mr G Dyer**

## **New Year Welcome**

We wish you all a very Happy New Year. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school following the Christmas break and to see the positive attitudes to learning and whole school behaviour. Praise wall on Thursday saw a great number of recognitions of hard work during the first week including independence in lessons, perseverance in subjects such as Science and Geography and kindness seen towards others.

We are focusing on developing the children's understanding of Equality this term. This work will be heavily led by our newly formed Equality team who will support the whole school in developing their understanding by looking at ways the children can work together to ensure our school community is a fair and equal place for all. Children demonstrating the values of Equality through their behaviour will receive one of the special award badges in praise assembly.

We will be launching the **'Five Ways to Well-being'** as a whole school approach in the next few weeks. Our Healthy School ambassadors are preparing to lead this work in school assemblies and focus activities in classes. The first step is centred on 'Connecting with others' and we plan to have a whole school focus linked to this that the well-being ambassadors will lead. Following this, the other steps relate to physical activity, learning new skills and developing mindfulness. We are working with Selby High School who have had great success in developing their pupil well-being team and a group of their pupils will be coming into school to talk to Year 6 about this project next month. The five ways have been well researched as having a positive impact on child and adult mental health; they are fully supported by a number of mental health charities and we feel this is a great approach to adopt to support our children to foster positive mental health. More information about this work will be published on Facebook and the school website.



## **Attendance and Punctuality**

We are continuing to work hard to improve our whole school attendance rate which currently stands at 95.4%. We have had a lot of illness in school which is obviously unavoidable and can quickly bring children's overall rates into concern categories. To ensure parents are fully informed, we do send letters if your child's attendance falls below 93%. This is so that you are informed and aware rather than leaving this later in the year when it becomes a bigger concern and much more difficult to improve. You may be invited to a meeting with the attendance team if your child's attendance falls into the persistent absentee category of 90% or below.

The majority of children come to school promptly for the start of the day. We have had a few children persistently late for school recently and this is really concerning given the impact it has on the child and their learning in school. Being just 5 minutes late each day equates to more than three whole days of lost learning from school in the year. There is a letter going home today with further information about the actions being taken in school to address these concerns around punctuality and lateness.

## **Farewell Mrs Kearns**

It is Mrs Kearns' final few days in school and we will be very sad to see her leave at the end of the week. Mrs Kearns is retiring and leaving a position she has been extremely committed to for the past 9 years. We thank her for her hard work and dedication given to the role, the children and the families at Barlby Bridge.

I am pleased to inform parents we have appointed a new Office Manager, Mrs Kirtsy Dixon who has started in school this week. Mrs Dixon will be working alongside Mrs Kearns this week to ensure a smooth handover of roles.



## New Home Reading Books

Our new reading books are ready to be sent home this week. Thank you again for your assistance through fundraising and your patience while we completed the task of cataloguing and organising the sets. We have purchased new book sets for EYFS and Key Stage 1 with new texts for Key Stage 2 added to the existing book stock, so everybody will be able to benefit from the new reading material. In addition all children will have access to an online library of the new reading books plus a large number of additional texts and you will soon receive a letter with information about how to access this. Children in Mercury class have already had an opportunity to start taking their books home and it has been great to hear the many positive comments from parents and children.

## Class Open Reading Sessions

This term each class will be hosting a shared reading session and you are invited to join your child and their class for this. The sessions will take place at the start of the day in the hall and will be an informal opportunity for you to share a good book or two from our school and class libraries whilst enjoying some refreshments and a healthy snack. Please see the Save the Date section of the newsletter to see when your child's session will be and we hope that you will be able join us.



## Statutory Testing Information

The Year 6 SATS tests will take place from Monday-Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> May 2020. It is essential that all Year 6 children are in school for this period. Children in Year 2 (Earth) will also take their SATS tests throughout the month of May. In Year 2, all children will sit the papers but these are spread out across the month to allow more time and adult supervision to support the children. This also ensures that the children do not feel worried about completing the tests and that where possible usual classroom practice of small group work is maintained. If there are any dates in May that you are aware your child will not be in school for, it is important to let Miss Ellis, the class teacher know as soon as possible. Year 1 will take their phonics screening check in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June. This check is completed on a 1:1 basis with the class teacher and in previous years children have really enjoyed taking part. There will be a phonics workshop for parents this term which will provide more information about this check.

## Important Dates for your Diary

<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Swimming sessions start- select children in Year 4 and 5
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Whole school skipping workshop
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Reception (Mercury) parent reading workshop- 9.00am
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 1 (Venus) parent reading workshop- 9.00am
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Selby High well-being ambassadors in to work with Year 6
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 6 at Annie matinee- Selby High School (1.00- 3.00pm)
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	School closes for half term ( <b>please note school is not open on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> )
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	School closed- Teacher training day
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	School opens
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 2 (Earth) parent reading workshop- 9.00am
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 3 (Mars) parent reading workshop- 9.00am
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 4 (Jupiter) parent reading workshop- 9.00am
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Kooth Workshop- Year 6
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Comic Relief Day
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 5 (Saturn) parent reading workshop- 9.00am
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 6 (Neptune) parent reading workshop- 9.00am
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	Parents' Evening- 3.10 – 6.30pm
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Parent's Evening 3.10- 4.30pm
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	School closes for spring term break
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Teacher training day
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	School opens for summer term
<b>WB: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 6 SATS week
<b>May 2020</b>	Year 2 SATS test period
<b>WB: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check week

Save the date!



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