



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are all deeply saddened at Barden to learn of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. I have included a page which details how we will support children in school with this very sad news.

I hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely summer break with your families. A very warm welcome to all our new families at Barden. It is great to have you with us.

Kind regards, *Mrs C Holgate*, Headteacher

### Attendance for Last Week

Eaglets R	77.8%
Owlets R	87.1%
Robins 1	85.3%
Wrens 1	85.0%
Wagtails 2	88.3%
Swallows 2	87.5%
Doves 3	91.7%
Skylarks 3	75.8%
Woodpeckers 4	82.8%
Kingfishers 4	89.3%
Jays 5	83.9%
Puffins 5	91.7%
Eagles 6	83.1%
Kestrels 6	98.4%
Cynets	90.0%

Overall school attendance was 87%. Well done to Kestrels who had the highest attendance.

Thank you for your continued support. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school to speak with us.  
01282 226777



Rest in Peace, Our Majesty, the Queen.

1926-2022

Barden Primary School and community thank you for your inspirational service to our country.

**DATES:** School closes for half term after school on Thursday 20th October. School reopens on Monday 31st October.



We come together as a school community to mourn the sad loss of our Queen, Elizabeth II. Elizabeth had been our Queen for 70 years, after she ascended to the throne on 6th February 1952.

In this time, Queen Elizabeth tirelessly devoted herself to her country and the Commonwealth and served with dignity, commitment and fairness.

Her death is a significant loss to the United Kingdom and other countries around the world and she will be missed greatly.

At Barden, we have spoken with the children in an age appropriate way to explain this very sad event. We have set up a memorial area within school where the children can see how special our Queen was. Over the next 10 days we will take the time in school to remember Queen Elizabeth and her extraordinary reign.

If, as parents, you feel you need support with any aspect of this sad event, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your service Queen Elizabeth II, rest in peace.

As we enter the 10 day period of national mourning, I will keep you informed of any potential changes to the school day.

Mrs Holgate



## Celebration Assembly

To all our new families (and a reminder to our existing families), we hold a weekly Celebration Assembly at 8.50am every Friday, where we celebrate selected 'badge winners' in each class.

We also celebrate any special achievements, present attendance awards, pen licences, sporting achievements, tidiest classroom award and much more! If your child has achieved any special awards out of school, you are welcome for them to bring them in to share in the assembly.



To make it easier for parents/carers to be able to attend, we send out a text on a Thursday to let you know your child has been selected to receive an award. Please do not tell your child they have won an award. The badge winners are chosen in secret by the class teacher and TA and it is a nice surprise for the children when they find out on a Friday morning.

## Upcoming Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT
Every Friday @ 9am	Celebration Assembly. You will be invited by a text message to attend.
21st September	National Fitness Day
Thursday 6th October @ 8.50am	Swallows (Y2) Class assembly followed by tea/cakes for parents/carers
Thursday 13th October @ 8.50am	Wagtails (Y2) Class assembly followed by tea/cakes for parents/carers
Thursday 20th October @ 8.50am	Jays (Y5) Class assembly followed by tea/cakes for parents/carers
Thursday 10th November @ 8.50am	Jays (Y5) Class assembly followed by tea/cakes for parents/carers
14th—18th November	<b>PARENTS EVENINGS</b>

## Class Assemblies

Class Assemblies are held on Thursday morning throughout the year. They start at 8.50am. They are an opportunity for you to come into school. The assembly lasts for around 20 minutes and then you are invited into your child's class to view their work and learning environment. This is followed by an invitation for you to come into the hall to enjoy refreshments (usually tea/coffee and cake) with your child and their class teachers. It is a lovely event and it would be really great to see you there (even if you can only stay for the assembly). I will let you know the assembly dates in the 'Diary Dates' section of the newsletter.



## Gardening Club Success!

Israa in Puffins has created an amazing meal using potatoes that have been grown in the Barden gardening area. This is fantastic! I hope it was as tasty as it looks!



## Extended Leave

As we have many new families joining our school this month, I have attached a letter below, that I originally sent in June regarding extended leave. Please read the letter carefully as it contains important information about your child's education. Thankyou.

**NEW SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBER**

**01282 226777**

## A polite appeal to parents regarding leave in term time

Dear parent/carer,

I hope that you are all well. I am saddened to have to have write a letter to you which contains some disappointing news, as my newsletters and letters are usually so full of happy and exciting things that our school and community have achieved together. However, I feel strongly that this is an issue that the school and the community must work on together to achieve a positive outcome.

Since I started at Barden 4 years ago, I believe the school and the community we serve have worked really effectively, together achieving some amazing things and demonstrating great improvements in many areas. Attendance has been one of these areas. In my first term, historic data showed that persistence absenteeism was double the national average at 18.2% (the national average was 9.6%). Over the following year, we worked hard as a school, to explain to our families the full impact of taking children out of school in term time. I liaised with our local faith leaders, who were supportive and helped to reinforce this positive message. As a result of everybody's hard work, our persistent absentee figure (which is children that attend less than 90%) decreased significantly. Consequently, this also had a positive impact upon pupil achievement. **I am disappointed to report, that as of last week, our persistent absentee figure stands at 23%, which is higher than when I started at Barden.**

You will be very aware that March 2020 saw the start of the global pandemic. With this came lockdown and the inevitable restrictions placed upon travel. I am empathetic that many families have not been able to visit relatives that live abroad during this time. My own family live overseas and I experienced first-hand the impact of this. Despite this, I must bring to your attention the detrimental impact that leave taken in term time is having upon our school.

**Since September 2021, 1049 school days have been lost due to pupils taking leave in term time. 69 families have taken extended leave this academic year.**

This is an incredible amount of lost learning time, affecting large numbers of our children. I have communicated with parents on many occasions about the impact of extended leave on a school so you will be aware that it does not just affect the pupils that are not in school. It also effects school staff, other children and our wider community.

Other negative effects include:

The impact on other pupils when children return to school, as more teacher and TA support time is required for that pupil to help them to catch up. This takes time away from other pupils.

The social, emotional and academic impact upon the pupils who miss school .

The impact upon school staff who work so hard to ensure that children are working at the levels they should be.

The impact on school staff when they need to plan additional work to help those pupils catch up.

The missed school trips, experiences, celebrations, performances that cannot be replaced (such as residential, leaver assemblies, school visitors).

The friendship groups affected of both the children that miss school and the friends left behind

The confidence of pupils when they miss school

The reasons above are factors that directly impact upon our pupils. However, if parents need further reasons to discourage them to take leave in term time, the law is very clear. **As a parent/carer of a child who is a registered pupil at this school, you hold legal responsibility for ensuring your child attends school regularly. All Lancashire schools share the government's determination to raise levels of pupils' attendance and attainment to ensure the best possible start in life for our children.**

Again, I apologise for having to send a letter which is not my usual positive one, however I am appealing strongly to parents to **NOT TAKE LEAVE IN TERM TIME**. If you are considering taking leave in term time, please carefully consider the points I have raised in this letter, and also the impact you will have on other members of the school community if you choose to go. It is not just your children that are affected.

The working partnership between a school and its community is such an important one and one that staff at Barden value greatly, and I would like to end this letter by **thanking all our families that support Barden and help us to achieve together the amazing things that we do.**

Kind regards,

Mrs C Holgate  
Headteacher