



# Barden Primary School

Only my best is good enough for me



**BARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL  
BURNLEY CAMPUS  
BARDEN LANE BURNLEY  
BB10 1JD  
Telephone No: 01282 226777**



## School Attendance Matters (SAM) Newsletter—Spring Term 2 - March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support in working with the staff of Barden Primary School. All schools have received a statutory update meaning that **from 17th August 2024, there's more pressure on schools to work together with parents and all those involved with a pupil's education to improve attendance.** We hope that you will continue to make school attendance and punctuality your priority. Spring has now arrived! It is hoped that the longer days and a renewed energy will help pupils boost their attendance and punctuality. On that note, don't forget to turn your **clocks forward on Saturday 31st March.** The lighter mornings and longer evenings will certainly help put a spring in to everyone's step.

### Attendance & Punctuality

**It was great to report the week before last that our daily attendance for one day hit over 96%**, which is our school's agreed attendance target. It was greatly down to the fact that a number of pupils had returned from leave, which showed if leave wasn't taken in term time, school would hit its target and further improve the outcomes of pupils. Currently, our school's whole school attendance between 01/09/2023 and 18/03/2024 is 93.68%, **so we still have a lot of work to do. The government's priority is reducing persistent** absenteeism, which is attendance that is less than 90% in an academic year. No one expects pupils to be well 100% of the time but **90% is a poor measure** when it comes to attendance. It also means that at 90% pupils have missed 19 days of school; it's like not attending school through February. Barden has 102 pupils that are persistently absent, which we are working hard to reduce by meeting with parents to understand reasons so support can be put in place. **On a positive note, there are 44 pupils with 100% attendance today. Also, 211 pupils have over 96% attendance so far this**

### Why attend school regularly?

**Attendance is proven to have direct link to how well pupils achieve in SATS, at GCSE and how much they earn in the future.** Just think what learning opportunities have been lost on these days like seeing the farm animals visit, seeing everyone in school dressed up as their favourite characters on World Book Day, seeing the Police Horses or listening to an author. **Even one day of absence can make a difference in getting a better and deeper understanding of a topic.** Every single minute of learning counts, and once it's gone, you can't get it back in school. Some parent meetings will highlight making improvements which includes agreeing to Education Contracts. If improvements are not made, school will have to consider raising Penalty Notices for lateness.



**Punctuality**—Just a quick reminder that pupils receive a late mark if they are late to school. After 9.10am this is recorded as a U mark. This means that it is like being absent for half a school day which directly pulls down attendance. Over half of our school pupils have been late at least once this year and together, these pupils have been late 1201 times, which is an enormous number of lates, bearing in mind that most of our pupils live in the surrounding streets of Barden Campus or within 15 minutes walk of school. The number of minutes lost is the same as an 8 week half term.

### Studybugs

Studybugs is Barden's newest attendance platform allowing parents to report their child's absence to school on an easy to use app. It is strongly encouraged that the FREE app is downloaded from your App Store however, if parents don't have the app, they can also go to Barden's school website and access Studybugs from the top right of the front page. So far, we have 54% of pupils that have a parent signed up and using the platform. Our aim is that we have as many parents as possible using the platform. Studybugs saves parents time by giving you the power to send a message quickly, which allows school to act upon information straight away and



report attendance and punctuality more accurately.

### New statutory penalties from 17th August 2024



- **First penalty notice** will rise to £160 per parent per child, which will be reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days.
- **Second penalty notice** to be issued to the same parent for the same child will be charged at £160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days. To be paid in full.
- **Third penalty notice** cannot be raised to the same parent for the same child within 3 years of the first date of issue and so will result in action, legal intervention or prosecution.

### National Dental Survey

The nurses from the National Dental Survey attended Monday 18th March to take a look at the teeth of pupils who were 5 years old. The nurses and school are pleased to report that we had a 75% take up, which I am told is far more than other local schools. Thank you for taking part. Some of the pupils seen were sent home with letters asking parents to make contact with a dentist and seek medical attention. Please make appointments were possible at the out of school time or at the end of the school day.

To find out more, please visit :

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist>



### Accessing medical advice

Some parents are still struggling to make appointments quickly with their doctors. You local chemist can give great advice and sometimes prescribe medication beyond over the counter remedies. Don't forget about calling the NHS on 111. Your call may result in an appointment being made for you at an out of hours medical centre, dentist, urgent care or hospital.



**Give your child every minute in school,  
give your child every chance to succeed in  
life!**

### Leave in Term Time

- It is the law in the UK for children to attend school regularly. **“If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence.” — Education Act 1996.**
- **Extended leave must be notified by the parents or the legal guardians of the pupil.**
- **It is not acceptable that school is not notified daily of the whereabouts of our pupil.**
- **If the correct procedures are not followed, school is legally required to report a pupil missing to Children Missing in Education.**

This process has been agreed by the Governors and is in the School Attendance Policy. It also demonstrates incredibly poor manners to take your child out of school without informing us you are going to be away. We recognise that parents have reasons to travel but school asks that leave is taken during the 13 weeks school holidays as lost learning cannot be caught up. Taking extended leave in term time also puts your child's school place at risk at a time when **over 400 children in East Lancashire are waiting for a school place.**

It is most concerning that so far this year that:

- **79** pupils have gone or about to go on unauthorised leave in term time, which accounts for **17%** of children taking leave in term time this academic year.
- **64** requests for Leave of Absence Forms have been made.
- **1,585** sessions have been lost or will be lost which is the same as over **4 school years.**
- **42** penalty Notices have been raised to date with many waiting to be processed.
- **18** pupils were **absent for 15 days or more meaning both parents will not be issued with a fine but the case will go straight to prosecution.**

If a leave of absence is required the correct process is:

- Complete a Request for Leave of Absence Form.
- Make an appointment to meet with Mrs Holgate the Head teacher.
- Make travel arrangement and provide school with tickets.

### **Reasons why not to book Extended Leave in school time:**

1. Teachers and Teaching Assistants time is unfairly taken away from the rest of the class that has been attending school regularly to help children who been on leave.
2. The lost learning experiences in class can never be relived. Pupils miss school trips and visitors to school which all form part of childhood memories.
3. Children's friendships will move on in your child's absence, making it difficult for your child to read-just upon their return leaving the child feeling excluded.
4. Lost learning create gaps in understanding which may have a knock on effect in the future beyond primary school into secondary school and beyond.
5. Lost time in school creates unnecessary worry and anxiety in children when they realise that their peers and class mate are ahead in learning.

**If you need help, please come and ask us.  
Our doors are open.**

Mrs L. Rawcliffe—Attendance Manager



## School Calendar for 2023-24 (from September 2023).

**Green Days** are when the school is closed for INSET (training) days

**Blue Days** are when school is closed for school holidays

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							December 2023							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
																					31							

  

January 2024							February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31												31							28	29	30				

  

May 2024							June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
29	30	31												28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## School Calendar for 2024-25 (from September 2023).

**Green Days** are when the school is closed for INSET (training) days

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	5							1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31						

  

January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				
29	30	31												30	31												

  

May 2025							June 2025							July 2025							August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Thank you to all parents for getting your child to school.

Please help us make your children's dreams come true by being able to provide them a full education and allowing them to be the **best that they can be.**