



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 Newsletter—Summer Term 1 - May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the May 2023 Newsletter. Now that the Year 2 and Year 6 SATS tests are over, the term is coming to an end and the May Half Term Holiday is upon us. I hope that you are looking forward to the break with your children and families.



Weather

I hope that everyone is enjoying the warmer and dryer weather. I hope that Spring is giving everyone an extra zest for life and I hope you are all benefiting from being outdoors more often, topping up on fresh air, vitamin D from the sun and exercise. The warmer weather means it is time for hats. Please encourage pupils to come to school wearing hats and sunscreen from Thursday 8th June.



Appointments

Routine appointments in school time are on the rise again. We ask parents to make appointments outside of school time to avoid the loss of learning time, especially at this time of year when end of topic tests are taking place. Also, parents must give notice of appointments so that class teachers can make arrangements for the pupil to be ready in class. Sometimes pupils are in another part of the building taking part in activities which can make pupils late for their appointments if school is unaware.



Punctuality

Please could parents signing in at the School Office with young pupils ensure that they know their child's birthday. The Inentry late system works by inputting the **day of the pupil's birthday and first letter of pupil's first legal name** as shown on the school's system. It is expected that children in Year 3 to Year 6 should know their dates of birth. Pupils should be able to sign in on their own or having the information ready so they can be assisted by a member of staff. It's very important that pupils arriving late or signing out for appointments complete the process so that registers are accurate in the event of a fire and to support your child's attendance and punctuality records.



Holidays

May half term holiday has arrived. Barden Primary School is **closed from Monday 29th May until Wednesday 7th June; school will re-open Thursday 8th June 2023 from 8.35am**. Please use this time wisely to book holidays that maybe less expensive as other schools will likely return on Monday 5th June. Potentially, this holiday period could give families 12 days off school and potentially more, if families choose to fly out on Friday evening.



Schoolcoms

School has adopted for a new school to parent communication app which will run alongside the current messaging service of school sending text messages to parents. We ask parents to follow the instructions given to them and download the app to their smart phones. The app will allow school to send in app messages free of charge so that we can keep parents better connected with school information and events. Also, parents are able to respond to app messages or send new messages if parents need to get in contact with school. By using the app, parents just need to be connected to Wi-Fi or data, which can be helpful if you are waiting to top up credit on to your mobile phones. We have around 25% parents that have downloaded the app and need over 80% of parents to download it to be useful to school and successful. If you require assistance, please pop in to the School Office and ask to speak to Mrs Hussain.



Attendance Achievements

We have 27 pupils that have achieved 100% attendance to date who have a chance of winning the red shining bike mounted in the school hall. We have 96 pupils that have achieve at least 98% attendance. Pupils who continue to attend and achieve 98% or over will also receive a certificate at the end of the year.



There will be a new challenge in Summer Term 2. Achievers will receive an ice-cream from the ice cream van if:

- pupils achieve 100% attendance and punctuality in the half term
- SEN & EHCP pupils achieve 100% excluding medical appointments
- registration class winners who have the best overall yearly attendance
- Headteacher's choice of pupils that make attendance and punctuality progress

Attendance facts

- * Generally, the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage, the lower the level of attainment at the end of the key stage.
- * Pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2019 had an overall absence rate of 4.7% over the key stage, compared with 3.5% among pupils who achieved the expected standard and 2.7% among those who achieved the higher standard.
- * Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.

Source: Back to school week – Everything you need to know about school attendance - The Education Hub (blog.gov.uk)



Holidays in Term Time

Holidays in term time are not permitted. **This is at the direction of the government.** We have many families that have taken or are about to take trips in school time. It is most concerning that so far this year:

- **87** pupils have gone or about to go on unauthorised extended leave, which accounts for 19% of children going on Extended Leave this academic year.
- **61** Request for Leave of Absence Forms have been made.
- **1307** school days have been lost or will be lost which is the same as **nearly 7 school years.**
- **53** Penalty Notices have been raised to date with many waiting to be processed.

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 Headteacher.
- Make travel arrangement and provide school with tickets.



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. School also requires as much notice as possible. 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 270 children in East Lancashire are not enrolled in a school and are waiting for a school place.

- **Extended leave must be notified by the parents or the legal guardians of the pupil.**
- **It is not acceptable that school is not notified of the whereabouts of our pupil.**
- **If the correct procedures are not followed, school will report a pupil missing to Children Missing in Education.**

Reasons why not to book Extended Leave in school time:

- As a school we are inundated with requests for leave. Please, please consider the impact that this has on both your child's education and the staff that work so hard for your children. The time taken to complete the admin paperwork for families that request/take leave in term time (especially when we do not know where families are) is immense. Plus the pressure for teachers when they return to help them to catch up is significant. This all takes time and resources away from children's education in school.
- 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.
- Children's friendships will move on in your child's absence, making it difficult for your child to readjust upon their return leaving the child feeling excluded.
- Lost learning create gaps in understanding which may have a knock on effect in the future beyond primary school.
- Lost time in school creates unnecessary worry and anxiety in children when they realise that their peers and class mate are ahead in learning.
- 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 Extended Leave.



Yours faithfully

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	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					1	2	3						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
														31													

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							1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							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.