



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

## **School Attendance Matters Newsletter—March 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the March 2023 Newsletter. Congratulations! You've made it through the cold, snowy, icy Winter, and Spring now awaits you. Get ready for Spring showers that give May flowers and everything in between.



### **Weather**

Thankfully, the weather has settled down and officially, we have entered Spring. However, please keep up with the weather forecasts as it is not unusual to experience snow, wind and torrential rain in March and April. Many reliable weather apps can be downloaded for free on to your smart phone or perhaps you could just make it part of your evening routine to check the weather forecast after the news and before you head to bed, so that you can prepare for every eventuality. Unfortunately, the British weather can be unpredictable, but with good preparation, it shouldn't stop pupils arriving for school on time at **8.35am**.

### **Appointments**

Appointments taken in school time remain around the same level; about 5 % of pupils have taken time away from learning to attend medical appointments. Please continue to ask health professionals where possible, to book appointments at the end of the day so that learning disruptions are kept to a minimum for your child and other pupils in class. Pupils are not to be collected early from school for the convenience of parents due to parents' own appointments. Please be aware that between now and May, important preparation will take place in class for Y2 & Y6 especially, who will be undertaking SATS tests. Every learning moment in school counts!

### **Clocks move forward**

You will be pleased to know that the clocks have moved forward by 1 hour on Sunday 26th March at 1am, which soon will give us brighter mornings and evenings. Welcome to British Summer Time! We hope that the extra daylight hours will give everyone a spring in their step to get outdoors, enjoy the milder weather and naturally increase your vitamin D levels. Another benefit to having more light in our day is that generally everyone's energy levels increase, which will hopefully make it easier to get our young sleepy heads out of bed in the mornings and to school. If you need any help in getting your child to school on time, please ask school for help, we're happy to support you. **Please consider our breakfast club from 7.45am.**

## Illness

Illnesses have settled with just one known case of Chicken Pox in recent days. Strep A and Scarlet Fever symptoms haven't been reported recently. Please continue to act promptly when your child is sick so that recovery and return to school can occur quickly. That may include ensuring that your household is always stocked with children's paracetamol, making a fruit salad to serve as dessert instead of a sweet treat or liquidising vegetables to hide in sauces to help boost vitamins and strengthen the immune system of your child. Please don't forget that at times when GP appointments are difficult to book, your local chemist is a great source of advice and medical knowledge; please don't be shy in visiting your chemist to asking questions. They are there to help!

## Punctuality

Punctuality has slipped since February and since "Don't be Late Wednesday". It has been noted that there are some persistently late parents are deliberately using the School Office late registration as short cut as they are choosing to not walk their child around the school. This occurs in bad weather in particular. This is not acceptable; and we are meeting with these parents. Please note that parents can be prosecuted for persistent lateness in cases when parents do not make improvements to punctuality or ask school for help. Also, please ensure that you and your child know your child's date of birth for signing in purposes at the School Office.



**Lateness creates anxiety and embarrassment for pupils when they enter their classrooms late. Pupils miss key moments of learning and being late does not set good habits for high school and the work place later in life. Pupils are expected to be at their classroom doors open at 8.35am ready to tackle the day ahead.**

## Ramadan - Ramadan Mubarak to all our Muslim families!

In the holy month of Ramadan, we understand that sleep will be disrupted for pupils and parents as Sahūr is observed, when the meal is eaten in the early hours of the morning and fasting resumes. Please make best efforts for pupils to still arrive on time for school so that pupils continue to learn and use their energy as the most productive time of the day will be while they still feel the benefit of the Sahūr. Also at this time at Mosque, the local Imams will be talking about the value of education and asking parents not to take pupils out of school for Extended Leave.



## Attendance Achievements

So far this year (01/09/2022 to 21/03/2023), we have 43 pupils have that have achieved 100% attendance. This is down from 51 since the last newsletter in February.

100% attendance certificates will be given out again at the end of the Spring term at the end of March. I very much looking forward to handing these out to our classes. These pupils have a chance of being able to win our shiny red bike at the end of the year in a free prize draw. Please keep up the good work!



## 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:

- **68** pupils have gone or about to go on unauthorised extended leave, which accounts for 15% of children going on Extended Leave this academic year.
- **49** Request for Leave of Absence Forms have been made.
- **1004** school days have been lost or will be lost which is the same as nearly 5 school years.
- **49** 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 details.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.****