



Barnston Primary School

'a health promoting school'

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Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2015

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

4th INSET - no children in

5th children back at school

7th In school pantomime for all a.m. in hall

15th – Open assembly 9.10 am

20th – 6pm 11+ and Secondary transfer meeting for year 5 parents

22nd Art day – come in suitable clothes

February

8th – Open Assembly 9.10 am

Half term 15th-19th

School starts back 22nd

MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year pupils will be asked to participate in mindfulness activities in small groups, year groups or across age ranges. Some mindfulness activities booked already are PE/drama/self-esteem/yoga type experiences, relaxation techniques and how to deal with anxiety and build resilience. Some of the activities with younger pupils involve parents – please support and get involved. Why do we need mindfulness? Barnston is committed to moving pupils on at their own ability level academically, but realises that mental health is just as important as achieving academically - pupils need to be taught at a young age how to keep their minds healthy, as well as their bodies in order to have a bright future. We want them to have that all rounded bright future!

SCHOOL LEAGUE TABLES

Many have already commented and congratulated the school on coming second on the Wirral and fifth in Merseyside. Well done to all the pupils and staff who worked extremely hard to achieve this and thank you parents for the huge contribution you make in supporting your children with reading and homework.



In EYFS, Y1 phonic tests, Y2 and the Y6 SATs tests our school was well above National and Local averages in Reading, Writing, Maths, Science and Spelling and Grammar and our school **average was level 5C in each area** – see Liverpool Echo and the Telegraph/Times. **DFE analysis of data puts us 481/21 310 schools** – this data does not just go on the L4C/5C percentages, as per the newspapers, but what is in-between i.e. Pushing the majority of the children who are not 5C standard to 4B and 4A standard e.g. in reading 88% gained 4A+ last year.

As highlighted above, mindfulness activities are being used to balance the government expectations and academic pressure on our pupils and we continue to provide strong pastoral support and creative opportunities to all pupils.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

The productions were absolutely fantastic – well done to all staff and pupils for all their hard work in such a short period of time. The productions were of such a high quality and the clear message helps us to reflect on how fortunate we are and how we should see Christmas as a time to give to others. I am so proud of all the children, as all 297 had a role on stage and sang beautifully.

PROJECT X AND OTHER NEW BOOKS

Mr Dixon worked hard this term and refreshed the Y5/6 reading materials in order to inspire free reading and guided reading sessions and has now ordered around 500 new books for the shelves for the Spring term for the rest of the school. Amongst some of the new books is the Project X series, which are a great hit with primary school age pupils.

BARNSTON – A SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY

Some of you may have seen the poster in the first foyer holding area and wondered what this is all about. We are constantly working to be a school that promotes equality and celebrates diversity - in doing so we want our school to be a place where all feel secure, happy and welcome. As a separate award, which works alongside our International Schools final award, we are incorporating inclusive learning opportunities which promote our multi-faith approach and celebrate diversity within our community. In doing so, we believe that we are preparing Barnston pupils to accept everyone in our diverse world and to celebrate uniqueness in all.

ECO SCHOOL

Mr Pipe is working with the pupils to promote ecological understanding and engagement. An Eco Council has been set up and are already working towards the Eco silver award. Check the Eco display board for more information of activities and challenges (outside classroom 2J). Thank you for supporting the recent non-uniform day we had to raise funds for materials in order to develop Eco Schools.

Huge thanks for all your support and many contributions this term. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a bright New Year. **See you on the 5th of January 2016.**

Mrs Pearson
Head teacher

