



# TEAM BARTONS

NEWSLETTER 15 • 5 JANUARY 2024

DREAM | BELIEVE | ACHIEVE

Happy  
New Year!

Welcome back to school and I hope that you all had a fun and a healthy Christmas break. On behalf of the staff, thank you to all of you that gave generous gifts and who sent their Christmas wishes to us all in the school. It was and is always greatly appreciated. This week has started with Science Week which has been very exciting and motivating for the children. Please look out for the work on the Class Pages of the school website. I've been made aware, recently that parents have been questioning how the school calendar dates are determined. As with all Local Authority schools, West Sussex County Council set the dates that schools have to work with. These are set years in advance. Headteachers then have to plan in the 5 INSET days (where schools are closed to pupils) which suit the school development plan for staff training. Whilst I can select those 5 days, I **cannot** change the set calendar for the term dates. Year on year, the calendar is pretty similar, with the exception of when Easter falls or bank holidays. I hope that clarifies the situation. All of the term dates are on the school website.

## Workshops and Parent Meetings Coming Up

As set out in the school calendar dates, there are a number of useful parent meetings coming up which will help to inform parents about key events this year. These are:

11<sup>th</sup> January: Phonics Workshop for **Years R and 1** parents at 2.45pm in the hall. \* *please note the change of time.*

18<sup>th</sup> January: **Year 6** SAT's meeting for parents at 3.30pm.  
\* *change to original date.*

24<sup>th</sup> January: **Year 2** End of KS1 Assessment meeting for parents at 3.30pm.

25<sup>th</sup> January: Year 1 Phonics Screening Test meeting for **Year 1** parents at 3.30pm.

1<sup>st</sup> February: Parent Workshop (run by the local Mental Health team) '**Supporting your child with their worries**' - advice for parents so they can support their child at 2.15pm - 3.15pm.

## Useful Diary Dates 2024 (All dates are on the school website)

15<sup>th</sup> January: Deadline for applications for Year R places.

6<sup>th</sup> February: Safer Internet Day in school

9<sup>th</sup> February: Target Sheets home & Valentine Disco

12<sup>th</sup> February: HALF TERM (12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>)

19<sup>th</sup> February: INSET DAY - School closed to pupils

20<sup>th</sup> February: Back to school

4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March: Book Week - details to follow

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March: Parents Consultation Evenings

15<sup>th</sup> March: Creative Arts day & Red Nose day (£1)

28<sup>th</sup> March: Last day of term.

1<sup>st</sup> April - 12<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Holidays

15<sup>th</sup> April: Back to School

6<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday - school closed

13<sup>th</sup> May: Year 6 SAT's week - no absence can be granted

## Science Week

All week, we have celebrated Science Week and the children have really enjoyed extended scientific learning opportunities. Mrs Olliver led a number of exciting science assemblies to inspire the children's thinking. On Wednesday, the children worked in mixed groups from across the school on a variety of challenges. This science/WWO work showed great collaboration skills. Today, there will be a Science Fair, where the classes can present their learning to other classes. The whole week has been very successful; the teachers planned great activities to inspire the children and it did! Here are some photos. Thank you to Mrs Olliver for organising the whole week. It has been brilliant.



Here, Lily is growing her own rainbow in an investigation about absorbency. In this group picture, the children investigating finger prints. They looked at patterns and how the prints are different.

*Have a good weekend! Best wishes Kate Powell*