



Welcome back to the start of a new academic year!

I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday, whatever you managed to do! On Monday, we had our first INSET of the year in which we looked at the outcomes for the children last year across the school and worked together to think about how we can start the year as positively as possible. We also had our annual safeguarding updates.

I know it can take a little bit of time to adjust to the changes at the start of the year, but the children have done really well this week. In our assembly on Tuesday, we thought about learning and why learning something new can be exciting but is not always easy. We discussed how learning new things can be tiring because our brains have to work hard and that it can take a few attempts to remember new information or how to do something different.

At the start of the year, we revisit **Zones of Regulation** as we continue to support the children in developing their vocabulary to share how they are feeling and to give them tools to help themselves address problems and issues. Alongside this newsletter, I have shared our parent information leaflet.

September 2025 - Meet the Teacher

Next week we will be holding Meet the Teacher sessions. These are 30 minutes and give you a chance to find out more about the curriculum that your child will be studying and how you can support your child at home.

These are aimed at parents and are not for children, so please try and make alternative arrangements on that evening. Please use the Office entrance on Knoll Drive.

If you are not able to attend, then information will be shared afterwards via the website.

	6pm	6.30pm
Monday 8th September	Year 2	Year 5
Tuesday 9th September	Year 1	Year 6
Wednesday 10th September	Year 4	Year 3

Reading

As part of our INSET day, we looked at the results of a national study about what books children are reading. It is lovely that the children enjoy authors such as Julia Donaldson, Roald Dahl, and Jeff Kinney, but we also want them to explore new books or try out a new author. At the start of the term, the children have been given a chance to look at the books in their new reading corners and maybe try out something different!

In KS2, the children have started their whole class reading books:

Year 3 - Krindlekrax by Philip Ridley

Year 4 - Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll (they will also be reading

Alien in the Jam Factory by Chrissie Sains)

Year 5 - Odysseus by Homer (adapted by Hugh Lupton)

Year 6 - Streetchild by Berlie Doherty



Book reviews

At the end of last term, we did a reading survey with the children in school. Lots of them said that they like to have a book recommended by a friend or an older sibling. With this in mind, we would love to invite your child to write a book review for the newsletter. More details will be in the newsletter next week!

Mobile Phones

You may remember that our school, along with many others across Barnet, are mobile phone free. Your child should not bring a phone to school. If your child is an independent traveler or you are concerned about being able to contact them there are other 'non smart' phone options available. A list of alternative phones to smartphones can be found [here](#).



Parking and Driving

We would like all our children to walk to school but we understand that there are times it might be necessary to drive and park in the roads around school.

Please do this:

in a way that does not make those who are walking to school feel unsafe.
considerately of our neighbours.



Thank you.

Start of the year check

- Check your contact details (particularly phone, email and address are up to date. You can edit this yourself (although in some cases, the change might need to be authorised by the Office team before it takes effect.
- Check that we have a minimum of 2 contacts for your child. This is a safeguarding requirement.
- If you are claiming some benefits and think you may now be entitled to Free School Meals, a way of helping increase our school funding and therefore helping us to support the children better, then please visit:
<https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/> to check.



Useful information for parents and carers



BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents And Carers **An Online Parent/Carer Training Course, Autumn Term 2025.**

A comprehensive training and support programme for parents/carers of children aged 6-19, with a diagnosis of Autism.

This course is available free of charge to families living in Barnet.

A 6-session online training course, covering topics including:

An overview of what it means for your child to be Autistic

Communication

Sensory needs

Understanding emotional regulation/'behaviour'

This course also gives parents/carers an opportunity to learn together online and share experiences

BELS Mini BACPAC Programme (0-6yrs) **For Parents and carers, Autumn Term 2025.**

Professionals and parents will deliver modules designed to increase your knowledge and skills with understanding Autism and using practical strategies to support your child.

The criteria for accessing the free programme:

A Barnet Resident

Child has a diagnosis of Autism

Child is 0-6 years old

KS2 Dance Club - Tuesdays between 3.30pm and 4.30pm

This is open to up to 16 children in Year 5 and 6. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. (a waiting list is created with any additional children).

We are able to offer this as a free club. Children will need a change of clothes and a small snack. Collection is at the Office.

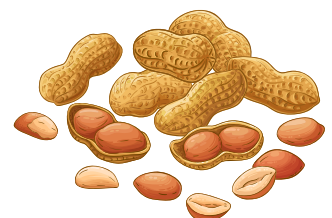
They work on different dance styles and then begin to prepare for the Barnet Dance Festival which takes place in the Spring Term so they need to commit to the club. If you would like your child to attend, please email the office.

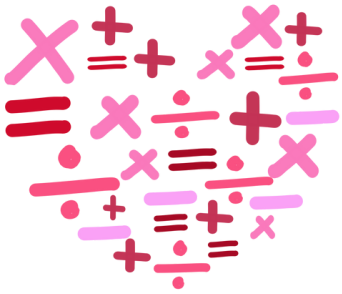
KS2 Choir - Thursday at 8.15am

This is open to all children in Year 4 and above. It is free and everyone is welcome. All you need is enthusiasm!

Monkfrith is a nut free school

We have a number of children in school who have nut allergies. It is really important that if you send in food, for example in a packed lunch that there are **no nuts (this includes Nutella sandwiches)**.





Times Tables (Year 3-6)

The National Curriculum expects that most children will know all the multiplication and division facts by the end of Year 4. In June, children in Year 4 take the government's Multiplication Screening Check, which is an online test to check whether they know their times tables.

All children practise their times tables in maths lessons from Year 1 and this is supplemented by short weekly tests. These tests are just one in a number of ways that we work on this objective. We also value all the effort that so many parents put in to helping with remembering these all important facts.

There is a lot of debate about whether children need to 'know' their times tables and whether quick recall is really necessary. Our aim as a school is to make sure that children are confident and have committed their times tables to their long term memory. By doing this, they can spend less time and effort on working out the calculation and more on using their times table knowledge to solve more complex problems. It reduces the demand on their working memory.

It is also important to remember that whilst some children can learn times tables very quickly, it can take other children a little bit longer. There is no pressure from teachers about 'passing the test', but a focus on trying your best and doing a bit better each week.

The weekly tests in Key Stage 2 are 5 minutes and focus on both multiplication and division facts e.g. $6 \times 2 = 12$, $2 \times 6 = 12$, $12 \div 2 = 6$, $12 \div 6 = 2$.

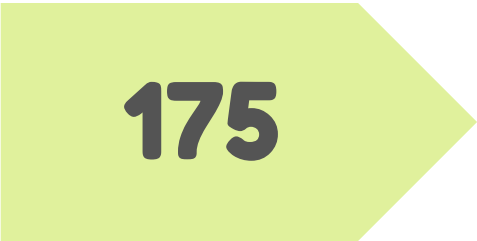
At the start of the year, children will be asked to warm-up by having a go at a test they have previously passed. If they have already earned all their badges, they will do other activities related to times tables to practice applying their knowledge.

Times tables tests will be introduced to Key Stage 1 later in the year when this part of the curriculum is covered. There will be more in the newsletter in the Spring Term about this. By the end of Year 2 children need to know the multiplication and division facts for at least the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

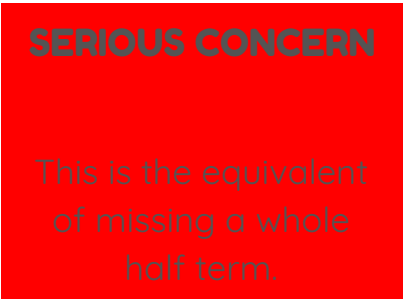
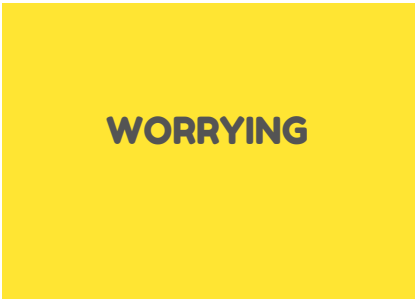
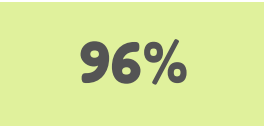
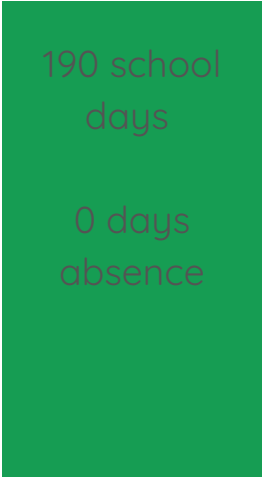
Tests	Times tables to practise	Badge
1 – 3a	2, 3, 5, 10	Blue Star
4 – 6a	2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10	Silver Star
7 – 9	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Gold Star
10 – 12	1-12 (including decimals)	Platinum

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

365 DAYS IN A CALENDAR YEAR



There are 175 non-schol days during the year to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and appointments.



Attendance this week

Oak	n/a	2M	100%	5S	96%
Willow	n/a	3S	98%	5LD	95%
1C	97%	3F	94%	6P	95%
1K	94%	4B	90%	6K	91%
2CW	99%	4P	98%	Whole School	96%

Dates for 2025/6

Autumn Term 2025

Autumn Term Starts - Tuesday 2nd September (usual time)

Wednesday 24th September - Year 3F to the Barnet Environmental Centre

Thursday 25th September - Year 3S to the Barnet Environmental Centre

Monday 29th September - 6K to Christ Church (am)

Wednesday 1st October - 6P to Christ Church (am)

Wednesday 1st October to Friday 3rd October - Year 5 at Kingswood

Parent consultations will be in the week commencing Monday 20th October

Friday 24th October - Flu Vaccinations

Monday 27th October to Friday - 31st October HALF TERM

Monday 3rd November - Year 5 Swimming (2 weeks)

Tuesday 4th November - Year 3S to the Science Museum

Wednesday 5th November - Year 3F to the Science Museum

Monday 24th November - Friday 28th November - Level 2 Bikeability (Year 6)

Friday 5th December - Christmas Fayre (after school)

Friday 19th December - End of Term 2pm finish

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January - First Day Back

Wednesday 21st January - Science Workshops for Year 5 and 6

Thursday 29th January - 2CW to the Transport Museum

Friday 30th January - 2M to the Transport Museum

16th February to 20th February - Half Term

Wednesday 4th March - Year 6 to St Paul's Cathedral

Monday 9th March - Year 4 swimming (2 weeks)

Friday 27th March - Break up at 2pm

Monday 13th April - INSET Day

Tuesday 14th April - First Day of Summer Term

Thursday 16th to 17th April - Year 4 Bikeability

Wednesday 22nd April - Year 5 to the Portrait Gallery

Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May - KS2 SATs week

Sunday 17th May to Friday 22nd May - Year 6 to the Isle of Wight

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May - Half Term

Monday 1st June - INSET Day

Dates for 2025/6

Autumn

Autumn 1

INSET - Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September to Friday 24th October

Half Term

Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October

Autumn 2

Monday 3rd November to Friday 19th December

Spring

Spring 1

Monday 5th January to Friday 13th February

Half Term

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February

Spring 2

Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March

Summer

Summer 1

INSET - Monday 13th April

Tuesday 14th April to Friday 22nd May

Half Term

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Summer 2

Monday 1st June to Monday 20th July (children's last day Friday 17th July)

INSET - Monday 1st June

INSET - Monday 20th July