



BARNARD GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER (6)

W/E 14th October 2016



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a very exciting week for our Early Years' children (and staff) with their new outdoor equipment being installed. After lots of hard work, filling out numerous application forms, Mrs Blair (with help from the 'Dig It' project) managed to secure a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery to develop the area and provide our children with outdoor enjoyment in the natural environment, incorporating a growing area, wildlife spaces and fitness equipment for the children to play and learn outdoors. Through this development of our space, we aim to allow children, their families and the wider community to reconnect with the outdoors and nature, growing our own fruit and vegetables, encouraging our children to make more healthy snack and meal choices and creating community spirit and pride through the allotment project bringing the joy of the outdoors back. Thanks to the 'Dig it' project and their sister team 'Wetpour', who installed the equipment, we have begun to make this dream happen!!

Of course, Early Years weren't the only ones who had something exciting happening this week, as our Year 6 pupils spent Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday on their residential trip to Robinwood Outdoor and Activity Centre in Alston, Cumbria. Although the weather had started to take a colder turn, this certainly didn't dampen their spirits – they still had a fantastic, fun and challenging three days, taking part in a jam-packed timetable of adventurous activities. In total, we completed around 15 different activities and challenges, including: *Piranha Pool, Giant Swing, Trapeze, Zip Wire, Crate Challenge, Climbing Wall, Obstacle Course, Canoeing, Dungeon of Doom, Archery, Nightline, Team Challenge and Caving*. Some of the activities really challenged the children (and staff!) to face their fears of the dark, heights and confined spaces but everyone did themselves proud with the excellent attitude they showed throughout the three days. The Robinwood staff commented on how exemplary their behaviour was during each activity and how well the children worked together, as a team, to support and encourage one another. Well done Year 6 – you were a credit to Barnard Grove. We'll be having a presentation evening for Y6 parents after half term where we will be giving out certificates, telling some funny stories and of course showing the photographs we took so you can see what an amazing time they had.

Finally, a quick reminder that we are registered in the '**Shop for Schools**' scheme at Middleton Grange Shopping Centre... Please remember to take you receipts to the desk in the centre so we gain more points and climb even further up the leader board – we are currently **EIGHTH** out of twenty-three schools 😊.

Enjoy your weekend,

Miss Thompson
Deputy Headteacher

Parental Concerns

At Barnard Grove, we welcome parents and carers into our school. We are also aware that there are times when parents may have worries or concerns about their child that they need to discuss with staff.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that in the first instance, it is always the class teacher that parents should speak to. If a situation does not seem to be resolved, it is then referred to the Key Stage Assistant Heads (Miss Smith for Early Years and KS1 and Mrs Wesson for KS2) and then the Deputy Head (Miss Thompson) and finally, Mr Walker.

We have this protocol so that things can be dealt with quickly and effectively to ensure the best outcome for our children.

Next Week's Events

Here is a snapshot of what is going on in school next week...

Mon 17 th Oct	
Tues 18 th Oct	Y3 Recorder Lesson - Tees Valley Music
Wed 19 th Oct	
Thurs 20 th Oct	Y6 working with Nouveau Dance
Fri 21 st Oct	Strictly Dance Practice
Mon 24 th - Fri 28 th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Mon 31 st Oct	PD DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Children return to school on Tuesday 1st November 2016

IMPORTANT NOTICE

From the front page, you'll know how pleased and proud we are with our new outdoor equipment in Early Years.

Early Years staff would politely ask that you do not allow your children to play on the equipment at the start and end of the school day when they are in your care as the equipment is now part of our Early Years' curriculum provision rather than a playground area for children.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Attendance Information

Our school target is **96%**

Last week's whole school attendance:
93.99%

That means our current cumulative figure is **94.77%**

**Top Class - Class 4
(98.52%)**

'Every day counts'