



Barming Primary School

A member of the Orchard Academy Trust family of schools

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Headteacher
Mr C Laker

Executive Head
Mrs A Crittenden



Our Core Values

Respect - Responsibility - Courage - Wisdom

Friday, 11 October 2024

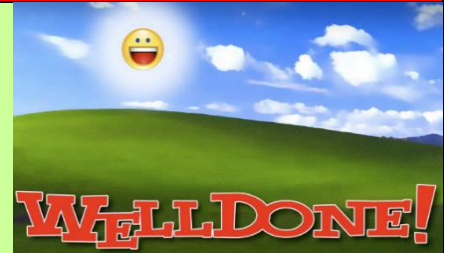
Dear Parents/Carers,

Here is this week's Headteacher Newsletter,

Well done!

We're delighted to report that our recent fire drill on Thursday morning was a resounding success! Our Pre-schoolers and Reception class children, despite their young age, demonstrated remarkable composure and attentiveness.

The children listened carefully to instructions, remained calm and orderly, and followed the evacuation procedures with precision. Their ability to understand the importance of safety and to respond appropriately, sets a wonderful example to others and is one of our core values – **Responsibility!**



Attendance: Our Target is 95%

This week's attendance figure is...

95.4%

Another **BRILLIANT** effort this week!! Thank you! 😊

Welly Boots

Lunchtime and the MUD situation....

Now, like us, I bet you at home have been discussing the current state of school shoes and uniform.

As part of OPAL play and good child development we want the children running around and playing as much as possible. In the Summer this is fine but in the winter, this is causing a few mud issues for some children more than others....

What have we done about it and what are we doing now about it?

I have spoken to the children first about self-regulation with mud and taking responsibility. I will keep doing this but this takes time to learn.... Please help us by chatting to your children about it.



I have spent time with Mr Laker walking the site and thinking what would be best. As a result of this we have ordered welly racks to go down by the quiet area near the field.

We need your help....

After half term we would like all children to have a named pair of welly boots that stay in school. They may come in before and stay on your child's peg if you have them already.

Now, we know it takes time to get these so we also have lots of spares all ready for those that need them. That was what I was up to asking for your donations....Please just speak to your child's class teacher if you need a pair.

This going forward will become part of our school uniform. They will use them in winter for break, lunch and Forest School.

Please please please name them.... we have 420 children in school!!

Please also ensure your child has a named waterproof coat for school with sleeves at all times. No body warmers! Thank you.

The welly racks have a 2/3 week wait but have all been ordered as soon as they are here the lovely Mr Laker and Mr Roberts will put them up. Please be kind to us though as this all takes time. Like you, we want the children outside playing but it takes time to organise this for 420 children :-)

Thank you so much for your support and understanding with OPAL.

Miss Rootes.

Reporting Absence

To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, please promptly report your child's absence from school **every day** they are out, not just on the first day. If we are unable to reach you or determine your child's whereabouts, we will follow our safeguarding procedures. **Please call the office, email or send a message on the Arbor.**

Please note: Unreported absences may be marked as unauthorised.

Please familiarise yourself with the information below issued the Department for Education:

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days**. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

For further information please visit...

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/19/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

ATTENDANCE **WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME**

1 If I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week. Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160

2 FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN. **IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE** 10 IN 10. If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution. **1 Day = 2 Sessions**

3 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS. 4 children & 2 parents = £1280. Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days.

4 If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance... **2ND TIME** 2 parents and 1 child = £320, 2 children = £640, 3 children = £960, 4 children = £1280. No discount for early payment. **3RD TIME** A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child. 1 parent & 4 children = £10,000, 2 parents & 4 children = £20,000.

October Walk to School Month

October is National Walk to School Month, and we're encouraging all our children and families leave the car behind. Or even try parking further away from the school!

Big thank you to Taylor Wimpey who provided the children from Preschool with fluorescent snap bands for their walks to and from school! They love them 😊

This October let's make a commitment to walk to school as often as possible. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- **Walk together:** Organise a walking group with your friends.
- **Make it a routine:** Set a goal to walk to school at least once a week.
- **Explore new routes:** Discover different paths and routes to school.



Let's all work together to make National Walk to School Month a success!



North Street Gate

In order to safeguard our children, the North Street gate will be closing promptly at **3:25pm** each day.

Mr Roberts will be unable to return to reopen it, so please ensure you are offsite by this time, or use the main school gate to exit.

Thank you for your understanding.

Achievements Outside of School



Last weekend **Franky B** (Y5 Hippopotamus Class) raced in the 5th and Final event in the London and SE Regional Snowsports Association race series! He has been really committed this year to his development in this sport and I can now let you know following Saturday's result, he was declared as the overall **U10 male champion for 2024!!!**

Earlier this year he had won the Kent Schools race event representing Barming but this achievement is an even bigger step for him.

AMAZING!! Well done Franky!

If you would like to share anything your child has achieved outside of school and would like to appear in the Newsletter please email office@barming.kent.sch.uk We love to see what the children have been up to! 😊

October Half Term Fun

October Half Term Halloween Make It!

Maidstone Museum are all ready for October half term with three days of Halloween themed Make It! sessions for children.
Running from **Tue 29th Oct 2024 to Thu 31st Oct 2024 - 10:30 - 2.30.**

3 sessions per day:

Session 1: 10.30am – 11.30am

Session 2: 12pm – 1pm

Session 3: 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Ideal for ages 4 – 11 years

£3.50 per child per session. An adult must stay with child/ren. Activities take 30-50 mins to complete.

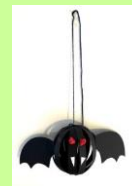


Booking required – Tickets Available Here Ticket sales are through the Hazlitt Box office but events are held at the museum

Tuesday 29th October – Witches/Wizards Hats

Wednesday 30th October – Bats

Thursday 31st October – Dancing Skeletons



Tickets are non-refundable unless the event is cancelled by the museum.



Maidstone United Soccer School is back for the October half term

They're throwing open the gates of the Gallagher for more football fun on **Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 October.**

Sessions will include football coaching, mini-tournaments, penalty shootouts and more.

The soccer school is open to children in school Y2 - Y9. Sessions will run from 10:00 to 15:00 each day, with check-in and collection half an hour either side.

With no more than 12 children to one coach, the groups will be organised by the age of players. All Maidstone United coaching staff are FA qualified, and DBS checked. For more information go to...
<https://maidstoneunited.co.uk/soccerschool/>



Maidstone Hockey Club - October Hockey Half Term Camp 2024

Wednesday 30th October and Thursday 31st October

10am – 3pm

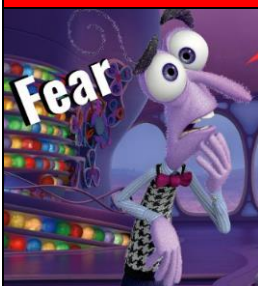
Focusing on a variety of hockey skills and games.

Open to Y3 - Y11, any ability, members or non-members.

Join in the fun here... [October Camp 24](https://www.maidstonehockey.org/)

<https://www.maidstonehockey.org/>

Nurture Competition



Term 1 Nurture Principle: **School is a Safe Space**

Barming School has a range of safe spaces for you. The classroom, playground, field, Forest School, Nurture Hut aka Hobbit Hut, Intervention rooms and many more! Spaces where you can relax, regulate, explore or dream; helping you to become happy & successful no matter what path you choose.

This terms **nurture competition** is to design or describe your own safe space at school. You can work independently or with a friend. The deadline for this competition is **18th October**. Please make sure your name and class are on you work and hand your entry to your class teacher. Mrs Selfe will choose some winning entrants to join her for a small **Halloween party** in the hut on the last day of term. Please drop your entry into the school office, thank you.

Online Safety

How safe is TikTok?

Using any social network can be risky, but it's possible for kids to safely use the app with adult supervision (and a private account). TikTok has different rules for different ages:

- Users under age 13 can't post videos or comment, and content is curated for a younger audience.
- For kids aged 13 to 15, accounts are private by default. Only friends can comment on videos, and other users can't duet (explained below) with your videos.
- Only users aged 16 and over can livestream and use direct messaging, and only users over 18 can buy, send, or receive virtual gifts.
- In March 2023, TikTok announced a time limit of 60 minutes/day on users under 18, requiring a password to be entered for further access to the platform.



TikTok also offers some tools for parents and caregivers to further limit how much time kids spend on the app and what kids can see. Parents and caregivers can also use Restricted Mode to reduce mature content, or Family Safety Mode to pair their account with their kid's account to control settings completely.

For more information, please follow this link...

<https://www.common sense media.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

Golden Duster Award



The children and staff have been in competition to see who can have the cleanest classroom!

At the end of each week **Mr Roberts** (Caretaker) will award the tidiest and most sparkling classroom with the Golden Duster Award!



This week's winners are... Hippopotamus Class! Well done!



Barming Primary School PTA



Scan me

**Barming Fireworks Display :
Friday 8th November
Tickets are ON SALE now!**

bit.ly/BarmingFireworks24

PRE-booked admission only! ONLY

120 FAMILY DISCOUNTED TICKETS LEFT.

Please indicate your availability to volunteer with this event when purchasing tickets.



We are allowing the school and Preschool community to buy tickets ahead of general release to the wider community. In 2 weeks' time we will be advertising locally. Don't delay buying tickets as last year we sold out quickly. When they are gone – they are gone!

FIREWORKS VOLUNTEERS

We still need 30 VOLUNTEERS to help on the night and additional 20 volunteers to help set up!

If we do not have enough volunteers, we will be forced to scale down the event or look at cancelling it as we will not be able to accommodate the sheer number of people on site.

If you are able to help with any of the following - setting up before the event, volunteering during the event or helping to clear up the following morning, please visit the link and sign up to help. Thank you! bit.ly/BarmingFireworks24



Thank You!

WINTER DISCO

We hope the children enjoyed the Disco last week.

A HUGE Thank You to all our volunteers who helped out on the night. The Disco raised a fantastic £725.

This year we are raising funds to help the school replace furniture and flooring in class rooms.

Thank you for your support as always.

barmingschoolpta@hotmail.co.uk | <https://www.facebook.com/barmingschoolpta>



Pupils of the Week

Year Group	Class	
1	Hedgehog: Mrs Murray	Jack D
	Squirrel: Mrs Catmull & Mrs Hooker	Holly E
2	Penguin: Mrs Coleman	Kobe F
	Flamingo: Miss Histed & Mrs Visscher	Cameron N
3	Husky: Mrs Dyer & Mrs Paton	Evana A
	Wolf: Mr Edwards	Arthur L
4	Jaguar: Mr Baker	Meeval P
	Cheetah: Mrs Robinson & Mrs Davis	Dariya K
5	Panda: Mrs Rathbone	Leonardo S
	Hippopotamus: Mrs Wade & Mrs Stere	Emily H
6	Giraffe: Miss Russell	Finley P
	Elephant: Mr Morgan	Darcey-Rose M



Key Stage 1 Numbots Champions of the week

Year Group	Class	
1	Hedgehog: Mrs Murray	Riley-Mai N
	Squirrel: Mrs Catmull & Mrs Hooker	Erin S
2	Penguin: Mrs Coleman	Samuel C-W
	Flamingo: Miss Histed & Mrs Visscher	Ronan M



Key Stage 2 Times Tables Rockstars Champions of the week

Year Group	Class	
3	Husky: Mrs Dyer & Mrs Paton	Amelia F
	Wolf: Mr Edwards	Ollie McM
4	Jaguar: Mr Baker	Isabella M
	Cheetah: Mrs Robinson & Mrs Davis	Michelle A
5	Panda: Mrs Rathbone	Sebastian N
	Hippopotamus: Mrs Wade & Mrs Stere	Aaliya C
6	Giraffe: Miss Russell	Jack T
	Elephant: Mr Morgan	Sammy H



Attendance Ted Award

Giraffe Class



Punctuality Pup Award

Penguin Class



Active Award

Penguin Class



Active Award

Giraffe Class



Coming Up...

Dates to remember:

Term One:

Tuesday 3rd September 2024 to Friday 25th October 2024

- **INSET One: Monday 2nd September** (Closed for children – Staff in)
- **Tuesday 3rd September and Wednesday 4th September:** Parent Meetings for New Entrants Parents.
- **Wednesday 4th September:** Year 1 and Year 2 'Meet the Teacher' (3.30pm to 4pm)
- **Wednesday 4th September:** Year 3 and Year 4 'Meet the Teacher' (4pm to 4.30pm)
- **Thursday 5th September:** Year 5 and Year 6 'Meet the Teacher' (3.30pm to 4pm)
- **Friday 13th September:** Reception children start full time.
- **Monday 23rd September:** Harvest Assembly for children by Rev Wil North
- **Wednesday 16th October:** Read Write Inc (Phonics) Meeting for EYFS Parents
- **Monday 21st October to Wednesday 23rd October:** Year 6 Residential
- **Year 5 Class Assemblies Thursday 24th October First Class 9am and Second Class 2.45pm 15 mins max**

Term Two:

Monday 4th November 2024 to Friday 20th December 2024

- **INSET Two: Friday 29th November 2024**
- **Wednesday 6th November:** New Entrant Tours 9.30am to 11am
- **Wednesday 13th November:** New Entrant Tours 9.30am to 11am
- **Tuesday 12th November:** Parent Consultations - 3.30pm to 5.30pm (Early)
- **Thursday 14th November:** Parent Consultations - 3.30pm to 7.30pm (Including half hour teacher break - Late)
- **EYFS Christmas Production:**
- **Wednesday 4th December 9.30am:** Production 1, 2.15pm: Production 2 (Two tickets per family)
- **Pre-School Christmas Songs: Thursday 5th December:** 9.30am
- **Thursday 12th and Friday 13th December:** Year 1 School Trip
- **Monday 16th December:** Year 1 Christmas Activity Afternoon with Christmas Songs – Parents/Carers invited 1.30pm to 3pm
- **Tuesday 17th December:** Year 2 Christmas Activity Afternoon with Christmas Songs – Parents/Carers invited 1.30pm to 3pm
- **Wednesday 18th December:** Year 3 and 4 Carols on the playground 3pm (Top playground)
- **Wednesday 18th December:** Christmas Lunch for the children in school
- **Thursday 19th December:** Year 5 and 6 Carols on the playground 3pm (Top playground)
- **Thursday 19th December:** Christmas Jumper Day
- **Thursday 19th December:** EYFS/Year 1/Year 2 Christmas Activity Morning
- **Friday 20th December:** Class Parties – Afternoon – No change of clothes needed.

INSET Days 2024 to 2025:

- **INSET 1:** Monday 2nd September 2024: Trust Inset
- **INSET 2:** Friday 29th November 2024: Closed
- **INSET 3:** Friday 28th February 2025: Trust Inset
- **INSET 4:** Monday 21st July 2025: Trust Inset
- **INSET 5:** Tuesday 22nd July 2025: Closed

Have a great weekend,

Yours sincerely

Mr Laker
Headteacher