



Newsletter

9th January
2026

Welcome back
everyone and

Happy New Year! It has already been a positive and productive start to the new year at Barley Fields with fabulous learning going on around school.

Science in Year 4



This week, Year 4 have been learning all about the **digestive system**. The children have explored how the food we eat travels through our bodies and the key role each part of the digestive system plays. To bring their learning to life, they conducted a hands-on experiment to model digestion. The children had a fantastic time observing how different “foods” move through the digestive process — and yes, it got **very messy!** This activity helped everyone

understand how our bodies break down food to get the nutrients we need.

Morning learning

It has been lovely to see children arriving promptly each morning and getting straight on with their learning! Our doors open at 8.40am for morning learning, and the official start of the school day is 8.45am. Please try to ensure your child is in school by 8.40am every day.



Morning learning is an important part of the day. It gives children a chance to revisit previous learning, address any misunderstandings and for some children to engage in personalised intervention. Children who take an active part in morning learning make the most progress! Registers are taken at 8.45am, and external doors close at 8.55am. If children arrive after this, they must enter through the main reception and be signed in by a parent. Please note that even though the yard gates stay open until 9.00am, this is only to allow parents to leave the yard — the classroom doors are already closed.

Attendance

Attendance in school continues to be incredibly good and last term was an amazing 96.7%. Analysis of our trends however does show that many absences are attributed to holidays in term time. Please remember that there are strict rules around leave of absence request and

all holidays in term time are unauthorised with the possibility of a referral for a fixed penalty notice.

Winter Illness, Attendance, and Department for Education Guidance

As we move through the winter months, colds, coughs and flu become more common. We thank parents for continuing to support good school attendance, as being in school is important for children’s learning, progress and wellbeing.

Department for Education guidance says that children should come to school if they are well enough. Minor illnesses such as a runny nose, a mild cough, a sore throat or feeling a little tired are not usually reasons to stay at home. Coming to school with these mild symptoms helps children keep to their routine and avoids disruption to learning.

We kindly ask parents to avoid unnecessary absences. However, if your child is genuinely unwell — for example, if they have a fever, are vomiting, or are too unwell to take part in school activities — they should stay at home until they are better. Please remember to let the school office know **by 9.00am each day** on **01642 767051**, following our usual absence procedures.

To help prevent the spread of illness, we encourage good hygiene, including regular

handwashing and using tissues for coughs and sneezes. Thank you for supporting these habits at home as well.

Cold weather

It is likely that we will have more wintry weather throughout January and February. Our school yard is a huge space and it is not feasible to grit it entirely. I would remind everyone that we have a gritting plan in place. When the weather conditions are inclement, Mrs Symmonds (our school caretaker) will demarcate safe routes into school with floor cones and may cordon off areas for safety. Please follow these pathways as much as possible and supervise your children away from potentially slippery areas.



Lamb Lane Parking

Since our school opened in 2006, parking on Lamb Lane has always been problematic. Can I please remind all parents/carers and those responsible for dropping off/collecting children that primarily we all have a duty to keep ourselves, each other and, most importantly, the children safe. While I fully appreciate that parents and carers lead busy lives, some parking when dropping off and collecting is dangerous. Please avoid:

- Speeding up and down Lamb Lane
- Parking on the roundabout on Lamb Lane, blocking access to the care home or the

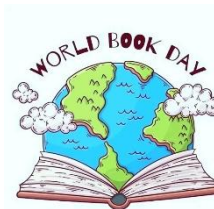
emergency exit gates by Mrs B's Community Hive.

- Parking in the zoned areas, staff car park and emergency exit of St Therese School.

I would remind parents and carers that we do have an arrangement with Tesco and the church for use of their car park. It is only a short walk from either of these and does alleviate the pressure on Lamb Lane. Thankyou for your cooperation in this matter.

World Book Day

Although we will not be celebrating this until March 5th I wanted parents to know that our theme this year is **books at bedtime**. As part of this we are asking all children to come to school wearing their Pyjamas and we will be sharing stories in school. Further details to follow.



Whole school events

23rd January - Special Educational Needs Support Plans sent to parents

7th February – NSPCC Number Day – children to dress up with a number theme and special number activities in school

12th February – Tempest Photography in school – whole school and family photographs from 8.30am

16th February-20th February - Year 6 residential visit to Ullswater.

20th February – Break up for half term.

2nd March - Return to School

5th March – World Book Day – wear your pjs to school.

20th March – Comic Relief Non Uniform Day – donations can be made via Just Giving if parents wish – details to follow.

9th -12th March – Parent Consultation details to follow with interim reports issued

30th March – Reception and KS1 Easter Disco (4.30 pm – 5.30 pm).

31st March - – Y3 and 4 Easter Disco (4.30pm - 5.30 pm).

1st April – UKS2 Glow Party Disco (4.30 pm – 5.30 pm).

1st April – Easter Egg competition – decorate an egg.

2nd April – Easter Raffle.

2nd April - Break up for Easter.

Please look out for your key stage newsletter which will have more details about things happening this term which related specifically to your child.

Many thanks for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Taylor
Head Teacher

