

Weekly Parents Bulletin



New School Year News

YOPA fundraising

A massive thank you to everyone who volunteered to host a YOPA board in their garden over the Summer. I was actually on holiday when the boards were installed and got lots of text messages from friends and family telling me how great it was to see the community spirit evident in Birdwell (as well as checking I wasn't moving house!) I had a drive round the local area with y kids to see how many we could spot and it also struck me how many houses were displaying boards who didn't have children in school! You must have done a great job of roping in friends and family. Thanks to your efforts, we raised **£648** for our new sensory room. We have already started the redecoration of the new space and this money will be used to install dedicated lighting and sensory resources for our pupils to enjoy. On behalf of all of us, thank you very much.



After School Clubs

Mon	Forest School	Mrs Barrott
	Mindfulness	Mrs Millington
	Young Voices	Mrs Rees
Tue	Kids Fitness	Shawny
	Graphics Club	Mr Swallow
Thu	Dance	Shawny
	Yoga	Mrs Moody

Sign up for after-school clubs on the Arbor app now or contact Shawny directly for Fitness & Dance (poster attached)

After School Club Offer

As you may have noticed, we have some slots available for after school club provision.

We try to staff as much of our after-school provision as possible through unpaid, staff volunteers. This is so we can offer free after school care to you all where possible.

Lately, we have been lucky to have received further offers of after-school provision from Shawny-Leigh and Amelia. Whilst this is paid provision, the ladies have been kind enough to offer their clubs at heavily discounted rates for our pupils.

If you have a talent you would like to share with our pupils and would like to offer a club, please enquire at the office or with myself.

Please be aware that working with children is subject to police checks, public liability insurance and relevant training.

**HELP
WANTED**

Communication Update

I thought it would be useful to start next year with an overview of the different methods of communication we use at Birdwell Primary School. Communication between school and home is perhaps the single biggest investment of time from our staff, outside of teaching. When communication works well, parents feel informed about school events and pupil progress but mistakes or break down in communication can be incredibly frustrating for parents.

Hopefully, knowing what methods of communication school use and in which circumstances will help to remove some of this frustration:



Arbor

Perhaps our most frequently used method of communication with parents is via the Arbor app. We use Arbor to send bulk emails (such as this newsletter each week), collect payments for lunch and school trips and sign up for educational visits or after school clubs. Mrs Sykes, in the school office, is the person who adds all visits and payments to Arbor. However, she is responsible for the finance and accounting for the visits. Information about the visit for parents should always come from the class teacher or the person leading the visit.

Examples:

- A class visit to the library for Year 2 (*The class teacher will send the information*)
- A trip to see Barnsley Youth Choir open to all year groups (*Mrs Rees, the music lead would send the information*)
- A sports competition at Kirk Balk for 6 pupils (*Mrs Atkinson, the sports lead would send the information*)



Telephone communication. Most parents call to report absences via the school office or to check details. **Please be aware** Mrs Sykes does not start work before 9:00am and calls to the office are likely to go to voicemail at this time. Our office is behind a coded door for data security and it is unlikely that staff would be able to enter the office in time to answer a ringing phone, if Mrs Sykes is not there. We are only a small school and cannot afford a permanently staffed office so please be patient if trying to contact us by phone.

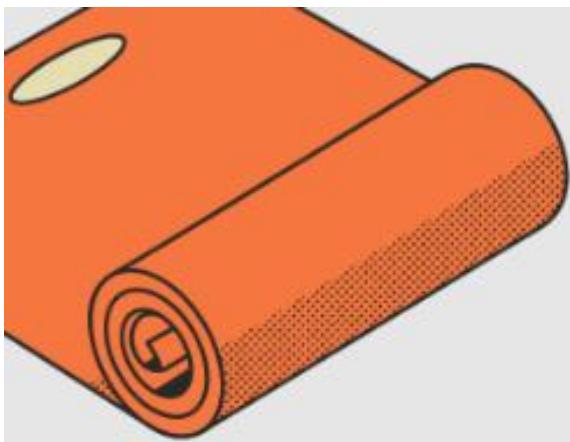
Staff also telephone parents to discuss behaviour incidents (positive as well as negative) or report injury.



Email is used for individual issues. We ask parents to send email communication via Mrs Sykes at the school office and she will then forward that message on to the most relevant member of staff. The address is diane.sykes@hcacademytrust.education



Perhaps our least frequent form of communication is through surveys (it may not feel like that to you!) Surveys are used to collect parent opinions on how school runs, they are actually used during OFSTED inspection in evaluating the school and parent replies are genuinely listened to and appreciated.



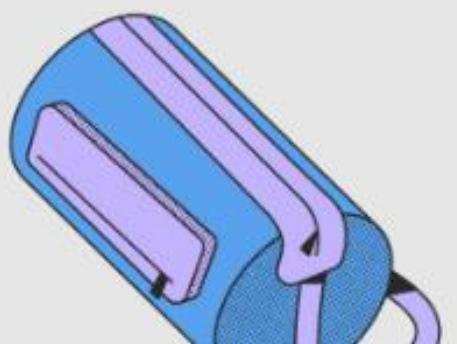
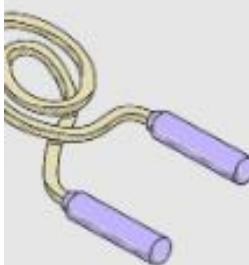
JOIN SHAWNY-LEIGH

KIDS FITNESS CLASS

Every Tuesday 3.30pm-4.30pm
Term time only
8 weeks - £23 (£2.80 per class)

Book with Shawny
07508984539

All ages throughout school
welcome, boys and girls.



BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

For community and voluntary controlled primary, secondary and special schools

September (22 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October (18 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January (20 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February (15 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April (14 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

May (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June (22 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July (14 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Denotes Bank Holidays



Denotes School Holidays

Birdwell Primary school INSET

Save the date

Birdwell Primary School Events 2025/26

Autumn 1	Events
1.9.25	INSET days, school closed
2.9.25	
3.9.25	Return to school
	Birdwell Geography subject focus- <u>"Understanding the UK"</u>
8.9.25	Freddie Fit Whole school fitness event (Wear PE kits)
12.9.25	Roald Dahl Day. Dress as your favourite character
15.9.25	International Day of Democracy- pupil leader elections
26.9.25	MacMillan coffee morning- 9:00am onwards. Baked donations welcomed
26.9.25	TT Rockstars day- dress as a rock star
30.9.25	Rise and shine Reading event. All parents are invited to read in class with their children
1.10.25	Year 1 parents Phonics workshop.
2.10.25	Year 2 library visit (National libraries week)
3.10.25	National Poetry Day- poetry themed activities in school
8.10.25	Birdwell Black History week begins
14.10.25	Open book evening- History & Geography (3:30 all classes)
17.10.25	Black History Museum (8:30-9:00am and 3:30-4:00pm in hall)
20.10.25	Birdwell Sketching week begins
TBC	School Photos (Individual & siblings)
21.10.25	Open book evening- art sketching (3:30 all classes) Last day of term
22.10.25	Harvest Festival coffee morning- songs and performances in the hall 9:00am-10:30am
23.10.25 & 24.10.25	INSET day, school closed

Key events Curriculum coverage In-school events