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December 15th 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the Christmas term, we wanted to let you know how grateful we are for your unwavering support throughout the year, especially for the positive feedback during the two inspections we have had. Your partnership with us has been invaluable and it has truly made a positive impact on our school community.

We want to thank you for your support in reinforcing the importance of education at home, especially those of you who value books. Reading regularly to your child and listening to them read is the single most important thing you can do to help your child make good progress at primary school.

We also want to acknowledge the time that you have dedicated to volunteering, giving lifts, attending school services, celebrations, FOBS events and meetings. Without your involvement, the children would not have such wonderful opportunities. A heartfelt thank you.

A special mention must go to the incredible fundraising efforts from FOBS this year. The circus in October raised an incredible £5,200 and last Saturday's Fair raised £2,661. Some of the money raised will be spent on a double shed – one side for FOBS to store items and the other side will provide a better space for drum lessons.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to Barham's dedicated staff team for their hard work and commitment to all the children. They always go the extra mile and their passion for teaching and nurturing young minds is truly remarkable.

Term Dates – 2024-2025

The term dates for the next academic year (2024- 2025) are now on our school website. <https://barham.kent.sch.uk/news-and-events/term-dates> You need to click on the tab 2023/2024 at the top of the page to see them. The children will return to school on Tuesday, September 3rd 2024. The Kent Test date is still under consultation but will either be on Thursday September 5th or Thursday September 12th.

Term 1: Tuesday 3rd September until Friday 25th October (Staff training day: Monday 2nd September)

Term 2: Monday 4th November until Friday 20th December

Term 3: Monday 6th January until Friday 14th February

Term 4: Monday 24th February until Friday 4th April

Term 5: Tuesday 22nd April until Friday 23rd May (Bank holiday: Monday 5th May)

Term 6: Wednesday 4th June until Friday 18th July (Staff training days: Monday 2nd June, Tuesday 3rd June, Monday 21st July and Tuesday 22nd July)



If booking holidays for next summer (2024), please ensure you do not take your children out of school during the testing period if your child is in: Year 1 (June 10 -14), Year 2 (the whole month of May), Year 4 (June 4 – 7) and Year 6 (May 13 - 17).

Next term, Tuesday January 2nd is a staff training day so we look forward to seeing the children again on Wednesday January 3rd

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature, on the left, is 'Al Higgins' and the second, on the right, is 'Jo Duhig'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Higgins
Co-headteacher

Jo Duhig
Co-headteacher