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April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the summer term. I hope you all had a good break and managed to enjoy the glorious weather over the Easter weekend.

### Attendance

I am delighted to see that nearly all of the children are back in school this week. Absence amongst pupils has been understandably high this year but Barham, for the first time, has dipped below the national average for school attendance. We hope to reverse that in the next two terms. Please ensure you let the school know if your child is absent by ringing or emailing before 8:55 am. If you take your child out during term time for any reason, you will need to complete a form (available from the office) but unless there is an exceptional circumstance, holidays will be unauthorised. The form clarifies which exceptional circumstances are permitted.

### Sun Hats and Sunscreen

Now that the sunny weather has returned please could you supply your child with a sun hat for playtimes outside. Sunscreen should be applied before leaving home but labelled bottles of sunscreen can be brought into school so that children can reapply it later on during the day if needed. Children will not be allowed to share their sunscreen with other children. Please ensure that any product used is free from any type of nuts as we have a pupil with a severe nut allergy – thank you.

### SATs for Y2 and Y6

This term is a busy term with statutory assessments for Year 6 and Year 2. The Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) for Y6 will begin on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and finish on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

For Y2, SATs are less formal and completed in smaller groups. These will begin on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### YR & Y1 Phonics and Reading Workshops

We have started a new phonics scheme in school called Essential Letters and Sounds. We will be holding workshops for parents in Wrens and Jays to explain how phonics is taught with the new scheme and how you can help your child with reading. The workshops will take place in the classroom on the following days:



Jays - Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:45 pm

Wrens - Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2:45 pm

We will ensure there are notes and videos available for any parents who are not able to attend.

### Online Questionnaire

I would be very grateful if you could complete a short online questionnaire so that we can get feedback from you about the curriculum and how we communicate with you. The link to the questionnaire is: <https://forms.office.com/r/D8sHaFaik> Please complete by Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2022. Thank you.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Al Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Alison Higgins