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February 25th 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome back to the second half of the spring term. We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break last week.

The Dance Festival on the last day was a fantastic end to the term. We hope you have been able to watch your child's dance via Seesaw and see how good the dances were. All the dances were based on a theme that the children had been studying over the term. In addition to the film clips on Seesaw, photos have now been added to the photo galleries page of the website:

<https://barham.kent.sch.uk/news-and-events/photo-galleries>

World Book Day – Thursday March 7th

This year we are celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday March 7th** this year. Dressing up as a book character is optional but if children prefer, they can come to school in their own clothes.

Mrs Taylor's husband, Adam will be leading our World Book Day assembly and will be bringing a selection of books for each child to choose from. We are very grateful to Adam for giving up his time to do this as it means every child will be able to bring home a book on the day.

As well as a book, each child will receive a book token. We hope that they will be able to use it towards a book that ignites a love of reading. Research has highlighted that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.

Please continue to support your child with their reading at home. It makes a huge difference to their progress in every subject. Reading to your child is just as important as listening to them read too.

Uniform

We would like to remind you of our school's uniform policy, specifically regarding earrings and general appearance guidelines.

Earrings: It is essential for the safety of our students during Physical Education (PE) activities that earrings are not worn or are removed before participating in any physical exercise. (*Using tape over earrings should only be a temporary measure as a last resort*). We kindly request that earrings worn by students are limited to small, plain coloured studs. This is the same uniform policy of all the local primary and secondary schools.

In addition to the earring policy, we would also like to highlight a few other aspects of our uniform policy. Trainers should not be considered part of our school uniform except on PE days. We kindly request that pupils wear appropriate school shoes that are comfortable and suitable for daily activities.



We also ask that students refrain from colouring their hair in any unnatural shades and avoid wearing nail varnish or any other type of make-up.

Phonics Workshops - Year R and Year 1

A reminder that phonics workshops for parents will be taking place next week. On **Monday February 26th at 9:05 am**, a phonics workshop will take place in the Wrens' classroom for parents. Mrs Morgan will demonstrate the different parts of a typical phonics lesson. Mrs Sharpe will be doing the same for Jays' parents on **Wednesday February 28th at 2:45 pm**. Please wait by the classroom doors if you would like to attend the session.

Resilience Workshop for Parents

We are delighted that Peter Norton from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust will be leading workshops for Y5 and Y6 pupils on resilience, emotional health and wellbeing. Peter will also be providing a workshop in the school hall for all parents in how to support your child's emotional health and wellbeing on **March 13th at 2:30 pm**. We think this will be a very informative meeting for parents/guardians and would like invite you to attend. More details will follow.

FOBs AGM – New Date (March 7th at 7:30 pm)

The FOBs AGM was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 20th February at 7:00 pm but due to a lack of participants (we need at least ten parents to attend) we have had to reschedule. We would love to see more of you involved as the funds raised are invaluable, especially for the swimming pool. The AGM is a chance to celebrate the successes of the year and to hand over the roles but by attending the meeting you do not need to commit to anything. The date for the new meeting is **Tuesday 5th March** at the later time of **7:30 pm**. We will send out the link to join the meeting nearer the time.

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