

# The Barn Croft Newsletter

*Courage, Love, Excellence*

Dear Parents & Carers,

There has been a lot in the news this week about the death of Ruth Perry – a headteacher who took her own life after a negative Ofsted report. This has shaken many of us as headteachers across the country because we all feel the stress and worry about having inspectors who do not inspect our schools with respect and kindness. I have spoken with many headteachers in my different forums and groups this week and we all agree that we want to be held accountable and that our job is to ensure that every child gets an excellent education. However, one or two inspectors cannot possibly always understand the complexities and challenges of our individual school in a day and a half and this needs to change. The local authority has reached out to headteachers in Waltham Forest to express their sadness as well and to say how much they appreciate the incredibly difficult job their headteachers do. As you know, we are awaiting our overdue Ofsted inspection – it will be probably happen before the end of this year. We all obviously want to show them that we are a good school which offers a great education to all our children so everyone here is working hard to ensure that we all shine when they do come!

One of the things we know that we need to work on is ATTENDANCE! We should have an overall attendance figure of 96% over the whole year. Between September 2022 and December 2022 we were only at 93%. This is mainly due to a lot of sickness in that Autumn term but we did have over 22% of children who were persistently absent (under 90% attendance). To put this into context, in the year 2021-22 persistent absence for the year was only 15%. So we do need to work together to make sure that all children are in school every day. Please do not take your children on holidays during term time (this will be unauthorised) - I am always available to discuss difficult and extenuating situations with you before you make that decision.

You will have noticed the solar panels consultation letters on our school gates or may have received a letter through the post if you live nearby. Today we have had the structural engineer doing the survey on our roof to make sure it is structurally sound and able to carry the weight of the solar panels! So we are edging towards it actually happening!! Watch this space for more details!!

Next week we will be asking children to plant a sunflower seed, take it home and look after it and watch it grow. Then they will be able to bring their grown sunflower to a Sun Festival being organised by the Power Station solar project in June – more details to follow. This will be a lovely community event to celebrate all the solar panels going up in the area as part of the amazing work they have been doing.

Thank you to everyone who donated books and bought books at the Book Fair yesterday – you raised £180 which we will now spend on books for the children. We have asked each class to make a list of the books they would like us to buy! Barn Croft Book Day – the children had a wonderful book day with children wearing some fabulous outfits and pyjama's. The children did lots of exciting activities from book cafe, creating magical crayons and reading a variety of teachers favourite books. The children were read to by peers from other classes as well as reading their favourite books to friends.

This afternoon Y3, Y4 & Y5 are going to enjoy an end of term disco in the Hall – I know they will have a wonderful time and a big thank you to Friends of Barn Croft for organising this!

We look forward to welcoming the Y3 & Y4 parents and carers to watch their end of term Spring Term Show. I am really looking forward to seeing this having heard them singing beautifully in the Hall for the last few weeks. Thanks to all the staff and to Jennie, the music teacher, for putting all this together!

Finally, the holy month of Ramadan began yesterday I would like to send my warmest wishes to everyone observing Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak!

I wish you all a good weekend!  
Tracey Griffiths  
Headteacher

## Key Diary Dates

**28th March**  
Year 3 & 4 Show  
**School Hall, 9:15am**

**30th March**  
Year 2 Trip  
**Science Museum**

**31<sup>st</sup> March**  
Last day of Term  
**2:00pm finish**

**3<sup>rd</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> April**  
Half Term Holiday  
**School Closed**

**17<sup>th</sup> April**  
Inset Day  
**School Closed**

**18<sup>th</sup> April**  
Children Return to  
School



**Certificates this week**  
have been awarded for  
*Attitude towards Learning*

*Rec – Sylvia & Uma*  
*Y1 – Ada & Tommy*  
*Y2 – Cora & Winnie*  
*Y3 – Isaac & Dylan H*  
*Y4 – Nateisha & Ru*  
*Y5 – Margo & Ronan*  
*Y6 – Marcia & Layla*

## What staff did this week

- I attended the first of a series of workshops with the local authority to create the SEND Strategy for the next 3 years. This is a group of professionals led by the Waltham Forest SEND team who are meeting to review the SEND Strategy for the last 3 years and think about the priorities for the new one.
- Mrs Sandy has been doing the risk assessment and organising a series of visits to the Leabridge Riding School after Easter for a group of children with SEND. This is something we have been wanting to do for a while and are very excited that it is now happening. It has been funded by our membership of the Waltham Forest Schools Sports Network.
- On Wednesday we spent a very busy day with the schools new School Improvement Partner who conducted their first visit to us. It was really good to be able to talk about our school, our children and our community with someone who is there to provide a listening ear as well as challenge us and help us to keep improving the school.
- On Wednesday evening the Full Governing Body met to discuss a number of issues including Safeguarding, the budget, site management and a whole variety of different aspects of school life.
- On Thursday I met for my weekly meeting with Waltham Forest primary school headteachers to discuss a range of issues affecting our schools. It is always great to listen to other headteachers about their schools and to see that we are all facing similar challenges!
- Ms Kelly and teachers have been busying reviewing and amending our Science curriculum to improve the depth and breadth of our offer to children.
- Senior leaders had about 15 meetings both face to face and online with parents and outside agencies such as children's social services and Early Help.

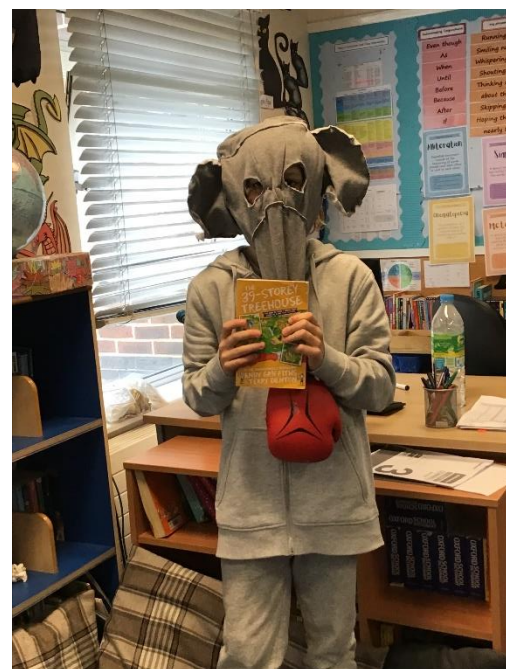
**Hot choc Friday**  
**Reception- Rufat**  
**Year 1- Sumayyah**  
**Year 2 – Zoe**  
**Year 3 - Albert**  
**Year 4 – Josephine**  
**Year 5 – George**  
**Year 6 – Sujan**



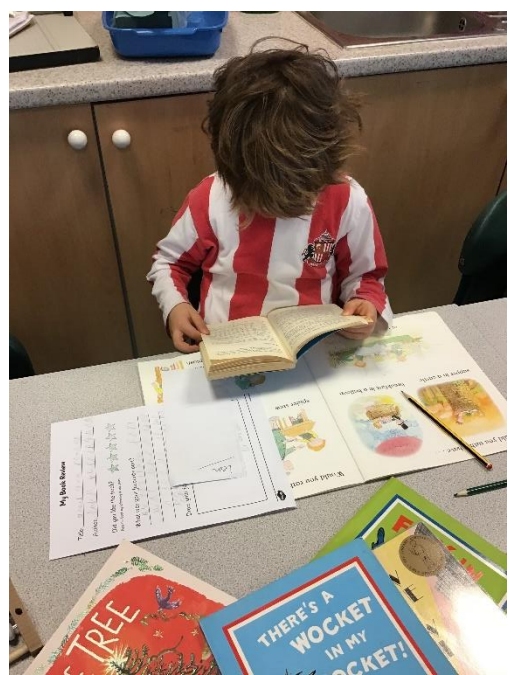
# World book day at Barn Croft this week!















# Barn Croft Primary School Calendar 2022-2023

## **Autumn Term 2022** (72 days)

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Staff Training Day – **School Closed**  
Staff Training Day – **School Closed**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**School Starts**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

School Ends – Last Day of Half-Term

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Half-Term Holiday – **School Closed**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

**School Starts**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

School Ends at 2:00pm - Last Day of Term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Christmas Holiday – **School Closed**

## **Spring Term 2023** (59 days)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Staff Training Day – **School Closed**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**School Starts**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

School Ends – Last Day of Half-Term

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Half-Term Holiday – **School Closed**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

**School Starts**

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

School Ends at 2:00pm - Last Day of Term

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Holiday – **School Closed**

## **Summer Term 2023** (64 days)

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April

Staff Training Day – **School Closed**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**School Starts**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May

Bank Holiday – **School Closed**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May

School Ends – Last Day of Half-Term

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Half-Term Holiday – **School Closed**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Staff Training Day – **School Closed**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

**School Starts**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

School Ends at 2:00pm - Last Day of Term