



Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached the end of another academic year and I would like to express my thanks to the wonderful Barrow Hedges community for making this such a successful one. While Covid is by no means behind us unfortunately, it has been wonderful to have all children in their classes and to have been able to enjoy so many memorable learning experiences with far less disruption than the previous two years.

This year has had many highlights – our Platinum Award for Safeguarding in November, a highly successful Ofsted inspection in April, the re-confirmation of our Early Years Quality Mark in June and fantastic statutory results in July, to name just four examples. It's so rewarding to receive the validation that we are achieving the highest standards that we strive for. I feel so privileged to lead Barrow Hedges and see the children grow and develop. We are all so very proud of the children, from our youngest in Nursery and Reception to our Year 6s who we say farewell to today. We wish those families who are moving on all the very best for the future.

Of course, the lovely school community that we have was really evident on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, at our glorious Summer Fete. What a super afternoon that was! Similarly, yesterday Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 were entertained in the hall. I would like to thank the PTA and all those parents who give up their time to support the school. Thank you also to parents for your contributions to our School Fund.

I would like to thank the local committee of governors for their work for the school over the course of the academic year. In particular, we extend thanks and best wishes to Mr Neil Webster, Co-Vice Chair of Governors, as he steps down and departs Barrow Hedges after many years of service. We are grateful for his work in supporting the strategic direction of the school. Neil has always enjoyed coming into school and speaking with the children and been a regular at sporting events.

### Uniform

Please continue to ensure that children are smartly dressed in the correct attire, be this their PE kit or 'normal school uniform'. Unfortunately, there are some children who are not wearing the correct uniform. This is especially the case for school shoes and PE kits where we sometimes see all sorts of things being worn! We pride ourselves on instilling high expectations in the children and so it follows that we want all the children to dress smartly and correctly. We ask that all parents support



**Harbury Road Carshalton Surrey SM5 4LA**

Telephone 020 8643 4428  
[office@barrowhedges.com](mailto:office@barrowhedges.com)



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us to maintain high standards. Trainers are not permitted and neither are boots. Your child may change into trainers for the lunchtime play. Please refer to our Uniform Guidelines on our website.

### PE Kit

We will send out confirmation of which days your child needs to wear PE kit via PMX on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September once our timetables are finalised on our INSET Day.

### Water bottles and snacks

Years 3 to 6 should bring a healthy snack for mid-morning. This should be fruit or vegetables only please.

Infant children have their fruit or vegetable snack provided by the school. All children should bring a named water bottle to school each day.

### Bags

Although sold by our uniform stockists, Cladish, we ask that children in Year 1 and 2 refrain from bringing in backpacks. Instead, a book bag is required. Infant children do not need large school bags as we have difficulty storing all of the children's belongings during the school day - book bags are required.

### Stationery and other items

Reading Diaries are provided in the new school year and replacements for lost ones can be bought from the office.

We ask that all children return with the following in September:

- a box of tissues for their classroom. This provides a stock to keep classes going throughout the year
- a Pritt stick

For children from year 3 onwards, please provide your child with appropriate stationery in a named pencil case:

- Pencil \*
- Eraser
- Ruler

\* Children in year 3 work towards achieving their Pen licence when they can use a blue ink pen.

On receipt of their Pen Licence, each child will be given their first pen as a 'well done'. We no longer sell handwriting pens from the office so ask that parents purchase these going forwards. Children may use blue gel roller ball pens and not biro please.

### Hedgerows

Please be reminded that Hedgerows, our after school club, is available for booking – see our website for further details.

### Term dates

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September are INSET Days. Years 1 to 6 children return on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Our new Nursery and Reception children have been sent separate details about your child's transition into Barrow Hedges.

Our full term dates for 2022/23 are on our school website and we have updated our calendar with the majority of events and activities. There's always some to be added in the new year.

I wish you all a very happy and safe (and sunny!) summer break and look forward to seeing children, parents and staff back in September.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise wood".

**Louise Wood**  
**Headteacher**