



BARTON PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Together, we grow

NEWSLETTER

Friday 30 April 2021

Eid

We would love to have someone from our local community to tell the children about Ramadan and Eid during an assembly on 11th May. If any of our parents could make an introduction, or are willing to come in themselves, we would really like to hear from you. Thank you.

Playground

The children have loved exploring their new playground over the last couple of weeks. You may have noticed that we have had some finishing touches added to the den building area and stage today. The mud kitchen is also due some improvements - which will hopefully save on your washing and our carpet cleaning!



The benefits of the playground are many; however, with adventurous play comes risk. Mrs Morgan has spent considerable time with the children learning about how to play safely in each area and, together, Acorns class have set some rules for the play area. Unfortunately, through no fault of adults or children, we have had a couple of accidents this week - one that resulted in a trip to A&E. I want to reassure you that we take the health and safety of the children extremely seriously and have been looking at ways to reduce risk, without sacrificing the many and varied benefits that a playground such as ours brings. Our play equipment meets the specifications set out by Oxfordshire County Council, complies with BS EN 1176 and was erected by a reputable manufacturer/contractor in accordance with that standard. However, we have sought additional advice and, in order to further reduce risk, have had the monkey bars lowered by 250mm today. In addition, we have added a 50mm mat to the area underneath the bars. We have an in-depth risk assessment for the new play equipment, which I would like to share with you. [You can read it here.](#) I hope that you find this reassuring and trust that we do all we can to ensure the safety of your children.

Playground Grand Opening: 17th May 2021 at 3:05pm

Subject to the lockdown restrictions easing in line with the current roadmap, we would like to invite you all to join us to a Grand Opening of the Playground on Monday 17th May between 3:05-4pm. It will be a welcome chance for us to mingle and socialise with each other - at a safe distance - and for parents to experience the play equipment with their children. We hope to welcome as many of you as possible to this event.

Parents' Forum: 17th May 2021 at 2pm

If we can stick to the roadmap, we also hope that many of you will be able to join Mrs McCraw for our first parent's forum meeting. Depending on numbers, this will be held in the community hall (6 people or under), or outside (more than 6 people). The purpose of the forum is to give parents an opportunity to give their opinion on things that the Head of School wishes to consult on. This forum we will be discussing:

- parental attitudes towards charity days (eg Christmas Jumper Day/Children in Need/Comic Relief)
- parental attitudes towards celebrating birthdays in school (giving out of sweet treats)
- Cost and regularity of educational trips and visits as well as the possibility of an annual charge to cover these vs pay as you go.

If you would like to attend, please email office@bartonpark.oxon.sch.uk so that we can keep a note of numbers.

Family Learning Events - save the date(s)

We are delighted to offer some free workshops, offered by Abingdon and Witney College, to help you support your child. You will have already received information about a Reading Games workshop being held on 20 May at 12:30pm. In addition, we have arranged a 4-part course on supporting Emotional Health and behaviour. This is completely free and will be run from 1.15pm to 2.45pm on the following Fridays: 11th, 18th, 25th June & 2nd July. More information will follow.

Emotional Health: You and your family	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Provided by the Family Learning Department of Abingdon & Witney College</i>● <i>Delivered physically or online via Microsoft Teams</i>● <i>Four 90-minute sessions covering the following topics:</i>	
Empathy and nurturing ourselves	Self-awareness
How feelings drive behaviours	Praise
Managing difficult feelings	Steps to calming down
Personal power	Self-esteem
Choices and consequences	Active ignoring
Problem-solving and negotiation	Rephrasing negative self-talk

Key dates:

27 April & 28 April: Parents' Evenings

3 May: Bank Holiday - school closed

17 May: 14:00 Parent Forum Meeting

17 May: 15:05 Early Years Playground Opening Event

19 May: Class photos

20 May: 12:30-14:30 Parent online workshop - Reading Games

28 May: Last day of term - school finishes at the usual time.

31 May - 4 June: Half term holiday

7 June: INSET day (no school for children on this date)

8 June: Children return to school

11 June: Parent Workshop - Part 1 Emotional Health and behaviour

18 June: Parent Workshop - Part 2 Emotional Health and behaviour

25 June: Parent Workshop - Part 3 Emotional Health and behaviour

2 July: Parent Workshop - Part 4 Emotional Health and behaviour