



The Bardfield Buzz

Newsletter #1 Monday 1st September 2025

We looking forward to welcoming everybody back to school tomorrow. We hope you have had a wonderful summer break and that you have spent time with your family and friends in the sunshine. This first (rather long) newsletter of the year contains lots of key information and attachments so please do take a few minutes to read and digest it then keep it in a safe place. Please check the dates at the end of the newsletter each week as these will be added to as the year progresses.

New Beginnings

On Wednesday, our new Reception children will be joining Garwood Class. Mrs Whittaker and Mrs Dolby have been working extremely hard preparing the classroom and outdoor area for your arrival and the whole school is looking forward to meeting you.

New Reception parents can drop off their children at the classroom door at 8.45am on Wednesday. Come through the wooden side gate on the front playground and across the top playground to reach the classroom. **Pick up is at 11.30am on Wednesday and 12pm on Thursday and you can collect your child from the main entrance at these times.** On Friday, and going forwards, please drop off **and** collect (3.15pm) outside the classroom.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our children who are moving

into Year 7 the very best of success as they begin their new secondary schools. I hope you will come back and visit us and let us know how you are getting on. We'll be thinking of you all this week.

Staffing

I am very pleased to share the news that Paul Major has taken up the role of caretaker at our school. He has already been hard at work transforming our library. This term, we also welcome Hollie Scott who will be leading our after school wraparound care at The Hive.

The School Day

A reminder that the school day begins at **8.45am** and ends at **3.15pm** for all children. Please bring your child to the locations below **from 8.35am** and wait for the class teacher to open the gate/classroom door. Learning begins promptly at 8.45am so please do not arrive later than this.

Garwood Class (R/Y1) – use the main gate to enter the school grounds, come through the wooden side gate and wait with your child in the 'Garwood Zone'.

Bawden Class (Y1/2) – use the main gate to enter the school grounds, come up the slope and wait with your child in the 'Bawden Zone'.

Aldridge Class (Y3/4) – use the main gate to enter the school grounds and

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enter and leave through the porch door on the front playground.

Ravilious (Y6) Classes use the main gate to enter the school grounds and enter and leave through the porch door on the front playground.

At the end of the day please ensure you **collect younger children first** if you have more than one child at school. Please be prompt for collection. If you wish your **Year 6** child to walk to and from school, **please email permission** to the school office **before we return to school**. We will not release your child without this written permission.

The Hive

Please see attached arrangements and pricing for The Hive wraparound care from September. I would encourage parents to use this facility as much as possible so that we can keep the provision running at a reasonable cost

Attendance

At the start of this new school year I would like to remind you of our approach to attendance. Our policy states; 'Ensuring a child's regular attendance at school is a parental responsibility and allowing absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.'

Please support us by adhering to our policy and be aware that any unauthorised absences may lead to a fine. If your child is absent from school, parents must follow these procedures:

- *Contact the school on the first day of absence before 9.00 am. The school has an answer phone (Press 1) where you can leave a message or you may speak to someone (press 2).*

Alternatively, you can call into school personally and speak to the office staff

- *Contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 9.00 am*
- *Ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible and you provide any medical evidence, if requested, to support the absence*

Please note: an email is not an acceptable means of reporting absence and we will still contact you.

We will ring you if we have not heard from you by 9am each day and may carry out a home welfare check if we cannot get in touch with you. Please see our new Attendance Policy (attached) for more details.

School Uniform

It is always wonderful to see how smart the children look in their school uniforms in the first week of term. Our detailed uniform guidance can be found in our Uniform Policy on our school website. I have attached it to this email and recommend that all parents have a look at it. **We ask that all sweatshirts and PE shirts bear the school logo.**

PE Kits

To help keep PE sessions running smoothly, please take note of the following arrangements:

Reception & KS1: Children should keep their PE kits in school all week.

KS2: Pupils should continue wearing their PE kits to school on their designated PE days:

Aldridge Class: Mondays and Wednesdays

Ravilious Class: Wednesdays and Fridays

For safety reasons, no jewellery is permitted during PE. Please ensure your child can remove earrings independently or avoid wearing them on PE days. Thank you for your

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support in keeping our children active and safe!

Please ensure that all uniform (and footwear) is labelled. We always seem to accumulate such a large amount of lost property. Any unclaimed, unnamed items will be recycled at the end of each half term.

The PTA run a wonderful second hand uniform shop. I have attached their current stock list so please take a look and if you require any items, email the PTA (gbfobs@outlook.com) with orders. Items with logo are just £2 and items without logo are £1.

Scarecrow Festival

Our wonderful PTA have been working hard behind the scenes to arrange Great Bardfield's second 'Scarecrow Festival' on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September. The event promises to be a great deal of fun and an opportunity for us to raise desperately needed funds for our school. More details to follow next week.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our Prestige Sports Autumn Term extra-curricular sports activities will begin the week beginning 8th September. These are for children in **Years 1 to 6**. Our Reception children may join a club in the Summer Term. The clubs before school are free. There is a cost to parents for the after school clubs. Please sign up for **all** sports clubs on the Prestige Sports website or use the link below.

[Book a School Club | Prestige Sports Development \(prestigesportsdevelopment.com\)](http://prestigesportsdevelopment.com)

Monday

KS1 Gymnastics
3.15pm – 4.15pm

Wednesday

8:00am - 8:40am
KS1 Football

3:15pm - 4:15pm
KS2 Gymnastics

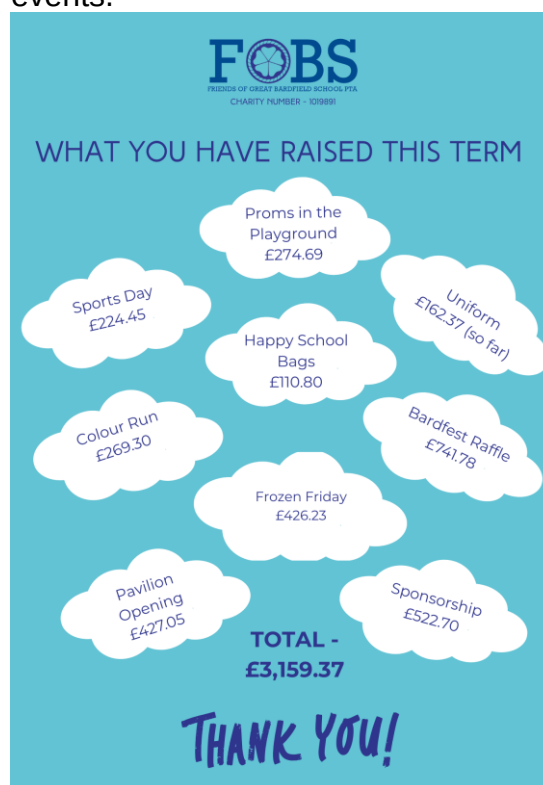
Sadly, Mr Cragg will not be running his football academy this term. I am looking into providing an alternative as I know this club was very popular with KS2 children.

Celebration Assemblies

Celebration Assemblies will continue to take place at 9.00am on Fridays. Parents and family members are very welcome to attend. We will send a message from the office if your child is receiving an award. Our first assembly will be on Friday 12th September.

PTA News

I am pleased to share details of the most recently held PTA fundraising events.



This coming year we intend to formulate our PTA in a different way. Some of you will be aware that Kelly our co-chair has moved away from the area and will no longer be active on the PTA. Olivia, will also be stepping

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down from her role as co-chair at Christmas. For too long, the responsibility of running events has fallen on just a handful of parents and this very quickly becomes unmanageable. It is time for us to embrace a different way of doing things.

In the past, our PTA fundraised for little extras for the children. As you will be aware, our small, rural school is chronically underfunded and in more recent times, we now rely on the money raised by the PTA for essentials such as stationary, furniture, decorating and other basics. It would be disastrous for our children if the fundraising efforts of our PTA were to cease.

Going forwards I will be asking the parents in each year group to run one or two events across 2025/26 as follows.

Reception Frozen Fridays

Year 1 Sports Day/Proms

Refreshments

Year 2 Scarecrow Festival*

Year 3 Halloween & Spring Disco

Year 4 Break the Rules Day

Year 5 Happy School Bags

Year 6 Colour Run

**This event has already been arranged for this year and we will just need lots of help on the day. Please speak to myself or Olivia if you can offer some time to help.*

These are all previous events we have organised and myself and other parents with PTA experience will be on hand this year to ease the transition into this new system.

I ask that you discuss amongst yourselves and agree on two or three parents for each year group who would

like to oversee each event and let me know what you have arranged. Details, dates and alternative ideas can be discussed at our first PTA meeting of the year on **Tuesday 23rd September at 7pm** and I invite all parents to come along to hear about the different events and share feedback and ideas.

We look forward to seeing you all back at school tomorrow.

Mrs Crow

Important Dates for your diary

September

Friday 12th September

Celebration Assembly

Stay and Share – ‘Meet the Teacher’

Sat 13th - Sun 14th September

Scarecrow Festival

Tuesday 23rd September

PTA Meeting 7pm

Friday 26th September

Great Bardfield Macmillan Bake Off

and Afternoon Coffee and Cake

2.30pm

October

Saturday 4th October

Open Morning 10am-12pm

Wednesday 8th October

Open Afternoon 1.30pm-2.45pm

Mon 13th – Wed 16th October

Y6 Bikeability

Friday 24th October

Harvest Festival 9.15am

Halloween Disco

Monday 27th Oct – Friday 31st

October

Half Term Break