

email: admin@broombarns.herts.sch.uk

Reminder - If you need newsletters or policies translated, please contact the office.

The following dates are a small fraction of the term and diary dates the school have arranged. Please check our website for future dates, events, Insets and term dates: [Broom Barns Primary School » Diary Dates](#)

Tue 10th December 2024	Y3 Swimming Lessons ends for the term
Thu 12th December 2024, 11:00am - 12:00pm	Nursery Songs - Parents/Carers invited
Thu 12th December 2024, 2:00pm - 3:00pm	Nativity Performance to Parents/Carers
Fri 13th December 2024, 5:00pm - 6:30pm	Christmas Family Disco - All children MUST be with an adult
Mon 16th December 2024, 9:30am - 10:30am	KS2 Church Carol Service
Mon 16th December 2024, 1:30pm - 3:00pm	Class Parties
Tue 17th December 2024	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day (£1 donation)
Wed 18th December 2024	Peter Pan Pantomime - children collect from the Stevenage Leisure Park
19 th Dec to 3 rd Jan	Christmas Break
6 th Jan 2025, 8:50am	Children return to school

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we prepare to break up from school for the Winter holiday, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support in what has been a very busy term.

Next term, Broom Barns will be just as busy. Please can I remind you all that we will communicate messages through the Arbor app, emails, through our school website and our Instagram page. To ensure you can access these, please keep us updated with any changes to your contact details, particularly if these change over the holiday period.

I am determined that our attendance and punctuality is going to improve in the spring term, and we will achieve our target of 95%. I would like to remind you that children should not be taken out of school for family holidays or extended leave for any reason. Please plan your holidays around the school holidays. The school holiday dates for the next two years are on the school website.

With regards to punctuality, children need to be in school on time (8:50am) as learning begins as soon as they walk through the classroom door. My staff are doing all they can to improve outcomes for every child, so please help them by getting your children into school on time.

Punctuality also applies to the end of the school day and more and more children are being collected late, which results in staff being delayed. Many staff run after school activities or tutoring groups, and these are impacted when they have children from their classes not collected on time. We appreciate that on rare occasions, traffic or transport issues may delay you and we will always do our best to help you if you let us know in advance that you are going to be late, but please do inform us.

I hope that all of you enjoy time with loved ones over the festive period and to those of you who celebrate Christmas, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. New Year is just around the corner and hopefully, it will be a happy, healthy, and peaceful year for all of us.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs J Currant

Headteacher



Instagram

If you would like to follow us on Instagram, **please send your Instagram username into school via your Arbor App messages**, so we can confirm identity. Thank you. The school also has an Instagram account: Broombarnsprimary (Official).

Please note we do not use the Instagram message section for communication.

It is the season for coughs, colds and flu.



Children with the flu should stay home from school and childcare until they feel better and haven't had a fever for at least 24 hours without using a fever-reducing medicine. Some children may need to stay home longer.

This replaces sending app messages or emails regarding absences.

We would like to thank the parents and carers that have been using the new way to inform the school of your child's absence. The system enables office staff to be free for other queries parents and carers have during the busy hours in the morning. Thank you for your help with launching this. If you would prefer to telephone the office, please only use the absence line - select **option 1** and record your message.

We would like to remind you that it will continue that **all** absences, whether you have used the new system, spoken to staff or left an answerphone message, will be recorded as 'unauthorised' or 'no reason' until office staff have been able to deal with all of the messages. We would encourage you to use the new system, below, as you can feel assured your message is on your child's records and waiting to be dealt with.

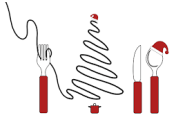
NEW - How to Record an Absence for your Child - quick and simple

How to record an absence, click on:

1. Go to the home page of the Arbor app,
2. Click on the orange Quick Actions tab,
3. Click attendance,
4. and on the right-hand side you will see a green box, click 'Log Absence'.

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/19947254592029-Logging-absences-on-the-Parent-Portal-and-Arbor-App>

We hope everyone enjoyed Decoration Day. Thank you for joining us, the school is looking very festive.



Have you booked your child's Christmas dinner?

17th December - Christmas Dinner (Rec to Y6) and Jumper Day

The 17th December will be a very festive day with the Christmas school dinner and jumper day. Please book your child's meal as soon as possible, to ensure they get their choice, <https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/>



Please note this is also our 'Christmas Jumper Day'. We are asking for children to come to school in a **festive top** (bought or homemade), not party clothes (jeans are allowed).



Hertfordshire's School Admissions Consultation 2026/27

Hertfordshire County Council is running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2026/27 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed changes are:

To reduce the published admission number (PAN) at four community or voluntary controlled primary schools. Retain the remainder of the county council's existing admission arrangements for 2026/27, including PANs, Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination.

The consultation period runs until 8 December 2024. Please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2026 for more information and to respond online.

If you have any queries, please email admissions.consultation@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Raffle & Non-uniform - Have you purchased raffle tickets yet?

The Raffle will be drawn on 16th December. We will take the first £1 for each of your children at Broom Barns as non-uniform and any money paid over this will go to purchase raffle tickets.

We have some wonderful prizes:





Clubs for January to February 2025

Please note the afterschool sports clubs will be available to make bookings from 5.30pm on 16th December.

Places will not be held until payment has been made.

IMPORTANT : If the pay section does not allow you to pay, then the club will be full.

The clubs will run from the first day after the Christmas break, 6th Jan, until week beginning 10th Feb 2025. Please keep a note of the dates once your child has been booked in.



Mondays - 6th Jan to 10th Feb - 3.20-4.20pm - Year 3 to Year 6 Performing Arts Club. Performing Arts = forms of creative activity that are performed in front of an audience, such as drama, music, and dance.



Mondays - 6th Jan to 10th Feb - 3.20-4.20pm - Year 4 to Year 6 Sketching Skills Club is led by Mrs Umney. In the Sketching Skills Club children will learn how to use a variety of H pencils to create shading and produce refined forms in their artwork.



Tuesdays - 7th Jan to 11th Feb - 3.20-4.20pm - Year 1 and Year 2 Rapid Fire Cricket Club. Rapid Fire Cricket is a fast-paced cricket game for children that teaches the basics of cricket.



Wednesdays - 8th Jan to 12th Feb - 3.20-4.20pm - Year 2 to Year 4 Soft Tipped Archery Club. Soft archery, where arrows are fitted with soft tips or cups (not steel), is a great way to introduce archery to younger children.

We are your helping hand

There's lots of support, advice and services in Hertfordshire to help you manage the cost of living.



To find out more, scan the QR code, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044 or visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving

Aged 40-74? Find out about a FREE NHS Health Check near you.



Even though you might be feeling great, if you're over 40 you may be at risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, diabetes or dementia. A FREE NHS Health Check can help you reduce these risks and make sure that you stay healthy.

Checks are running in Stevenage on:

- 27 and 31 December
- 2, 13, and 27 January
- 24 February

Appointments need to be booked in advance.

If you cannot make the available dates, you will be placed on a waiting list and we will contact you when new dates are available. To check if you're eligible and to book: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthchecks



Searching for Childcare?

Hertfordshire have a dedicated website where you can search for childminders, creche, holiday clubs etc.

<https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/GuidedSearch/childcarefinder>



On behalf of all of the staff and governors, I wish you and your families a happy, restful and safe Christmas.

Children return to school on Monday 6th January 2025