



Bernards Heath Junior School

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Headteacher: Ms C Piggott MTeach PGCE LLB (Hons)

Thursday 3 September 2026

Dear Parent/carer(s)

Welcome letter – Autumn term start

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new Headteacher at Bernards Heath Junior School. I hope everyone had a good summer break and felt ready for the new year to begin today. It is truly a privilege to take on the position of Headteacher here and welcome you all to the start of the new term. A particularly warm welcome to our new Year 3 families and children who are new to other year groups – we are delighted that you are joining the Junior School community. I enjoyed seeing many smiling faces at the school gates this morning and look forward to getting to know you all in the coming days and weeks. I will be at the meet the teacher meetings next week, and at our Clubs Fair after school tomorrow (details below). Please do come and say hello!

I have put some useful reminders together below for your information. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Upcoming events

Our 'New to' year meetings will take place in the school hall for all year groups next week. Here are the dates and times:

	3:30pm	7pm
Wednesday 9th September	Year 5	Year 3
Thursday 10th September	Year 4	Year 6

For the 3:30pm meetings only, staff will be available on the playground to supervise children with parents attending the meeting, so that parents can attend the meeting. Please collect your children as usual before the meeting, so that we know all the children in the playground have adults present on site.

Our Clubs Fair will be held on Friday 3:30-4:30 in the hall. Families will have the chance to meet all the club hosts, ask questions, and learn more about the exciting range of clubs on offer. Please be aware that bookings are already open and some clubs have already reached capacity.

School day timings & drop off/collection arrangements

Our gates open at 8:45am. Children should line up on the playground and be ready to enter the school with their teacher at 8:55am after the whistle has been blown.

School finishes at 3:25pm. Children in Year 3, 4NO and 4D will be accompanied to the playground by their teacher to be collected. 4B will be dismissed from their external classroom door. Year 5 leave from the side exit and can

be collected from there or the main playground. Year 6 are dismissed from their classrooms. If you give permission for your Year 5 or 6 child to walk home, this must be put in writing for the class teacher.

All children walking home alone are instructed to come back to school if there is nobody at home or if the adult they are expecting is not there.

After school club pick up is from the playground main gate.

Playground equipment: to ensure the safety of all pupils, the playground equipment is out of bounds at drop off and collection times. Thank you for your support in ensuring that the children do not use it at these times.

Contact details

If any of your contact details have changed over the summer break, including details for any emergency contacts, **please advise the office immediately of these changes so we can ensure that we hold the correct information for your child.**

Uniform reminder & PE kit

There is no need to wear PE kits this week. All year groups will send out a Year group newsletter on Friday that details when your child's long PE day will be. On this day, your child/children will need to wear their PE kit to school.

Please see our website for information about uniform, including PE kit:

<https://www.bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=372&type=pdf>

The children need two pairs of shoes for school, one pair should be black school shoes and the second pair should be trainers (any colour) which can be worn on the playground and for PE.

Jewellery should not be worn to school. If your child wears pierced earrings then please ensure that only studs are worn and these must be removed for PE (if they cannot be removed then the teacher will need to tape them for PE lessons).

Children should not bring in or wear smart watches.

Please also do not bring in toys or items for playground trading as this is not permitted.

Water bottles, snacks and packed lunches

- Children should have a **refillable, plastic water bottle** in school. Please ensure the bottle is not glass or metal and that it only contains water (no fizzy drinks or juices). We would also politely request no Prime or Airup bottles please.
- **Healthy snacks and packed lunch items only** please (no chocolate, biscuits, sweets etc).

Allergies

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to remind families that we have several children in school with allergies, some of which are severe and potentially life-threatening. To help keep all pupils safe, **please do not bring nuts or products containing nuts or sesame**, including hummus, into school. We would also be grateful if you could remind your child not to share food with other children, as even traces of an allergen can cause a serious reaction. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all pupils.

Bikes and scooters

There are two areas for pupils to store their bike or scooter during the day. One is situated outside the year 5 block and the other is outside the dining room (before entering the school gates). Please prop your bike or scooter up carefully. Helmets can be kept on your child's cloakroom peg.

Attendance matters

At Bernards Heath, we are committed to ensuring that every child attends school regularly, feels safe, supported and ready to learn. We work in partnership with families to support them in developing positive, confident routines for school.

If your child is unwell and unable to come to school, you must contact the office as soon as possible in the morning. This can be via a phone call to 01727 856262 or by email to: absence@bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk.

Emails

The school office receives a large volume of emails. Please ensure that you put your **child's name and class** in the subject header so that it can be dealt with appropriately.

Autumn term dates for your diary

Date	Event
Thursday 3 rd September	Term starts 9:15 start for Year 3 (today only)
Friday 4 th September	Clubs Fair 3.30pm
Wednesday 9 th September	New to Y5 meeting 3.30pm New to Y3 meeting 7pm
Thursday 10 th September	New to Y4 3.30pm New to Y6 7pm
Wednesday 9 th September	Y5 swimming begins
Friday 25 th September	Mini marathon
Thursday 1 st October	Flu Immunisation Individual Photographs
Monday 5 th October	Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 13 th October	Harvest Assembly 2.30pm
Wednesday 14 th October	Parents Evening 4-7.30pm
Tuesday 20 th October	Individual Photographs
Thursday 22 nd October	Parents Evening 4-7.30pm
Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th October	HALF TERM – school closed
Monday 2 nd November	INSET DAY – school closed
Tuesday 8 th December	Carol Concert Y3 & 4 1.45pm 7pm

Monday 14 th December	Y5 Play 7pm
Wednesday 16 th December	Xmas Lunch
Thursday 18 th December	Term Ends 1.30pm

I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow (normal start time for all year groups), and wish you a happy and restful weekend ahead.

Yours sincerely

Ms C Piggott

Headteacher