

# Barnet Virtual School Carer Newsletter Spring 2023

Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of the Barnet Virtual School Carer Newsletter. We hope you had a good break. Best wishes for 2023 from all at the Virtual School

## FOSTER CARER TRAINING THIS TERM

### Speech, language and communication needs in children and young people in the care system

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am – 11.00am Early Years and Primary**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 1.30—2.30pm Secondary**

These sessions will be run by two highly specialised speech and language therapists. It will include background information about how speech/language/communication skills develop typically, how the communication profile of a looked after child/young person can differ from the expected pathway and some 'handy tips' on knowing what to do next if you are looking after a child with SLCN.

We hope to make the session interactive and engaging with some group discussions and sharing of real life situations – please keep your camera on and join the chat!

Leaders: Chloe Laitman and Alison Montgomery—Speech Language Therapists

### Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)

**Tuesday 7th February 2023 10.00am – 11.15am**

This workshop will help you gain an understanding of the different types of Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) and how you can support children and young people who may have needs in this area.

Leaders: Inclusion Advisory Team

### Supporting young people in Year 11 during their GCSE exams

**Thursday 16th March 2023 10.00- 11.15am**

An opportunity to explore practical ways you can support young people during their GCSE exams, including how to support their wellbeing and reduce stress & anxiety during this time.

Leaders: Inclusion Advisory Team

**You will be given a *Certificate of Attendance* for each workshop that you attend.**

If you would like to do any of these, please email:

**[barnet.virtualschool@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:barnet.virtualschool@barnet.gov.uk)** stating which course you would like to do and we will set up access for you.



## Contacts in the Virtual School

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# Our New Website



[Home](#) [About](#) [PEPs and Pupil Premium](#) [Key Documents](#) [Useful Information & Resources](#) [Young People](#) [Training](#)



The next PEP Deadline is Friday 11th November, 2022. [Learn more about PEPs here.](#)

# Barnet Virtual School



## We have a brand new Barnet Virtual School website!

Find us on:

[Home](#) | [Barnet Virtual School](#) | [London Borough of Barnet](#) | [England](#)  
([barnetvs.org](http://barnetvs.org))

Please do take the time to have a browse though. We hope it will be useful for schools, social workers, foster carers and young people. You can find:

- copies of our previous newsletters
- links to key documents
- useful information including ideas for careers support, and emotional health and well being
- resources for young people

Please do let us know if you have any other ideas of what would be useful to have on the website.

Contact  
us



Tel: 020 8359 4534

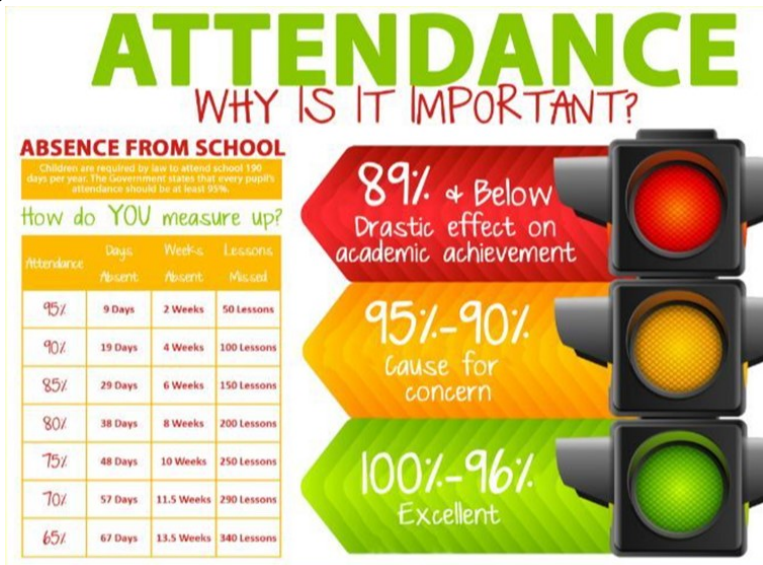


email: [Barnet.virtualschool@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Barnet.virtualschool@barnet.gov.uk)

Follow us on Twitter to keep up with news and opportunities to support  
our young people. [@barnetvs](#)



# Supporting Good Attendance



When it comes to progress and achievement at school, we know that:

**Attendance is one of the most significant factors that can make a difference to outcomes.**

**Whilst 90% may seem like a high mark in an exam, when it comes to attendance, 90% is in fact a very worrying picture and equates to 4 weeks of absence with over 100 school lessons missed.**

**Punctuality counts.** If a child is late, this may be counted as absent for the entire morning. The very start of the school day is a valuable time to help regulate students and check in with them and they may even miss the start of the lesson which is often the most important part!

### **What can you do to help promote good attendance and punctuality?**

Ensure that you, as carers and role models, are prioritising attendance and communicating the importance of being in school every day on time.

Have a consistent morning routine which allows enough time for waking up (sometimes slowly), having breakfast, getting organised and getting to school. Routines become habits and the more we do something, the more normal and easier it becomes to do it.

Encourage your young person to pack their bag and get their uniform ready the evening before to save time in the morning.

Mild coughs and colds are not a reason to miss school. We often feel worse when we first wake up but symptoms can improve considerably once we are awake and moving around. Be assured that if your young person is deemed unwell at school, you will be contacted.

Ensure that you report any absences to the school as soon as possible otherwise the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Ensure that routine appointments are made out of school hours where at all possible. Family holidays will not be authorised during school term so please check your school's term dates before booking any holidays!

**If your young person is anxious about attending school and you are in any way worried, please talk to the school and/or your virtual school caseworker as soon as possible so that we can support you.** It is much easier to resolve problems before they become too entrenched and there are lots of things we can do to help.

## Tips for reading aloud to under 5s

See below for some ideas of things you can do to support a love of reading right from the earliest days— from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!



### NEWBORN - 1 YEAR

- Point at things and name them (dog, cat, house, car)
- Talk back and forth with your baby
- Play games with them while you are reading



### 1 YEAR - 2 YEARS

- Smile and answer your child's questions
- Encourage them to point at objects and name them
- Have them help turn the pages



### 2 YEARS - 3 YEARS

- Ask them questions about the book
- Talk about the pictures and what the words mean
- Let them pick out the book they want to read
- Reward them and set goals for reading



### 3 YEARS - 4 YEARS

- Point out letters and numbers
- Look at pictures and make-up stories about them
- Talk about the different characters
- Ask them their take on the story



### 4 YEARS - 5 YEARS

- Have your child tell the story
- Encourage writing and drawing
- Ask them the meaning of the story
- Have a conversation about what the words mean