

# Barnes Farm Infant School



## Newsletter



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

<https://www.barnesfarminfants.co.uk>

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### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

# Welcome!

I would like to say a BIG welcome to all of the children in Reception as well as welcome back to the Year 1 and Year 2 groups. It has been a very busy seven days settling the children back to school and they have been **amazing**. I am looking forward to a wonderful year together and I cannot wait to share and celebrate the children's achievements with you all through our newsletter.

As well as the children, I would also like to welcome our new staff to the school:

**Mrs Merrick** is our new Assistant Headteacher and will also be Hedgehog's Class teacher.



I am so thrilled to be part of the Barnes Farm Infant School team and very much looking forward to getting to know all the children and parents over the next coming weeks and months. My immediate impression when I first visited was a what a lovely community to be part of and I very feel honoured to be joining you all.

**Miss Talbot** is Tawny Owl's new class teacher.

Hello everyone, my name is Miss Talbot. I will be teaching in Tawny Owl class this year. This is my very first class and I am very excited to become part of the team at Barnes Farm Infant School. I cannot wait to spend the year getting to know you all. Since we have come back, I have seen some excellent learning going on throughout the school and I cannot wait to see how much we all achieve together this year!



**Mrs Balcomb** is our Joint Office Manager and will work across both Barnes Farm Schools.

I am very happy to be joining Barnes Farm school. Although I have only been here for a couple of weeks, the dedication the staff have shown in preparing the school for the safe return of its pupils, has proved how committed every staff member here is. I look forward to adding my own skills and experience to support both the teaching and office staff in further strengthening the high-quality experience that they already offer.



**Mrs Gilbey** will be Squirrel's class teacher Monday to Wednesday and will work alongside Mrs Shelsher.

Hello everyone, my name is Mrs Gilbey. I will be teaching in Squirrel Class this year alongside Mrs Shelsher. I will be teaching on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays. I am very excited to be joining Barnes Farm Infant School and already since we have been back at school, I have seen fantastic learning taking place as well as lots of smiles!

I am really looking forward to meeting you all and trying our very best altogether!



**Mr Houghton** is a trainee teacher and will be working alongside Miss Hook all year.



My name is Mr Houghton and I am completing my Initial Teacher Training at Barnes Farm Infant School. I am in Barn Owls class but you might see me popping into other classrooms throughout the year. I am really excited to be joining the team at Barnes Farm and everyone has made me feel so welcome this past week. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting lots of you since we started back in school and I am really looking forward to the year ahead and getting to know you all better.

[Follow us on Twitter?](#)

If you have a Twitter account, why not follow our school ...

**@FarmBarnes**

This is a platform for the school to share news and successes. General communication with parents and carers regarding school arrangements will be through letters and regular Newsletters home.

## Summer Garden Club

Over the holiday, we ran a series of Holiday Clubs for the children. Mr White and Ms Coxon ran a Gardening Club and with children, they revamped our front garden which can be found at the entrance to our school. Mr White and Ms Coxon approached ASDA and Longacre who donated plants and flowers to the school. We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to both local companies for supporting our school and helping to improve our environment for the children.

Asda donated £70 worth of perennials and herbs for the raised beds. They also gave the school a Willow Tree as well as three very cute garden gnomes!



Longacre's donated over 300 trailing plants including fuchsias and geraniums!



## Arrangements Around the School

It has been lovely to see so many children return and we have all needed to take time to get use to the new access arrangements. Please be reminded of the systems in place that we need all of our school community to follow:

- Only access the school site at the allocated staggered time for your child's year group. This will limit the number of people on our school site and ensures that there is enough room for social distancing.
- Please use the correct entrance and exit points following the one-way system (remember they are reversed in the afternoon).
- Only one adult to enter the school site with their child.
- Avoid arriving early and waiting outside the classrooms. This can stop others from moving around the site safely and reduces the social distancing options for others.

Please see the below message to parents from Mike Gogarty, Director of Public Health on the importance of maintaining social distancing:

*Education settings have been able to return to full-time opening for all students this term, due in large to a reduction in COVID-19 cases in the community. This reduction is thanks to the sacrifices every member of the community made earlier this year, by staying at home, not seeing friends and relatives in person, and maintaining social distancing measures. However, as restrictions have been eased and schools and colleges are now returning full time, we must all remain alert.*

*Schools and colleges have measures in place for pupils attending in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. They are asking pupils to wash their hands more regularly, restricting time spent in communal areas and, importantly, keeping pupils in class or year group-sized bubbles. This limits the number of people each pupil and staff member comes into contact with in their setting.*

*When travelling to and from settings, we know groups of pupils and parents must arrive at the same time. Schools have put measures in place to aid the safe entry and exit of pupils. These may include queueing systems, one way systems or monitors to oversee arrivals and departures. It is crucial that pupils and parents maintain a two metre distance from others at the school gate. The whole school population, whether on school grounds or off it, must remain vigilant and observe social distancing measures. It is vital we all play our part if we're to avoid a spike in the community and the reintroduction of lockdown measures.*

*I thank you for your support.*

*Dr Mike Gogarty*

*Director of Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities, Essex County Council.*

### **Parking**

This week, it has been brought to my attention that parking around our school area has become an issue once again. Both Barnes Farm schools work hard to ensure that we work with parents/carers to establish safe routines when coming to the school site. Unfortunately, with the return to school we have seen a number of parents/carers linked to the school not parking with consideration to others. If you are not in a position to walk/ride/scooter to school, please ensure that you are parking legally and not blocking driveways of homes. I have been concerned to hear of cars parking on the yellow lines outside of the school. This not only blocks the roads but does not give a clear eye line for drivers and potentially puts drivers and pedestrians at risk. Through the 3PR scheme, the school has worked with ASDA to ensure that parking does not need to become a problem in our community at pick up/drop off times. ASDA allows Barnes Farm families to park at the end of their car park at the beginning or end of the day. Please take advantage of this option.

### **PE and Homework Reminders**

Miss Hook sent home a letter this week with each year group's PE time allocated. Remember to send your child to school in PE kit on those days. A dark coloured jogging bottom and top can be worn with trainers (no plimsoles please).

Next week, home learning will begin. Each year group will communicate separately to parents/carers the provision to be allocated. Please make sure that you are able to access your Tapestry accounts or have requested an account from the office.

### **Reading at Home**

This week, you would have received a letter from Mrs Merrick talking about how we support the development of Reading in our school. We have launched the class reading games and by listening to your child read at home and logging this in the Reading Diary your child will very quickly start to be awarded with certificates.

Anyone from home can listen to the children read, so why not get older siblings and grandparents listening to your child read too and record this in the log! Remember we like to see the children read at least four times at home a week and to have this recorded in the log – thank you for your support.

### Diary of Events

Over the next two weeks, we will be sending out our Diary of Events and other key information. Normally the Diary of Events allows parents/carers to plan for the year ahead. This year, the Diary of Events will be a shorter version due to current COVID-19 restrictions and will be updated throughout the year as appropriate.

### Online Safety 2020

We will regularly update parents/carers during the year regarding online safety. There are also tabs and links on our website to support parents/carers with children using a variety of technology. Please remember the need to monitor your child's online use. We have listed below a number of useful websites designed to support parents/carers and additional information can be found on our website too. If we become aware that children have accessed content that is inappropriate online which has affected them, we will inform you and offer support in school.

#### **Useful Websites**

- [CEOP](#) (Child Exploitation and Online Protection)
- [Childnet](#)
- [Internet Matters](#)
- [Net Aware](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- [Parent Info](#)
- [Safer Internet](#)

### Attendance for the Year

Our target for the year is **97%**. It is important that your child is in school for their allocated stagger time each day. By being in on time, the children will be ready for a prompt start to their learning. Children arriving after registration will be recorded as late.

### Reporting Sickness Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please can you **telephone** the school office rather than email.

Have a wonderful weekend and well done to all for successfully completing your first full week back,

Mrs Farmer





## Celebration Awards

<b>Reception</b>	
<b>Badger</b>	<b>Abigail</b>
<b>Fox</b>	<b>Joe</b>
<b>Rabbit</b>	<b>Tommy</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	
<b>Hedgehog</b>	<b>Jimi</b>
<b>Squirrel</b>	<b>Rachel</b>
<b>Otter</b>	<b>Michael</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	
<b>Barn Owl</b>	<b>Lacey</b>
<b>Snowy Owl</b>	<b>Oliver C</b>
<b>Tawny Owl</b>	<b>Thaleia</b>

### Barnes Farm Infants Governing Body

Heidi Hards - Chair of Governors - Parent Governor  
 Rebecca Pascoe-Youell - Vice Chair of Governors - Community Governor  
 Susannah Wookey- Community Governor  
 Mrs Z. Farmer - Head teacher  
 Mrs K. Robinson – Assistant Headteacher and Staff Governor  
 Elizabeth Keeley - Community Governor  
 Yvonne Spence – Community Governor  
 Katie Corbett – Parent Governor