



Barnes Farm Infant School

# Newsletter

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

Follow us on Twitter: @FarmBarnes

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

## Message from the Headteacher

### Wonderful Learning

This week has been very packed with lots of amazing learning taking place across all year groups. Reception have been making the most of the outside area. It was lovely to see Year 1 and Year 2 taking part in 'Write to Impress' sessions today, where they were able to show their writing skills. There are some wonderful displays taking place around the school too.

### Welcome to....Sessions

Year group leaders will be running sessions for each year in a 'Welcome to...' session. These sessions are for parents/carers and aim to give you an overview of the year and the types of learning activities that will take place across the year. More details for booking a space will be shared next week, but below are the dates and times for each year group:

Welcome to Year 1 with Mrs Day = Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 2:15pm

Welcome to Year 2 with Mrs Merrick = Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 2:15pm

Welcome to Reception with Mrs Bentham = Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 2:15pm

### Reading at Home

Support from home with reading is one of the biggest ways we can work together to support the children. To encourage all children to share their books at home, we ask that they read to an adult at least 4 x a week and that this is logged in their home school diary. For some of our children that are learning to read, for example in reception, this could just be sharing a book with an adult – e.g. looking at the pictures and talking about them. Each class has its own 'Reading Game' and we track how many times the children reading at home to collect class certificates. This is something that we really value as a school and it is important to us that our children are confident readers by



Proud to be part of the  CLP

the time they move to KS2. Every class reading game is different. Here are some examples across the school!



### Midday Assistant

We are looking for someone to join our midday team for 2023 – 2024. If you or someone you know are interested, then please see the below link for more information:

[www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk](http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk)

Have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs Farmer





## Celebration Awards

### BFIS Over and Above School Focus



Each week, we reward the children for following our school ethos.

This week we have been focusing on the 'Be a Team' owl in our Owl Code. For helping the Reception children at lunchtime/Reception children helping each other.



Friday 22nd September 2023

### Reception

Badger  
Rabbit

George O'B  
Noah W

### Year 1

Hedgehog  
Squirrel  
Otter

Maisie  
Dougie  
Calvin

### Year 2

Barn Owl  
Snowy Owl  
Tawny Owl

Heidi  
Blousey  
Theo



### Office Corner Page

Please find below letters/ emails sent home this week:

Letters / Emails Sent Home/ Information	Year Group
<b>FROM THE OFFICE TEAM – Email – Year 1 DT Project</b>	Year 1
<b>FROM MRS FARMER – Email and Letter – Pupil Eligibility Checker</b>	All
<b>FROM THE OFFICE TEAM – ParentPay – Teacher Led Clubs Go Live</b>	Year 1 and Year 2
<b>FROM THE OFFICE TEAM – Email and Flyer – Essex Active Clubs – October Half Term</b>	All



If you have not yet received an email to activate your child's Tapestry account, please contact the school office so that we can set this up for you.

### ParentPay

REMINDER – THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PARENTS THAT HAVE NOT ACTIVATED THEIR PARENTPAY - please activate your ParentPay account, the letters with all the information have been sent home. Once activated, this will enable you to receive school communications, pay for Early Birds and Night Owls and school trips and book on to teacher led clubs and attend the workshops that we will be running this term.

If you have not received your letter or are having any difficulties activating your account, please let us know and we will help you to do this.





### Essex Active Clubs – Half Term Holiday

Please see below copy of flyer sent to parents/carers by email.



The flyer is for 'Essex Active Clubs – Half Term Holiday'. It features a dark purple background with a large purple banner in the center. The banner contains the text 'BOOK ONTO A FREE HALF TERM CLUB WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!'. Above the banner, there are logos for Essex County Council, Basildon Council, and Active Essex. To the right of the banner is a cartoon illustration of a girl in a blue and white skeleton costume holding a large orange letter 'E'. Below the banner, there are four sections with dashed lines above their headings: 'Eligible children and young people are invited to book onto FREE, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations across Essex, brought to you by Active Essex on behalf of Essex County Council!', 'IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?', 'WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?', 'WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?', and 'HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?'. Each section contains detailed information about eligibility, locations, and booking. At the bottom, there is an orange button with the text 'Find out more about October half term clubs and book on here.' and a hand icon pointing to the right.

Essex County Council  
Basildon Council  
Active Essex

# Essex ACTIVATE Half Term

**BOOK ONTO A FREE HALF TERM CLUB WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!**

Eligible children and young people are invited to book onto **FREE**, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations across Essex, brought to you by Active Essex on behalf of Essex County Council!

## IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Essex ActivAte offer club spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years), who are eligible for benefit based free school meals, or from 'low-income' working families, as well as children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation.

## WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

Clubs will run in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford! Due to half term programmes being solely funded by Essex County Council, unfortunately there will not be any clubs running in Thurrock.

## WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs provide a range of different physical, enrichment and food activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a delicious, nutritious meal!

## HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

To book your child/ren onto one of our half term clubs, you will not receive a Holiday Activities voucher from your school, and you will need to book on through the Essex ActivAte website. Simply select your area, find what clubs are available and book your child on through the link provided. Depending on the club, you may need to book through our website, or contact them directly.

[Find out more about October half term clubs and book on here.](#)

## What's Going on at Barnes Farm Infant School

### Hearing Impairment Support



This week, staff have had some excellent training delivered by the Hearing Impairment Specialist Teaching Service. We work closely in school with Nicola Kerntiff, our link specialist teacher of the deaf to ensure that our school environment is inclusive as possible for those with hearing difficulties.

We are very keen to introduce basic British Sign Language which will help support all our children to develop their communication skills and will be starting with some fun activities in school to support the children to sign how they are feeling. We hope you will join in at home in learning this very important skill.

If your child is experiencing hearing difficulties or you suspect that they may need a hearing check, information on how the NHS can support is available in the link below:

<https://providechildrenandfamilyservices.co.uk/concerns/hearing/>

Also, a reminder that if your child is suffering from temporary hearing loss due to glue ear, please let Mrs Robinson or your child's class teacher know so that we can make sure that the right support is in place. Thank you 😊



### Special Educational Needs (SEN) and One Plan Meetings



Mrs Robinson is looking forward to meeting with parent/carers again this term to plan the provision for children with special educational needs for the year ahead. You will shortly receive an invitation to meet with Mrs Robinson. Please note that One Plan meetings for children in Reception will take place this half term and for children in Year 1 and 2 shortly after half term. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will direct you to the most appropriate member of staff.

### **BFIS SEN and Additional Needs and Support Workshop – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 9:15am**



We would like you to come and join us to find out all about our provision for children with additional needs at BFIS.

We hope that this will be an opportunity for you to come in and meet our Owlets Wellbeing Team, Mrs Robinson (SENCO), Mrs Webb (Family Support and Wellbeing Mentor) and Mrs Oakes (Social Skills Lead LSA) and Mrs Holden (Speech and Language Needs Lead LSA)

During the session, we will aim to give you an overview of the support and interventions available for ALL children at BFIS, as well as those on our SEN register. This will include the support we offer for children with English as an additional language, those with medical needs and those that are more able.

There will be a short presentation followed by the opportunity for you to ask questions and to get to know our team.



We will also be introducing you to Rachel and Jazmin from the Mental Health Support Team who will be supporting us in school every Wednesday.

Please complete the form on the link below to let us know if you would like to attend.

[Microsoft Forms](#)

We hope you can join us 😊





### Water Bottles



Polite reminder: Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school every day. Drinking water improves memory and attention and is vital for happy, healthy bodies. Please do not send your child into school with flavoured water or juice as this is against school policy. Thank you ☺

### Polite Reminder – Jewellery

*Jewellery (other than watches in Year 1 and 2) SHOULD NOT be worn in school.*

*If a child has pierced ears, one pair of stud earrings may be worn; however, these MUST be removed for all P.E. lessons.*

Our school policy regarding the wearing of earrings follows the Essex County Council Health and Safety ruling - "The (risk) assessments require that all jewellery is to be removed. They do not allow taping as detailed in the Primary Code. In our experience, the best time to get ears pierced is at the start of the 6-week summer break so that no PE sessions are missed.

Thank you for your support in keeping the children safe.

### Diary of Events

## **NON-PUPIL DAYS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 – JULY 2024**

**Monday 4th September 2023 and Tuesday 5th September 2023**

**Friday 20th October 2023**

**Monday 26th February 2024**

**Friday 24th May 2024**

***Please note separate letters regarding Forest Schools will be sent to year groups and messages given in the weekly newsletters.***



## AUTUMN TERM 1

Week Beginning Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Harvest Festival Food Donations Begin	Bring Items into class
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	BFIS SEN and Additional Needs and Support Workshop 9.15am	Register on FORMS – See link
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival Assembly	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	New to Reception 2024 Talks 1 9.15am	Register on FORMS (link enclosed with email sent)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Fancy Dress Sponsored Walk – School Council Event	Information to follow
Week Beginning Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Consultations	Infant School Hall Details to be Confirmed
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	New to Reception 2024 Talks 2 2pm	Register on FORMS (link enclosed with email sent)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Last Day of Term	Pupils leave at 3.15pm.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Non-Pupil Day (Staff Only)	

**SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 3.15pm  
(INSET DAY - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023)**

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### General Reminders

#### **Reporting Sickness Absence**

It is very important that we are aware if your child is unwell. Please remember to report your child's absence on Studybugs. You can download the app to report your child unwell. If you are unable to use this facility, continue to telephone the school office on 01245 467973.

#### Attendance for the Year

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



unauthorised mark for the session even if they are in school, so it is important that your child is in school on time.

If you are removing your child from school for any reason other than absence due to illness an **'Application of Leave of Absence from School During Term Time'** form will need to be completed and sent to the office prior to the date of intended absence.

### **BFIS Nut Free School**



Just a reminder that we are a nut free school. Please do not send your child to school with any items containing nuts in their packed lunch or if you are sending any other food into school. Items such as the one shown below contain nuts and should not be brought into school – thank you for your support.

### **BFIS Film**

We are so pleased to share with you all our school's short film. Permission has been given by all parents/carers for this film to be shared for promoting the school and therefore, please feel free to share this link with family and friends. Please click on the below link to view on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb7gyEmbSb8>

### **Follow us on Twitter?**

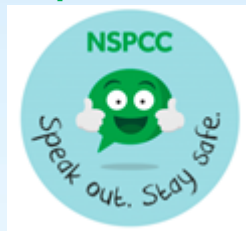
If you have a Twitter account, why not follow our school... **@FarmBarnes**

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.





### NSPCC – Speak Out, Stay Safe



Our children at BFIS know that children know they have the right to:

- speak out and be heard
- be safe
- get help when they need it

They know that the following things are NOT OK!

- Hitting
- Hurting children's feelings
- Privates are private
- Not being looked after properly at home
- Bullying
- Hurting online

We pride ourselves on being a 'Telling School' and teach the children that to stay safe and happy, they must share any worries with a trusted grown-up. If ever your child has any worries, we are more than happy to help and give advice. Please contact your child's class teacher or a member of the Owlets Wellbeing team.







### **Barnes Farm Infant School Local Governing Body**

Katie Corbett – Chair of Governors – Parent Governor

Matthew Musson – Vice Chair of Governors

Mrs Z. Farmer – Headteacher

Mrs K. Robinson – Assistant Headteacher and Staff Governor

Geoff Walker –Community Governor

Tim Berrisford - Community Governor

