



# Barnes Farm Infant School

# Newsletter

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

Follow us on Twitter: @FarmBarnes

20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Message from the Headteacher

## Singing Around the Christmas Tree

Our wonderful Year 2 children gave us an absolute treat after school on Monday with their 'Singing Around the Christmas Tree' Event. Thank you to all the children who sang beautifully and really made us feel in the festive spirit! Great job Year 2!

## Reflecting on a Fabulous Term

I would like to say how proud we are of the children in our school. There have been some incredible learning opportunities and work taking place this term across the school. We have been really pleased with the progress the Reception children have made since Autumn. Not only are they settled into school life but creating some amazing learning together too. Year 1 and Year 2 have been amazing role models for our new additions and it seems that in these year groups writing is starting to become the 'favourite subject'! I am looking forward to sharing more wonderful achievements in the New Year. Not just in the classroom but in school events (both in and out of school), the behaviour around the school and attitudes to learning is great and I am so proud of every single child's achievement to date.

## Good Luck

This week, we have welcomed new teachers, Mr Gwynn and Miss Thomas. Mr Gwynn will become Tawny Owl Class teacher and Miss Thomas Hedgehog Class teacher. We wish Mrs Farren all the best in her new school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for being a wonderful class teacher and especially for the positive impact she has had on mathematics in the school. To our brilliant Mrs Day, we wish her all the best as she begins her maternity leave. We hope you manage to have a rest and we look forward to welcoming a new addition in the new year.



### Our Joint PTA

In the summer term, the joint Barnes Farm PTA relaunched. This included meetings to establish key roles and setting up the future of the PTA moving forward. There has been much to implement behind the scenes and the key members have been working extremely hard to establish the future of the group. Please see a below update from the team:

***It has been a very busy term for the newly-reformed PTA, though we're acutely aware that it might not look like it from the outside!***

***We spent the summer trying to track down the various accounts and memberships that the PTA was part of, and begin the process of transferring them to the new team, including things like setting up the various websites, insurances and logistics we need, including DBS checks for the officers so that we can conduct activities on school premises.***

***As the PTA is a registered charity, there was quite a bottleneck of changes that could not be completed until the charity details were updated. Unfortunately, the Charity Commission decided to update and replace a lot of their systems over the summer, which really slowed down and complicated this process much more than we were anticipating. Once this was finally done, we could then transfer the bank details and remaining accounts into the names of the new trustees.***

***We've also been exploring possible future events and fundraising activities, now that we have everything in place to be able to run them, and we're working with both school heads to set up events for the rest of the school year. We look forward to being able to share more with you all soon.***

All members of the school community are automatically part of the PTA (Parent and Teacher Association). As a parent/carer you can take an active role in the group if you wish. This could be by supporting events, lending a hand to support the team behind the scenes or just giving your child the opportunity to be involved in PTA events. More information will be shared in the new year as to how you can be involved if this is something that interests you.

### Electrical Devices – Information for Parents/Carers

*Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?*



*Visit [www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings](http://www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings) for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online.  
#StaySafe*

### We Wish you a Merry Christmas

I hope that you all have a wonderful break and enjoy time with family and friends over the festive period. Barnes Farm Infant School wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Mrs Farmer



### Festive Celebrations at Barnes Farm Infant School - 2023

#### BFIS Fundraising



A big THANK YOU to all of the parent/carers that have supported donations towards our magical events during the Christmas period. Without your contributions we would not be able to arrange the festive fun that makes this time of year so special for the children in school. If you have not yet donated but would still like to, you can still do so via ParentPay. Any monies left over will go towards items on our BFIS wish list to further improve the school environment.



## Christmas in the Community

### Elf Day!



We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Boston and Kennady from Mace Playce for our wonderful visit from the Elf on the Shelf. The children were thrilled to meet the main elf and the staff joined in with the festive spirit too and elves could be found everywhere around the school! Mace Playce also very kindly donated a free play for every child in the school in January which we know will be very much appreciated.





## Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree!



A big thank you to Longacres Garden Centre for donating our fabulous Christmas tree in the playground and the Mrs Webb for all of her hard work to make our school have a fabulous Christmassy feel!



**Salvation Army and Kids Inspire**



We were fortunate to receive food hampers from the Salvation Army, and children's Christmas presents from Kids Inspire for those families who may need a little extra help at this time of year. These were very gratefully received and as a school we are thankful that there are so many kind charities in our community to offer support at this time of year. You can find more information about these amazing charities on the links below:

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk)  
<https://www.kidsinspire.org.uk/>



### Reindeer Day!



On Monday, we were joined by some very special guests, Santa and Snowy and Steve the Reindeer! The children loved visiting the reindeer and Santa and finding out about what they are doing at this time of year. This magical event has become an annual tradition at BFIS, and we hope that Snowy and Steve can join us again next year.

### Christmas Craft Day!

We have been very busy making lots of wonderful festive crafts to take home! All of the children have worked very hard to make Christmas cards, calendars, salt-dough decorations and decorated photo frames to show off their visit to some very special helpers.



### Christmas Party Day!

What a lovely party day Reception have had today. We met Father Christmas who told us a Christmas story. The Badgers and Rabbits have come home with a special present from Father Christmas and wonderful gifts for their family.



### Celebrating Christmas in Reception



The children had a magical time in Reception this Christmas. We met a head elf, a reindeer and Father Christmas himself. Our Nativity performance was incredible. The children worked so hard and enjoyed singing some beautiful songs telling the story of the first Christmas.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for their support, kind wishes and gifts. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



### Celebrating Christmas in Year 2

The children and adults in Year 2 have had the most magical time this festive season! We have created lots of Christmas crafts to enjoy at home, we have met the Head Elf, Santa himself and two of his very important helpers – Snowy and Steve! The children also worked very hard to learn lots of Christmas songs and actions to perform for the Year 2 Christmas Singing around the Tree. All of the children were brilliant and all of the adults in school are extremely proud of them – well done Barn Owls, Snowy Owls and Tawny Owls. From all of the adults in Year 2 we wish all of the Year 2 children and their parents/carers a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

### Celebration Awards

#### BFIS Over and Above School Focus

Each week, we reward the children for following our school ethos. This week's School Focus Certificate is for showing Festive Spirit!



Class	Year Group	Name
	Reception	
Badger		Max
Rabbit		Finley
	Year 1	
Hedgehog		Jacob
Squirrel		Kaius
Otter		Robin
	Year 2	
Barn Owl		Samuel
Snowy Owl		Lewis
Tawny Owl		Whole Class





## Office Corner Page

### Letters and Flyers

Please find below letters/ emails sent home this week:

Letters / Emails Sent Home/ Information	Year Group
FROM THE OFFICE – Email – Teacher Led Clubs go Live	All
FROM THE OFFICE – Email – SCS and Prosports Clubs available to book.	All

### Lost Property

Each class has its own box for lost property, can you please make sure you check if you are missing anything. Anything that is left at the end of the term will be reused or discarded.

### Information from the Admissions Team – Reception Admissions for Academic Year Starting in September 2024

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2024.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, applications can be made on line via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)  
All application information is available on the website detailed above.

Even if parents already have a sibling at the school, they need to apply if they have a child due to start Reception in September.

### Information from the Admissions Team – Year 2 – 3 Admissions for Academic Year Starting in September 2024

Parents of current Year 2 children at the Infant school need to make a formal application to the Council for a Year 3 place and can do so via the website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

The junior school (Year 3) admission round opened on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023, for parents of children to apply for a junior school place for the academic year that starts in September 2024.



The statutory national closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, applications can be made on line via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)  
All application information is available on the website detailed above.

If your child attends Barnes Farm Infant School they **WILL NOT** automatically get a place at Barnes Farm Junior School, you **WILL** need to apply.

### [Studybugs](#)



#### **REMINDER TO SIGN UP**

Studybugs is an efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence and allows for quick and easy dialogue between yourselves and the school. The main benefit of this system is that it is app based so users of the app will no longer need to phone into school to report illness. Studybugs is fully integrated with our school systems and so information is up to date and easy to manage. If you have not already done so, please download the app or register at (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>) it's free.





## 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.*

### SPRING TERM 1

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HOLIDAY – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 3.15pm

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils Return	Doors open at 8.45am
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### 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 S. Merrick – Assistant Headteacher and Staff Governor

Mrs K. Jukes – Office Administrator and Staff Governor

Geoff Walker –Community Governor

Tim Berrisford - Community Governor

