



# Barnes Farm Infant School Newsletter

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9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Message from the Headteacher

### Children's Mental Health Week at BFIS



As you will know, wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do here at BFIS. Our main aim is for our children to be happy and healthy so that they can **'Be their Best'**.

To celebrate and raise awareness of how we can stay happy and healthy, we acknowledged Children's Mental Health week this week.


The theme for Children's Mental Health Week this year was **'My Voice Matters'** and we empowered children by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

There was a fantastic week arranged full of wellbeing activities for the children and I would like to thank all parents/carers in supporting us to make this happen. Also, a BIG THANK YOU to Mrs Robinson for organising so many different visitors to join us this week.

## Open Door Policy

Following on from my communication in last week's newsletter, I wanted to raise again the correct routes to raise concerns. I have been made aware that many classes have WhatsApp groups where matters have been raised which should be brought to the school's attention rather than other parents/carers. Although these groups provide a great network, it is important that when parents/carers have a concern this is raised directly with the school. The staff work incredibly hard behind the scenes and will always listen to how improvements can be made. If we do not know, we cannot advise how to move forwards. Parents Evening is coming up after the



Proud to be part of the 

holiday, but please do not wait until then to raise a matter with the class teacher if this is urgent/causing concern.



Uniform Optional Day Friday 16th February  
£1 Donation

For a donation to the PTA's Summer Fete fundraising (£1 suggested), children of all classes across both schools are invited to choose to come to school out of uniform on Friday, 16th February. PTA representatives and volunteers will be collecting at school entrances on the morning of the 16th, so please remember to bring cash if your child wants to attend in non-uniform, or if you just want to donate to the fundraising!



**Parent Consultations – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February and  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February**

Our Parent/Carer Consultations are taking place on Wednesday 28th February (3.30pm to 6.00pm) and Thursday 29th February (5.30pm to 8.00pm). If you haven't booked a consultation, please visit our school website on the tab labelled 'Parent Consultation Bookings'. Please select your child's class teacher/class from the tabs and make ONE APPOINTMENT ONLY.

If your child is on the SEN register, or you would like to discuss additional needs that your child has, please also make an appointment with Mrs Robinson, which you will find under the same tab. You will receive an email to confirm your booking. Please allow up to 10 minutes for this to arrive and check your junk mail. If you are having any difficulties, please email the school office on [admin@barnesfarm-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@barnesfarm-inf.essex.sch.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.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

This week we have been focusing on our owl code kind and gentle.



Class	Year Group	Name
	Reception	
Badger		Logan
Rabbit		Alanna
	Year 1	
Hedgehog		Hugo
Squirrel		Ernest
Otter		Sophie
	Year 2	
Barn Owl		Leo
Snowy Owl		Giulia
Tawny Owl		Darius

### Virtual Reading Corner with Mrs White

At Barnes Farm Infant School, we love books! Whether listening to stories read by an adult or reading a book ourselves, reading is fundamental to our school. Every day, the children are reading and hearing stories across our curriculum.

In my Virtual Reading Corner, I will be sharing our love of reading with our BFIS community.

This week I would like to introduce our new Reading Champions. Nikol, Adam, Rose, Heidi, Sophie and Ethan who will be sharing their love of reading with the school through book recommendations, looking after the book corners so they are exciting and fresh, helping with special events and supporting us to make our library even better.

#### BFIS Book Recommendation of the Week

In Storytelling Club we have been enjoying 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxbury. This is a super book to act out. We used musical instruments to make the sounds from the book as we retold it. Great fun! Find the book at the library or here is a link to Michael reading it online.

[We're Going on a Bear Hunt performed by Michael Rosen \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



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

### Mental Health week in Squirrel Class



In year one this week we have been reading the story 'Conker the Chameleon'. These are some of the collages that Squirrel Class made!

### Mental Health week in Otter Class



Year One had an amazing Yoga experience today. They learnt lots of new poses and Otter's favourite was the 'Cheetah Pose'!



### Mental Health week in Hedgehog Class



In Year One we have been designing our own scarves as part of 'Wear Your Scarf to School Day'. These are some that Hedgehogs designed!

### Mental Health Week in Year 2

WOW! What a busy week the children in Year 2 have had! The theme this year was 'My Voice Matters' so all of the children's lessons and activities were about strategies to share their thoughts, feelings and emotions as well as how we can inspire others to be their best by finding their voice and how to use it for the better! This week the children took part in a PSHE workshop inside the LifeSpace tent that taught and encouraged the children to share their feelings and worries meaning they would feel a lot better and happier when they do. On Tuesday they children were taught mini first aid strategies to help one another. On Wednesday we walked to the Church of our Saviour to see some of the symbols and objects we had been learning about in RE in real life. Throughout the day on Thursday the children really enjoyed taking part in the some yoga sessions and Friday we all felt great wearing our scarf to school!

### Forest School Timetable - 2024

See below the timetable for Forest schools.

DATE	YEAR GROUP
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1
29 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception



21 <sup>st</sup> March	Reception
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception

## Office Corner Page

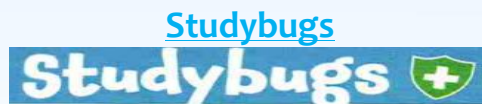
### Letters and Flyers

Please find below letters/ emails sent home this week:

Letters / Emails Sent Home/ Information	Year Group
FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE – Email – Parent Consultations	ALL

### Lost Property

Could you please make sure that all items of uniform and clothing is clearly labelled. We have a very large box of lost property left after each term which we cannot reunite with owners and therefore must be reused for spare or discarded.



### REMINDER TO SIGN UP

Can we please remind those parents who have not signed up to do so.

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

### NON-PUPIL DAYS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 – JULY 2025

Monday 2nd September 2024 and Tuesday 3rd September 2024  
Friday 25th October 2024  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Monday 24th February 2025  
Friday 23rd May 2025

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

### SPRING TERM (Term 3)

Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent and Carer Assembly Snowy Owl Class – 9.15am	Infant School Hall. No need to book, just turn up.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Last Day of Term	Pupils leave at 3.15pm.

**SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 3.15pm**

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024  
(INSET DAY - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024)**





## SPRING TERM (Term 4)

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Non-Pupil Day (Staff Only)	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Pupils Back	Doors Open at 8.45am

### 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:

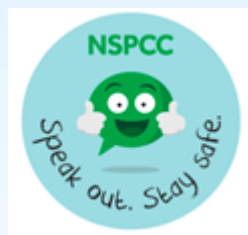
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb7gvEmbSb8>

### [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



## Barnes Farm Infant School Newsletter

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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

