

BARNES FARM INFANT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Z Farmer
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Dear Parents / Carers

We have reached the end of another fabulous year, that has seen many exciting changes in the school not only for our pupils but for our staff and buildings too! It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming our excellent new team of EYFS staff and the foundation children who have grown so much both physically and in their sheer enjoyment of learning and being part of the school. Both our Year 1's and Year 2's have continued to fill us all with pride in their range of achievements, their engagement and their individual and collective development this year. We will miss our Year 2 children as they fly the owl nest over to the Juniors with our best wishes.

Governors – what have we been doing?

This year we have been working with the Senior Management team to oversee not only the Key areas of the School Development plan, and attend our committee meetings, but have also assisted in the consultation and subsequent transition to the Multi Academy Trust. From July 1st we have officially moved to Academy status and our thanks goes not only the Head and Senior Team, but to the Office Manager and all the staff who have worked tirelessly to achieve this. As Governors we will continue to form the Local Governing Body under the new scheme and last week met with CEO Mr Paul Banks to discuss our roles and continuing support of the school.

Governing Body membership has remained consistent this year with the exception of the departure of Mr Blundell and we have welcomed a new addition to our team, Mrs E Keeley who has taken on responsibility for all issues relating to SEND and has been completing her governance training. All Governors attended training sessions in effective governance, Mrs Pascoe-Youell and myself have completed additional courses in Governance leadership.

It has been a pleasure this year to attend Parent Council meetings and work with representatives of the classes and provide a gateway between parents and the governing body. We have also been increasing our visibility at whole school events such as the wonderful harvest festival, open evenings, Christmas festivities and at teaching workshops in addition to the monitoring visits we all take part in within the school. We welcome your feedback and hope you feel you have the opportunity to meet with us and discuss any issues of concern.

Proud to be part of



The School

Not only have we changed to an academy but the school itself has undergone a lot of changes this year. We had a fabulous DIY SOS day in October where staff and parents transformed the outside classrooms into a bright rainbow of colours, this was repeated in June where both the inside of the school and the wildlife garden received a lot of TLC. Our new play equipment has been installed and is not only being enjoyed by the children but is assisting in physical development, teamwork and co-operative learning. In even more exciting news, having worked very hard with Essex Council our atrium roof is coming off over the summer holiday and a newly designed permanent roof will take its place. This will not only allow us to control the temperatures but will provide some additional designated learning space for all the children to use. Our friendly artist will also be back over the summer to complete the beautiful wall mural and truly make it 'Barnes Farm'.

The Staff

One of our ongoing aims is to provide not only an exceptional education for the pupils but to provide outstanding teaching through our staff. We appreciate there have been many changes in the recent history of the school and thank you for your understanding while all the new changes have been taking place. The school has, during the last year gone from strength to strength with thanks to a terrific staff, both new and past, who have worked together this year to bring the school to the great place we are currently in.

In September, in addition to our new EYFS team we welcomed Mrs Speller our new Deputy Head who not only worked alongside Mrs Walker to introduce our 3PR Scheme, but who has been transforming our literacy programme with increased phonics, the super reader scheme, extreme reading challenges, book day and a fabulous author visit. All years have made significant progress in literacy areas and have rediscovered a love of reading and books to be topped off today with the Peter Pan Panto.

We have also welcomed our New Headteacher Mrs Farmer who has been working very closely with the Governing Body not only to make sure the school is a safe, secure and a fantastic place to learn, but to introduce new ideas and enrichments to take the school from a good place to be to a great one.

Sadly the end of term brings some departures, we say a fond farewell and a great deal of thanks for all your hard work to Mr Johns from our Otter class, Mrs Feest, Mrs Reed, Mrs Perry and Mrs Marsland from our teaching support and to Mrs Tydeman, formerly of Snowy Owl class who has decided not to return from maternity leave and enjoy motherhood a little bit longer. You will all be greatly missed.

Pupils

It is a testament to our staff and to our pupils that so much has been packed into this year! Our Forest schools scheme has provided some wonderful opportunities for all years, there have been Iron Men landing in the school, spaceships, Teddy-lympics, interschool competitions, sports events, Children in Need, and a fabulous opportunity to meet real live owls. The pupils have been working each half term on parts of the owl code, increasing their social awareness not only of themselves and each other but as a community as a whole. Whilst monitoring the

behaviour policies and schemes we have seen just how well behaved and considerate our pupils are and how this is continuing outside of school on visits and in the home. It is fantastic to see all those bronze, silver and gold awards and we will continue to develop the behaviour scheme in the new year.

Finally, a thank you to all the parents for supporting your children with their home learning, their costumes, their many event and charity days and mostly for your continuing support of the school this year. We are looking forward to seeing all of you next year. Have a wonderful summer.



Mrs H Hards
Chair of Governors
Barnes Farm Infant School.