

# Barnes Farm Infant School

## Newsletter



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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

### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, welcome back to Year 1 and 2 and a **BIG** Barnes Farm Welcome to our new pupils (and parents and carers) who joined the school this week. I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday. The children have returned ready to begin learning and I am also really impressed with how smart the children look in their school uniforms.

Mrs Bentham (EYFS Leader) and Mrs Speller (Deputy Headteacher) would like to invite EYFS Parents and Carers to join them for a **Phonics and Reading Workshop**. There will be two dates parents and carers can attend. The workshop is repeated so you only need to attend one date. Children are welcome to stay too.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 3:30pm – 4:30pm in Badger Class**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 3:30pm – 4:30pm in Badger Class**

Just a reminder to all parents and carers that school dinners are **free** to all children in **Reception, Year 1** and **Year 2**. There is a variety of choice throughout the week and menus can be found on our website.

I have been asked if it is OK for the children to bring birthday sweets to school. I am more than happy for this to happen however, there is no expectation from the school that treats are provided when it is a child's birthday. This decision is completely for the parents and carers of individual children. Although if you do wish to do this, please can I remind you that we are a nut free school.

Home learning will begin next week. For those children in Year 1 and 2, homework will be set on a Friday and needs to be returned no later than the following Wednesday.

Year 1	Year 2
Spellings will be brought home to practise in a blue book and these spellings will be tested in the back of the book during class time (please practise additional paper and not in the blue books).	Spellings will be brought home to practise in a blue book and these spellings will be tested in the back of the book during class time time (please practise additional paper and not in the blue books).
<b>Alternative weeks</b> , a piece of mathematics or English will be set in our new homework books (set on Friday and returned no later than the following Wednesday).	<b>Each week</b> , a piece of Mathematics and English will be set in our new homework books (set on Friday and returned no later than the following Wednesday).



## Take Away Menus

At the start of a new topic and/or term, teachers in each year-group will create a list of creative homework tasks. The actual number of tasks will vary and will be determined primarily by the length of time the topic/term will run for and by the age of the children. There will be approximately 10 tasks available in Key Stage 1. The tasks will be differentiated: some will be straightforward to understand and complete; others will be more difficult and require greater consideration or involve more higher-order thinking skills. Over the course of the term, whilst the topic is being covered, the children will be entirely free to pick and choose which homework tasks they attempt. The homework tasks will be presented as a 'menu' and where possible will be linked to the theme of the topic work. Children will be challenged to complete work of varying level of difficulty.

In Reception, we encourage children to share their school books with adults from home in the first term. It is important that **all** children aim to read x5 to an adult each week and that this is recorded in the Home/School Diary.

## Attendance

Our attendance target for the year is **97%**.

We continue to encourage and reward excellent attendance at Barnes Farm Infant School. Please remember to call the office if your child is absent for any reason.

**Please be aware that regulations changed from 1 October 2017. Any 10 unauthorised sessions taken over a 10-week period can now be subject to a Penalty Notice being issued (1 session is a morning or afternoon). Remember that the school cannot authorise any holidays in term time.**

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Farmer



### All New!

I am sure that you have noticed our lovely **NEW** atrium roof. The roof was installed over the summer holiday and has already made such a difference to our learning environment. Ethan in Year 2 told me that the roof was, 'Nicer and Better!' I have to say that I definitely agree with Ethan. We will be returning the library back to this space and creating lots of learning hubs where children can work with adults in small groups.



If you have been on the morning drop-off or evening pick-up, you may have noticed our new mural in the playground. Last year's pupils raised a significant amount of money to improve the wall and buy new playtime equipment. Initially last term, Danny Bench, local artist, painted the landscape (background) but was unable to add the farm animals due to rain and poor weather. He returned to the school over the holidays to complete the wall and it looks smashing! Danny was asked to create a farm scene to reflect the history of the school as part of our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

Mural by MbyDB, Murals by Danny Bench



## Attendance

Our attendance target for the year is **97%**.

Best class attendance this week was Fox, Rabbit and Otter with 100.0%. Well done to you all!

Whole school attendance this week was **97.6%**.

Whole school attendance for the year so far was **97.6%**.

We continue to encourage and reward excellent attendance at Barnes Farm Infant School. Please remember to call the office if your child is absent for any reason.

**Please be aware that regulations changed from 1 October 2017. Any 10 unauthorised sessions taken over a 10-week period can now be subject to a Penalty Notice being issued (1 session is a morning or afternoon). Remember that the school cannot authorise any holidays in term time.**

## **We are 30!**

The school is celebrating it's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and during this term, we will be holding a variety of activities to celebrate. The first of the celebrations comes in the form of a competition...

### Competition Time

**I would like the children to design a 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Card for the school. They may wish just to design the front of the birthday card or make the whole thing! I would like any competition entries to be handed to me by next Friday (14<sup>th</sup> September) so I can announce the winners in our Friday Celebration Assembly. Any entries need to have the child's name and class clearly marked on the back of the design/card.**

**Good Luck All!**

### Security and Access to the Barnes Farm Site

The security fencing at the front of the school has been successfully upgraded to better protect our pupils and site. As a result, the access arrangements are slightly different from now on but have been designed to strike the right balance between safeguarding those onsite whilst continuing to ensure ease of access at busy times. The information below will be important for you to note ahead of the first day back at school so that you know what to expect.

- Entry onto the Junior school site should be via the main entrance
- The Hill playground gate (on the footpath linking Henniker Gate) will no longer be in service and will be for emergency use only
- Parents/children (and visitors) arriving onto the school site from **8:55am** onwards will need to buzz for authorised entry to the junior school and come to the main infant reception for entry to the infant school.
- Authorised entry onto the school site for end of the day pick-up will be from **3:10pm – 3:25pm** – please exit the site promptly once you've picked up your child
- Access onto the school site will then be restricted from 3:25pm once our clubs begin until 4:10pm to enable end of club pick-ups
- Pupils attending clubs after school in the infants will need to be collected from reception



## Clubs - Years 1 and 2

There are still places on some of the school led and external clubs. Clubs will start week beginning the **17<sup>th</sup> September**. You can book spaces via ParentPay.

We have also secured a **Yoga** teacher and she will be running a Yoga club Thursday afternoons after school for Years 1 and 2. Again, to sign up your child for the yoga club, please access your PayPal account.

## Parking in the Local Area

### **Parking around school**

I would also like to emphasise the opportunity that a new term presents to improve the traffic congestion (particularly at the end of the day) around school. The attached 'Park and Stride' leaflet contains information about how to take advantage of parking at Asda and walking the short route through to school. A huge thank you must also go to those parents who have already made 'the switch' and contributed to improving the safety of our pupils.

### **Morning Top Tips (if you need to drive)**

Take advantage of our 10 minute 'window' from 08:45-08:55 and drop your child off in the turning circle at the front of the schools.

- Park and Stride from Asda
- Pupils are rewarded on 3PR days with a token - park outside the 3PR zone so that the area immediately outside school is left clear allowing traffic to flow more freely

### **End of the day top tips (if you need to drive)**

- Park and Stride from Asda
- Drive a little further round Henniker gate and walk along the footpath – there are always plenty of spaces at this other end of the road.
- No stopping in the turning circle

## **The Children's Society - Understanding My Child's Behaviour - FREE 8-week course**

We are lucky enough to be able to offer the chance for parents to attend a free 8-week course run by The Children's Society entitled, 'Understanding My Child's Behaviour'. The course ran last term to great success, in fact 100% of parents who attended reported an improvement in wellbeing, boundaries and behaviour, family routine and their child's education and learning. This term we can offer the course on a Tuesday evening between 5.30 and 7.30pm. We hope this means that even more of you will be able to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity. If you would like to find out more, please come along to meet Sonia at 5.30pm on Tuesday 18th September in The Barn. Please let Mrs Wilson know if you would like to attend.



## **Barnes Farm Infants Governing Body**

Heidi Hards - Chair of Governors - Parent Governor  
Rebecca Pascoe-Youell - Vice Chair of Governors - Co-opted Governor  
Ana Johnson - Parent Governor  
Vallerie Bellamy- Local Authority Governor  
Susannah Wookey- Co-opted Governor  
James Russell- Co-opted Governor  
Kate Sutton- Co-opted Governor  
Mrs Z. Farmer - Head teacher  
Mrs E Speller – Deputy Head teacher and Staff Governor  
Elizabeth Keeley - Co-opted Governor

