

Barnes Farm Infant School

Newsletter



Friday 30th November 2018

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

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

HEALTHY SCHOOL

I am really pleased to let you know that the school has successfully been through the revalidation of the Healthy Schools Award. A big thank you to all for supporting the school. Without your support from home, we would not be able to achieve so much at BFIS.

Today it has been lovely not only to see so many children busy at work but also the parents and carers of Year 1, who joined us to make a variety of Christmas resources for the Year 1 productions. Thank you all for your help – I hope the mince pies helped! I would also like to say thank you to the parents that have taken time to come into school over the last few weeks to speak to various classes also.

It has been a great week at school. Hedgehogs and Squirrels were visited this week by a Mantle of the Expert lead teacher who was in school to show us how to develop our whole school mantle approach even further. In Year 1, the children have been creating their own coach companies to help them explore the UK. However, the children were faced with a problem to solve... 'How will we explore the UK in our coaches if big holes have opened up in the ground?'

We have been very lucky in school and received some wonderful donations of toys that children have grown out of. Can I say a huge thank you to all that have donated – from cars to play tables, we are using them all!

Fund Raising 2018 – 2019

This year, we have decided that all the funds that we raise throughout the year will go into the following areas for the school:

- **Metal cutlery for lunchtimes** – The children find using the plastic cutlery hard especially on roast dinner days so we thought metal cutlery may help them to become more independent.
- **Replacing the canopy in the playground** – This will allow the children to sit under shade in the sunshine.
- **Replace the picnic benches on the playground** – Making the seating outside a more appealing area to sit socially.
- **Comfy seating in the atrium** – Our new library would be enhanced with some lovely comfy seats for us to share books.

Over the year, we hold a variety of events such as the Movie and Munch and through these events, we can buy additional resources to make the school even better for the children. So, if you see our collection bucket at the end of the concerts, you will know where the money is going!

PTA Big Event!

On **Saturday 9th March**, the PTA are hosting a Charity Spring Ball 2019. The PTA have worked extremely hard to organise this event for the Barnes Farm Schools. It will be held at the Lion Inn. Please see the flyer below for more information. Bookings and payments can be made through ParentPay.

Competition Time

This week, I would like to launch the first of my Winter Season Competitions. It is important that as a school, we send Christmas Cards to our local community and those that work alongside us. So, this week's competition is to design the front of a Barnes Farm Infant School Christmas Card. This will need to be scanned, so it is probably best to avoid sticking items onto the design! Please can you put your child's name and class on the back of the entry, so I know who to give credit to. Good Luck to all the budding designers out there!

Please can I ask that at the beginning and the end of the day, dogs are not tied to the school fences and are not brought onto the school site. Thank you.

Just a reminder, if you would like to purchase any of the individual photographs that were taken, they need to be returned to the school office by **Tuesday 4th December** so that Horizon can collect them. After this date any photograph requests will need to be posted by yourselves directly to Horizon.

If you do have a child that is due to start school in September 2019, applications are now open. As a school, we have one more **New to Reception 2019** talk left on **Thursday 10th January @ 9.15am**. If you cannot wait until the 15th, individual tours and visit are also warmly welcomed.

Year 2 Parents and Carers – IMPORTANT INFORMATION **Infant to Junior School Transfer**

The process for Year 2 to 3 transfers has changed for Year 3 admissions into junior schools. Parents of **current Year 2** children need to make a formal application to the junior school through the Council and can do so via the website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

The junior admission round opened on **Monday 12 November 2018** for this application and the closing date for applications is **15 January 2019**.

From 12 November 2018, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Have a great weekend all,
Mrs Farmer



Attendance

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

Best class attendance this week was **Badger with 99%**. Well done to Badger!! 😊

Whole school attendance this week was **96%**.

Whole school attendance for the year so far is **97.3%**.

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.

Maths Wizard Challenge Cards

We are very pleased to announce the relaunch of the popular 'Challenge Me' cards which are now entitled 'Maths Wizard Challenge Cards' in line with our whole school Maths Wizard theme. These have been adapted to reflect the 'Mastery' approach to teaching and learning that our school has adopted. Because of this, a number of changes have been implemented which will be explained here for your information. We will also be offering a parent workshop for those who would like further clarification.

As you may be aware, the 'Mastery' approach focuses on embedding a deep understanding of number which can then be transferred to other mathematical areas. Because of this, we will not be testing children on how 'quick' they are to answer a question, but how well they can *apply* their knowledge to 1 or 2 pre-set questions, which will be carried out by a member of staff when the children feel they are ready and want to be checked. They can give the card to the teacher and at some point in the day they will be checked. If they can answer the question/s they will receive a 'Golden Time' square for the class chart.

Each child will be given one 'Maths Wizard Challenge Card' that is relevant for their year group. It has a whole years' worth of work inside that follows the National Curriculum. This compliments everything that is being taught in school and has some examples of how to do it for your information. This is a great way to encourage a home/school partnership for your children's mathematical development. If you have any questions at all, please speak to your child's class teacher. BBC Bitesize KS1 also has some fantastic videos to show parents how they can teach their children various mathematical concepts. The calculation policy on our school website is also very useful.

Winter is Approaching



As winter creeps ever closer, please can you remember to send your child in with a warm coat, hat and gloves. It is very cold at playtime and although they are running around playing, they do feel the cold. Outside PE kits must be in bags every week which should include a warm tracksuit and trainers. We allow the children to wear their coats over their PE kit on particularly cold day which is why a warm coat is essential.

Bookworms of the Week

Well done to all the Super readers this week for reading 5 times at home. **Congratulations to Ayat in Fox class** who won the prize draw for reading at least 5 times this week. Her name was picked out of the cupcake pot and she chose one of Mrs Speller's special books from the basket to take home.

Fox Class was the winning class who recorded the most children who had read 5 times or more this week and got to choose a new book for their class library 67% of their children reading 5 times this week.



Well Done Bookworms. Keep Reading!

Achievement Certificates

Well Done to the following Stars of the Week



Badger – Maria

Fox - Olivia

Rabbit – Ben

Hedgehog – Daniel

Squirrel – Nihal

Otter - Finley

Tawny Owl – Benjamin

Barn Owl – Oliver P

Snowy Owl - Ethan

Mathematical Wizards of the Week

Reception – Sophie (Rabbit)

Year 1 – Sophie (Rabbit)

Year 2 – Emma(Snowy Owl)



Well Done Children!

Free thinking Friday

Why does the sea have waves?

Here are a few of the children's thoughts:

"Whales need waves to swim around the ocean"

"With now waves the sail boats can't move"

"Earthquakes in the sea make the waves"

"The waves keep the fish living"

"Because the sharks are moving"

Philosophical question of the week.



BOOK FAIR ALL NEXT WEEK



On Monday, we have the Book People's Book Fair arriving in school for a week. We will be holding the book fair in the atrium (both ends) so

please come and browse the wonderful selection on offer from children's picture books, fun Christmas activity books, joke books (a great stocking filler!) and lots more including small Christmas presents. It's a great opportunity for children to spend their hard-earned pocket money or begin their Christmas shopping.

Come and join us from Monday to Friday after school





EYFS – To practise the words ‘bee’ and ‘rain’ reading our library book
Year 1 – Maths page 8, spellings and reading
Year 2 – Spelling page 21 and maths page 23, spellings and reading

We are really pleased with how the children have responded to our new home learning books this week. Please make sure your child completes their homework and if you would like to mark it with them then please do as this will generate discussion at the point in which the homework is completed (some answers are found in the back of the book).

Please remember to send the little blue spelling books into school no later than Wednesday so that the children can do their test in the back of the book in class before they receive new spellings on the Friday.

Please note if your child is finding their homework difficult please speak to their class teacher who will be able to help.



*FOBFS PTA Charity Spring Ball
Saturday 9th March 2019*

*The Lion Inn, Boreham
Prosecco Arrival at 7pm
3 Course Meal
Half Bottle of Wine
Raffle*

*Formal Dress-Masquerade Optional
Tickets £65pp or £120 for a pair
First come, first serve basis*

Payment required by Thursday 31st January 2019

Carriages at Midnight

Volunteers

If you are happy to listen to children read on a regular basis or would be able to support us test the children on their Challenge Me Cards for Mathematics, please come and see me on the playground.

Barnes Farm Infants Governing Body

Heidi Hards - Chair of Governors - Parent Governor

Rebecca Pascoe-Youell - Vice Chair of Governors - Community Governor

Ana Johnson - Parent Governor

Valerie Bellamy- Community Governor

Susannah Wookey- Community Governor

James Russell- Community Governor

Kate Sutton- Community Governor

Mrs Z. Farmer - Head teacher

Mrs E Speller – Deputy Head teacher and Staff Governor

Elizabeth Keeley - Community Governor

The NHS logo, consisting of the letters 'NHS' in a white, bold, sans-serif font inside a dark blue square.

Mid Essex Hospital Services
NHS Trust



Calling all parents who are returning to work

For more information, simply contact:

Shelley Prior, Recruitment Officer

Tel: 01245 516524 | Email: Shelley.prior@meht.nhs.uk