

Barnes Farm Junior School

Henniker Gate, Chelmer Village,

Essex CM2 6QH

Head Teacher: Mr R McTaggart

Tel: 01245 467973

Fax: 01245 461947

E-mail: admin@barnesfarm-jun.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.barnesfarmjuniors.co.uk



19 April 2021

School Closure - Thursday 6th May 2021 due to Local Elections

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Thursday 6th May 2021, local elections are to be held and polling stations will open. The Barnes Farm site has again been requested as a polling station for the local community. Safeguarding issues always have to be managed on polling days given the free and open access needed onsite for members of the general public. In December 2019, we avoided having to close through the council siting of a temporary voting station in our car park (meaning we could continue to operate within our school boundary). The council cannot provide that resource this year. In addition, we are still in the midst of a pandemic with all the restrictions that are still in force. As a result, the polling station needs to be in the Barn (in the middle of the school site) and therefore both schools cannot safely open the site to the public for polling and at the same time fulfil our safeguarding duties.

Therefore, Thursday 6th May 2021 will be a **non-pupil day** and children will not attend school. The teachers will provide guidance for activities which can be undertaken at home to support learning. The school will be then re-open on Friday 7th May as normal. Both schools have not taken this decision lightly but believe that this is the safest option at this time as we are unable to provide the access needed to the community safely whilst remaining open.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr McTaggart and Mrs Farmer

