

From the Chief Executive Officer

It has been an excellent start to 2020 in all our schools. This month saw the publication of the validated GCSE and A Level results. It is incredibly pleasing to note that our secondary schools perform well above other secondary schools nationally:

Key Performance Measure	CLP Secondary Schools	National
Progress 8	0.17	-0.03
Attainment 8 Score	48.7	46.5
Grade 5+ (strong pass) in English and Maths	45%	43%

This month also saw the trust having our first review meeting with the Department for Education. These review meetings take place every 2 years and this meeting was scheduled as we are coming towards the end of our second year as a trust. The meeting covered all aspects of the trust and its operations including pupil outcomes, governance, finance, strategy and school improvement. It was a very positive meeting. All schools in the trust have taken part in writing and safeguarding audits since September. Both reviews were extremely positive and it is very clear there is outstanding practice taking place in the areas of writing and safeguarding across the trust.

We were delighted to appoint Mrs Anslow to the position of Headteacher at Lakelands Primary School. Mrs Anslow takes up her position after the Easter Holidays and will join the CLP leadership team to improve outcomes for all pupils in the CLP trust.

Working Together

We will start to introduce trust-wide School Improvement Hubs. These 'Hubs' will meet on a half termly basis and will be looking at key areas of school improvement that colleagues in schools can work on collectively together and share best practice.

Main areas of focus across the trust are:

- **English/Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **SEND**
- **Curriculum Development and School Improvement**
- **EYFS**

Our new Hubs will begin in the summer term and we aim to ensure sustained professional development for our staff which in turn will impact on the provision provided by individual schools.

Each term, the trust hosts a conference for all governors and trustees. This term's conference will be looking at how we develop school improvement across the trust and also how we shape the strategic direction of the trust in the coming years.

As a trust, we are on a very exciting journey and we continuously strive towards our vision – We believe that, as a collective of schools, we are stronger together and that by working together we provide an outstanding education for every child in our family of schools.



Forest School

The Spring Term has seen the reintroduction of Forest School to our BFIS Curriculum.

Our Forest School sessions are delivered by Mrs Doggett, a Forest School trained LSA, and our fantastic team of BFIS volunteers.

We are very lucky at BFIS to have a truly beautiful outdoor environment to support our Forest School learning, and we have certainly been maximising the use of the space so far this year. The wet and windy weather of late has not stopped the children from having a fantastic time and adding this wonderful outdoor experience to their learning.



So far this term, Year 2 have been exploring the topic 'What is Nature?' and have been gathering natural materials to create their own animals.

Our Year 1 children have been on a bug hunt, looking for as many different types of creepy crawlies as they could find, while showing our 'Capes of Success' value of team work to build dens to enjoy their 'Love of books' session.

As well as our main aims of developing the children's confidence, self-belief, problem solving skills, communication and learning capacity, we can already see that it is impacting on their emotional well-being. This was evident when we talked them to them during 'Children's Mental Health Week' in February about the activities that made them feel calm and happy. Forest School was top of their list!



We are looking forward to our Reception children having their turn at learning outside later this term.

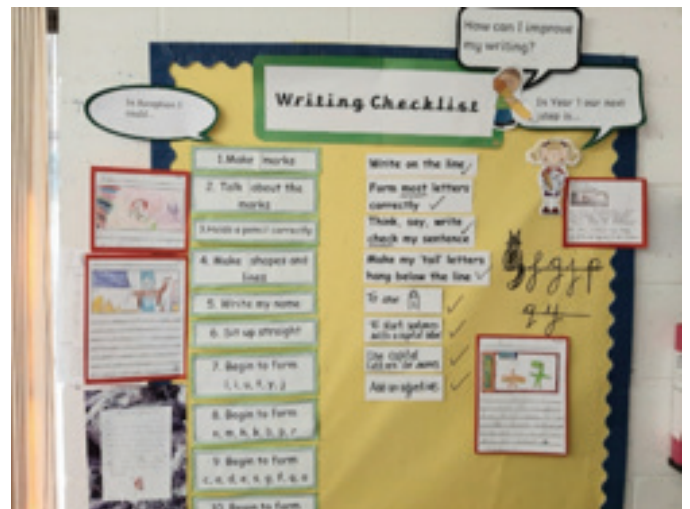
BFIS Cheerleaders

On the 25th February, the first day back after the half term, eight children from Barnes Farm Infant school competed in a local cheerleading competition. The team had to say a chant that reflected their school and complete a 2-minute routine that included lots of specific cheerleading moves. It was obvious that the children were using all the growth mindset skills they have been learning about in the classroom, they particularly showed drive and teamwork. Not only did the children represent the school brilliantly, they went on to receive first place in the KS1 division. The children now will compete the Cheerleading Country finals that will be held later in the month.



The Writing Checklist

At BFIS, our youngest children begin their writing journey in Reception when they start to make marks using different medium such as paint, pencils, crayons and even mud! Writing skills develop up to Year 2 where children begin to use subordination and use a range of punctuation. To record the first skills of writing we begin to commit each skill to the class Writing Checklist which is then agreed with both the class teacher and pupils as an expectation that all children can do.



Skills continually get added until the end of the year. The list of skills then goes up to the children's next class teacher who then has the same expectation set right from the start of the year.

This has proven to raise the expectations within the class and sets a high standard from the very first day in a new year group. The Writing Checklist is constantly being referred to during lessons as a reminder for children to use the skills they already know and have been taught.

We Love to Read!

This term, we have been very lucky to see a new reading scheme introduced at the school. Our new Big Cat – Letters and Sounds reading scheme is supporting the children from Reception onwards. We have a range of different types of books throughout the school, including our reading scheme, 'We Love to Read' texts and our brand-new library resources. Here are some of the responses from our children about the new books:

- 'I like them because there is lots of information in the books – and I like information'*
- 'They are really good and I think that they are really fun to read'*
- 'I like the library because it has lots and lots of nice books'*
- 'I like it because it has lots of different fact and animals books'*



Chinese New Year at BFJS

We are proud to be in our 6th year of teaching Mandarin as a modern foreign language. Through the support of the British Council, we host a Chinese teacher to deliver lessons from September through to June each year.

This term, we engaged the whole school with the following activities based around Chinese New Year:

- Year 3 learned about the Willow Pattern Plate story and made their own replica, as well as enjoying a shadow puppet theatre show
- Year 4 learnt a new Chinese chopsticks dance
- Year 5 enjoyed making dumplings and lanterns
- Year 6 improved their calligraphy skills



Curriculum Presentation Dates

As part of our revised curriculum aims, content and outcomes in each year group, we have planned opportunities to invite parents into school. This will be close to the culmination of the inquiry question that has driven the children's learning this term. We would like to invite **Barnes Farm Junior School** parents to attend on the following dates:

Year group	Inquiry question	Date	Time
3	Are we too small to make a difference?	Wednesday 22nd April	2.15pm
4	What is it like to be Danish?	Thursday 2nd April	2.15pm
5	How has Chelmsford contributed to the development of communication?	Monday 30th March: 5C Tuesday 31st March: 5S Wednesday 1st April: 5V	9.05am
6	Have you got what it takes to survive?	Tuesday 31st March	2.30pm

Green Day and Junior Traffic Wardens

In the week before the February half-term, our whole school took part in the following activities which supported the environment:

- Upcycling Art/DT projects
- 'Switch-off monitors' – elections in classes held to choose representatives responsible for turning off electrical devices and lights when not in use in order to reduce energy waste
- Class climate pledges – children pledged to demonstrate how they will support greater sustainability in school
- 'Paperless' lessons taught
- PSHE work linked to climate change and sustainability
- Writing/speaking and listening activities linked to climate change and global warming.

Many children were inspired to be active within their community too and we recognised these achievements in a special assembly.

Our Year 6 House Captains also put themselves forward to work with the local community policing team and council to challenge anti-social parking behaviours in and around our school. They learnt a rehearsed script and spoke directly to parents who chose to park either dangerously or anti-socially. Parents and carers were especially rewarded for parking and walking from Asda too!



The Barnes Farm Junior School Values

BEING POSITIVE

BEING RESPECTFUL

BEING RESPONSIBLE

'Chinese New Year' Celebration

Our 60 students in Reception have recently enjoyed a 'Chinese New Year' celebration where their teachers created a restaurant for the children to experience trying Chinese food, listening to music and even reading their very own fortune cookies! This was a fantastic way to end our 'Magic Paintbrush' topic, based on the book by Julia Donaldson.



Our Homework Policy

We have reviewed our homework policy in the primary phase of the school. Taking into account responses from our staff, students and their families, we decided to trial our 'Homework Challenge Grids'. In addition to reading regularly at home, our children choose at least one task from the grid each week to complete. The tasks are all based on recent learning and are linked to current learning in school. The amount of effort and quality of the work produced by our children is fantastic and

many parents have reported a positive change to their children's enthusiasm and attitude towards homework!



Computer Club



Our Year 1 students are lucky enough to have 8 co-curricular clubs offered this term. One of the clubs is computer club. The children walk across to the secondary phase of the school and use one of our 3 ICT suites. So far the children have been taught to log on, use Word and import photographs into their work.

The Chelmsford Schools Rotary Youth Speakers Debate

We are very proud of our Year 7 public speakers who competed recently at the Chelmsford Schools Rotary Youth Speakers Debate (for KS3 pupils – most of whom were in Year 8 and Year 9). One of our teams, speaking about the topic of phone photo filter apps, won and are now competing in the regional final against Brentwood Independent School, Felsted Independent School and Grays Convent School. Some tough opposition - older pupils and from strong schools with quite a tradition in this area. We are very proud of our Year 7 team for making the final and wish them luck.





Annual Presentation Evening

On Tuesday 7th January we celebrated the wonderful achievements of our Lower School, GCSE and A Level students



in one of our biggest events of the year, our annual Presentation Evening at Chelmsford Cathedral. Well done to all of the students who received awards, certificates and ties. It truly is a highlight of the year, and a chance to celebrate our students' successes with their families in a lovely setting.

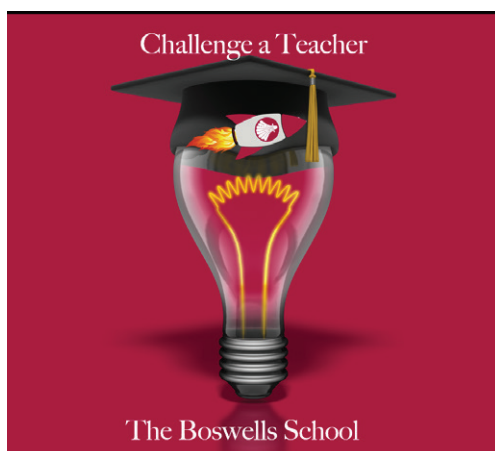
Challenge a Teacher

We launched our first "challenge a teacher week." We have been encouraging our school community (staff and students) to take risks, challenge themselves and to push themselves out of their comfort zones.

Students launched the new Boswells rocket symbol which identifies a challenge within a lesson, students can receive achievement points, postcards and even stickers for completing something that challenges them.

We felt it was only fair that students have the opportunity to challenge the teacher! Students were asked to nominate a staff member during tutor time and ask them a question that they thought would

challenge them. Teachers responded by email or on the postcard itself – without being dependent on the use of internet! If they did not know the answer, they had to say so.



Boswells First Eco Week

During the week of 20th-24th January, Boswells ran our very first Eco-Week.



Throughout the course of the week there were activities around the school to raise both awareness and money. In order to raise money, we ran several cake sales during break and lunch times and had a non-uniform day on the Friday. All of the money raised was split, with 50% being donated to the recovery and prevention efforts in Australia as a result of the bushfires, and 50% being donated to the school's garden project - planning to transform the old ABL site into a garden. In addition to raising money, we ran litter picks throughout break and lunch times, and received help from so many volunteer students.



Chelmsford Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair

On Friday 7th February some of our Year 10 students attended the Chelmsford Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair, as part of National Apprenticeship Week. As you can see the students met with Vicky Ford MP, who helped host Chelmsford's first ever Apprenticeship Fair at Anglia Ruskin University. A huge range of



different employers gave attendees a chance to see what opportunities are available within a variety of sectors for future employment, with part time, full time, apprenticeships plus training and volunteering prospects.

Mock Bar Trial National Finals

On Saturday 21st March a team from the Boswells School Sixth Form will compete in the Mock Bar Trial National Finals at the Old Bailey, involving schools from across the UK, having won the regional heat of the competition in Ipswich back in November. The competition, which is run by the Citizenship Foundation, sees the students take on the roles of barristers, witnesses, court clerk, usher and jury.

The students have been working extremely hard in preparation for the day and have been supported Mrs Flanigan, Mr Rogers and a criminal law barrister, Allan Compton. The students should be congratulated for their hard work and enthusiasm. There are some very convincing budding lawyers in the group and we were very proud of the team.



Perryfields Infant School - 'Be safe, be kind. Listen and think a lot. Be your best!'

Smash Festival Success



This term, 26 schools in Essex sent four of their Year 1 children to a Smash Festival. All of the children had to be sporty and be able to take part in a variety of practical games which involved catching, throwing and running. This year Edson, Raiya, Leon and Charlotte were selected to go with Mrs Bowen to the Melbourne Stadium. All the children had a fantastic time competing against other children their same age. I am extremely proud to say that out of 26 teams we came 3rd! CONGRATULATIONS! You should all be proud of this amazing achievement. Well done.

The Big Question

Our Core Value for this half term is:

RESPECT

After asking our parents what Core Values they thought were important to instil in our young children we have introduced 'Respect'. This is a particularly difficult concept for very young children to understand. We have started to look at how we should respect other people's personal space and also keep each other safe.

The Big Question this week is — **WHY IS RESPECT IMPORTANT IN LIFE AND HOW CAN WE SHOW RESPECT? RESPECT FOR PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND THINGS?**

Thinking of Others

Last week the School Council met with their classes to decide how they would like to spend the £80.80 they raised on their children's stalls at the Christmas Bazaar. I am proud of all the children as they are extremely thoughtful and understand the importance of charities and helping others. All the children had a vote and the majority wanted the money to go towards the Australia Bushfire Emergency Appeal.



This will help to provide emergency funds to care for injured wildlife and help restore homes for koalas and other wildlife, planting the first 10,000 trees urgently needed in koala habitats. The School Council members then went into the office with Mrs Clark to make the online donation.

Chinese New Year

This term we celebrated Chinese New Year and it was wonderful to see so many parents in the hall supporting their children with the wonderful creative activities linked to this.

As part of their homework Mrs Newland set a Chinese Bookmark competition. Several bookmarks came into school and the teachers had a very difficult time judging them. Congratulations go to the following children who won a prize of a cuddly mouse/rat key ring. Topaz - Alice, Ruby - Rajath, Emerald - Yousef, Sapphire - Jaxon, Diamond - Rosie and Pearl - Abigail. We thoroughly enjoyed the Chinese Dragon dancing.



A Big Thank You

The FIPS team (PTA) have been extremely generous and given each class £200 to spend on wet play equipment. The School Council and children with their teachers have just ordered some lovely toys. The FIPS team have also ordered 20 new ipads to support the children's learning. Big thanks goes to the FIPS team for their generosity.



Year 7 and 8 Revision Workshops

Year 7 and 8 revision workshop took place at the end of January. Our students had a two hour session on RVHS' tried and tested techniques and how they can use them in their own independent study and revision

We have also asked our students to put what they have learnt in to practice by entering their own Buzan Mind Maps in to a House Competition. The winners will gain valuable House Points for their individual House.



UKMAT Intermediate Maths Challenge2020

On Thursday 6th February, our smartest and brightest mathematicians from Year 9, 10 and 11 students sat the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

40 students from Year 9, 10 and 11 were awarded various certificates including two Gold, 10 Silver and 28 Bronze certificates. Joseph James was also awarded the Best in School and Year 9 certificate, Daniel Adigamov was Best in Year 10 and Trent Campbell was Best in Year 11. Skye Salek-Haddadi, in Year 9, along with Joseph are going through to the next round, the Grey Kangaroo!

Joseph and Skye were outstanding, both in Year 9 and both ranking 1 and 2 overall in the whole school!

We are looking forward to see how they perform in the Grey Kangaroo round and in future competition in the years to come!

Written by Mr Rahman



Harry Potter Night

Roding Valley was once again transfigured into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry on Thursday. Many Year 7's shook off their muggle disguises and embraced their magical sides, with the help of our Year 9 Prefects and wise Professors.

Releasing fire demons in Defence against the Dark Arts and brewing wicked concoctions in Potions, the night was full of cackling laughs and some sneaky snacks.

Tony, Taliah and Sienna won the fancy-dress competition, whilst Beth and Enru won the Sorting Hat crafts.

After apparating into various Hogwarts locations with our green screen magic, I think that everyone had fantastic night!

Miss Bleakley, English Teacher.



KS4 Paris Trip

During half term 32 students in Year 10 and 11 visited Disneyland Paris and spent a day in Paris as well. The visit included a river cruise along the Seine and under 22 bridges, up to the lookout of Tour Montparnasse, a trip to Louvre to see the Mona Lisa and a stop by the Eiffel Tower for some photos. We also spent a day and a half in and around the Disney Village and Parks.



A special thank you to Mrs Lasfer and Miss Sellaars for giving up their half term to accompany the students with me.

Mr Mammen, Deputy Headteacher

<https://rodingvalley.net/news/parent-bulletin/>



Forest Schools

Forest school is a Scandinavian concept that came to Britain in the 1980's. It was found that taking children out to the same place in a woodland on a regular basis resulted in many benefits including raised self-esteem, resilience, better physical confidence and communication within the group. Forest School allows children to learn in the best way for each individual. There are practical tasks, using tools, crafts, imaginative play and



using the natural materials around in the woods. A high adult to child ratio enables children to explore safely within an area and enables support and observations. As Forest School sessions are child led, children are free to repeat an activity from a previous session, interchange between activities or remain at an activity, which interests them.

At Tyrrells, all pupils experience a block of Forest School sessions during every academic year. Pupils particularly enjoy building dens, lighting and cooking on fires and having the freedom to choose. Here are some quotes from the children:

'Forest School develops your liking for the outside'

'I up levelled my learning powers mind by doing Forest Schools'

'Forest Schools is good for the body and the brain.'

'Forest School feels calmer than in a classroom and better fun, you get life skills too.'

'It is a life changing experience'

'It has made me (and a lot of other people) calm and happy.'

'In the classroom, you are stuck and surrounded by people. Outside we have freedom to choose.'



2020 Young Voices Concert

On Monday 3rd February, our Year 4, 5 & 6 choir performed at the O2 Arena alongside nearly 8000 children in a fantastic evening concert. The children were an absolute credit to the school throughout a very long day of rehearsals before the evening concert began. The children were very excited to try to spot their friends and relatives in the audience at the concert in the evening.

This is an experience that will be remembered forever!

