

I would like to welcome you all to the first newsletter of the new academic year, whether you are returning after the summer holidays or just joining us for the first time. Thank you for all the holiday homework received this week; this will be displayed shortly. It is pleasing to see how smart the children are looking and the staff have reported a positive beginning to the new term. The school has been busy over the holidays with various projects which I would like to share with you.

Staffing News

- Congratulations to Miss Damm in our Office who became Mrs Burt over the holidays.
- Congratulations to Mrs Cornforth and Mrs Grantham who have announced that they are each expecting a baby in the Winter. With Mrs Green and Mrs Heminsley-Taylor currently on maternity leave and not due back until some time in the Spring term, this presents some particular challenges in minimising disruption to your child's schooling. We have already taken steps to ensure a smooth transition as possible and will keep parents and children updated with essential information as soon as we have it.
- We appointed a new caretaker over the summer. Mr Martin Bardram will be joining us from Monday 22nd September to work across the whole school site and will live, with his family, in the adjoining accommodation.

Upgraded Kitchen

In order to meet the expected uplift in school meals on the whole Barnes Farm site, we have finished a significant upgrade to our kitchen area. This enables Ashlyns, our new catering provider, to better serve their freshly cooked hot meals to our pupils. Children can choose a main meal, vegetarian or jacket potato option each morning, with the £2.10 charge payable via ParentPay.

New Curriculum on the Website

You may have already noticed that our website has had a makeover and now has updated information on it. We have begun to upload more detailed information about the new Barnes Farm Junior curriculum on there. Each year group is learning about a theme which is driven by a particular subject area. You can also find details of our school offer for those children with Special Educational Needs in response to the new Code of Practice which came into force this month.

Regards, Mr McTaggart—Headteacher



Messages from the Office

Please remember to change your log-in details on ParentPay. If you have lost your letter, please ask the office for a new one.

Dinner money must be kept in credit at all times. There is a lot of lost property left from last term, please check the box outside the school office.



Friends of Barnes Farm Schools

Keep hold of your old clothes, bags, belts and jewellery etc as we will be collecting them on Friday 3rd October to raise money for both schools. Next meeting - Monday 15th September 7:45pm in the Barn. All welcome!

Other Key dates

Fri 24th Oct Non-Pupil Day 2

27th-31st Oct HALF TERM

Mon 3rd Nov Pupils return

Fri 19th Dec End of Term

Mon 5th Jan Pupils return

Mon 23rd Feb Non-Pupil Day 3

Fri 27th Mar End of Term

Mon 13th Apr Pupils return

Fri 22nd May Non-Pupil Day 4

Tues 21st July End of Term



Fancy a coffee and supporting a good cause?

Please feel free to come along to the Barn on Friday 26th September between 8:45am and 9:15am to take part in the world's biggest coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.



Enrichment Days

Half a day a week, the pupils will be receiving curriculum enrichment (aka PPA activities). The sessions rotate fortnightly between morning and afternoon.



Year 3/4 **Tuesdays** PE (Colchester Utd), Music (Stavehouse), RE/PSCHE (Mrs Leonard)

Year 5/6 **Wednesdays** PE (Colchester Utd), Music (Mrs K Green), RE/PSCHE (Mrs Leonard) and Computing (Mr McTaggart). Separate changing arrangements are now available in Y5/6.

Club letters will be sent out soon with details of our exciting extra-curricular provision!

Pupil Update We hope all of our ex-pupils going into Y7 have settled in well into their many different secondary schools. We are always more than happy to report on any significant successes they may have too!