

During half-term, Mr McIntosh had the opportunity and privilege to represent our school on a visit to China. This was arranged and largely funded in partnership with the British Council and Hanban (China's equivalent of the British Council). The purpose of the visit was:

- to establish and develop a link between our school and a school in China
- to inspire and promote Mandarin and Chinese culture teaching and learning in school
- to explore the education system and curriculum in China and what may be of use to enhance our own system and curriculum
- to investigate ways in which to enhance professional development of staff

Mr McIntosh was one of 60 delegates on the trip from the UK, 7 of whom were from primary and secondary schools in Essex. Time was spent in Beijing and in Changshu, where Mr McIntosh visited the Changshu Zhangqinglian Primary School, observing lessons, talking to teachers and children, exploring resources and experiencing Chinese culture. The beginning of a formal link was established which we hope will grow into a mutually beneficial partnership next year, complementing and enriching our knowledge and understanding of this culturally fascinating and politically and economically important country. Mr McIntosh has already talked to the whole school about some of his experiences in an assembly, with much more to be shared in future assemblies. A display about the trip and the school in Changshu is soon to be put up and we are already planning a special China themed week in February to link in with the Chinese New Year. More details to follow!

Local residents have once again been in touch with both Junior and Infant schools to raise concerns about isolated (yet significant) incidents of dangerous driving, prohibited parking and inconsiderate behaviour experienced in the last few weeks. We strive to maintain and develop good relationships with the local residents and it is the duty of the whole school community to foster this and set excellent examples of responsible citizenship to our pupils. We are in dialogue with Essex County Council to investigate ways in which they may improve road safety around the schools for the well-being of everyone who uses the roads in our local area. In the meantime, please help us achieve this by driving with due care and attention, parking on permitted stretches of the public highway and ensuring any dialogue with residents is courteous.

Fundraising Feedback

Our 'Onesie' day was a great success last week and raised £357.75. This was split equally between BBC Children in Need and JDRF. The Winter Bazaar was very popular again last Saturday with over £1,000 raised for both schools. This event was made possible by the tireless work and dedication of the Friends of Barnes Farm Schools. Well done to all involved; especially Choir and Craft Club.



FOBFS—Christmas Craft Morning 6th December

10am-12pm

Barnes Farm pupils £2.50 for entry and one free craft + drink. 50p per craft activity after that. Tickets are limited!

Christmas Production Dates (amended)

Y3 - 2pm Weds 10th December, 7pm Thurs 11th December
Y4 - 7pm Weds 10th December, 2pm Thurs 11th December
Y5/Y6 Weds 17th December 9:30am + 10:15am



Operation Christmas Child 50 boxes so far!

We are supporting Operation Christmas Child again this year to send shoe boxes packed with gifts to needy children. Last year we sent 55 boxes to Swaziland in Southern Africa. Please donate any of these: soap, toothpaste, flannels, pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, pads of paper, small cuddly toys, bouncy balls, small toy cars, comb, gloves, hats and sweets (not chocolate). Full list on their website – see link below.

If you would rather donate money, please make cheques payable to Samaritans Purse, it costs £3 to transport each box.
<http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox/>

Parent Voice in The Barn

Thursday 15th January 2015 2:15pm with tea/coffee served from 2pm. Minutes from the 19th November meeting now available on the website. Thank you to those parents who attended and contributed.



Other Key dates

Mon 24th Nov Shoe boxes hand-in

Mon 24th Nov Influenza Vaccine

24th—28th Nov Last week of clubs

Thur 27th Nov Class 5 Assembly 9:15am

Wed 17th Dec Upper school production

Thurs 18th Dec Christmas jumper day

Thurs 18th Dec Christmas lunch

Fri 19th Dec End of Term - 3.15 pm

Mon 5th Jan Pupils return

Mon 23rd Feb Non-Pupil Day 3