

Barnes Farm Junior School

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4 June 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to see so many of you attend the Learning Journal 'open afternoon' on Thursday 21st May where the children's hard work at home was on show for all to see. As advertised in previous newsletters we have, over the coming weeks, a number of other key opportunities available for parents to further help their child's development. These events have been organised as a direct result of parent feedback at open evenings, Parent Voice or general communication. Some of the events are free and others are being funded through donations. We have tried to bundle up the events for pupil into a one-off 'Enrichment' donation available through ParentPay. Details for this are recorded below. Please support the school in donating as this will help us to plan future events like this. We would also encourage you to make time to either attend some or all of them. However, if you can't we will capture the key messages from them and post them on our school website.

Stranger Danger Parent Workshop Safeguarding children in the 21st Century

Due to the popularity of the previous evening session on 12th March 2015, we have booked a parent workshop on **Thursday 11th June from 7pm-9pm** in the school hall.

The session is run by 'The 2 Johns', John Woodley and John Staines, who are both CEOP Ambassadors and train Essex Police in aspects of E-Safety. Those who attended the previous session commented how glad they were that they attended and that they learnt a great deal to help guide their child's 21st century digital journey.

The school absorbed the cost of the last session but this time, we need to ask for a donation.

If you wish to attend, please return the reply slip to school and go online to ParentPay and click on the Stranger Danger Parent Workshop charge of a £2 donation.

Stranger Danger - Pupil roadshow

During the afternoon of the **11th June**, the '2 Johns' will be delivering a version of their evening session for parents to the pupils. This roadshow will last for 30 mins for Y4 pupils and 80 mins for Y5/6 and will help equip pupils with the skills needed to stay safe now and in the future. We will be asking for a small 'Enrichment' donation via ParentPay to help cover the cost of this provision.

Maths Problem Solving Week

From **15th - 19th June**, the school is holding another themed week, where the focus will be on Maths and, in particular, problem solving. A range of creative activities will be occurring in each year group, including taking maths outside, whole class investigations, working in Houses and maths treasure hunts. Three events of particular note are the following:

‘That’s not how I was taught!’

Calculation policy parents’ workshop

Following discussions at Parent Voice meetings, the school is responding to interest in presenting an opportunity for parents to attend a maths curriculum workshop that will give an overview and demonstration of how each of the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) is taught in our school. Parents are invited to attend, with or without children, on Tuesday 16th June from 3.30 - 5.00pm, during which teachers will be demonstrating the methods and progression in calculations, as detailed in our calculation policy, which are taught to pupils at the school. This interactive workshop will start in the hall and then move on to four bases around the school.

Happy Puzzle Company

‘Puzzle Challenge Days’

We have arranged for a two-day visit of the Happy Puzzle Company, who are an educational organisation which specialise in delivering a wide range of themed workshops for schools (see their website for details <http://www.happypuzzle.co.uk/>). The company will be presenting fully-interactive puzzle and problem solving sessions of 90-minutes each to all pupils during **Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June**. These sessions are designed to develop pupils’ thinking skills, team work, communication skills and ability to overcome difficulties. The school is subsidising this visit but we are asking for a contribution towards the cost from all year groups via the Enrichment donation option on ParentPay.

At the end of each day of their visit, the company will be opening their puzzle shop in the hall from 3.30 - 4.30pm which will give parents an opportunity to buy some thinking skills puzzles and games for home. For further details, please see the poster available to view and download on our website under ‘Events’. This also contains information about a free book available with purchases of over £5 (one per family).

Happy Puzzle Company parent and family programme

As part of their visit to the school, the Happy Puzzle Company are running a Parent and family programme on **Friday 19th June** from **3.30 - 5.00pm** in the hall. This is an opportunity for pupils who have taken part in the programme during either of the days to attend a session run by the company with their parents/carers and siblings.

The idea of the programme is to give pupils the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned, whilst adding new challenges for the whole family to solve together. It’s a thoroughly valuable programme which also gives parents an interesting insight into understanding how their children think and learn. Up to 120 people can take part and if you would like to participate, please complete the reply slip and return to the office by Wednesday 10th June. If there is more interest than availability, we will select randomly from the replies until all spaces are filled. Please note - there is no charge for this particular event.

We look forward to welcoming you at one or more of the parent events in the next few weeks and to receive feedback through Parent Voice or other appropriate means.



Mr R McTaggart
Head Teacher

Stranger Danger Parent Workshop - Safeguarding children in the 21st century
Thursday 11th June 2015 - 7.00-9.00pm

I would like to attend this workshop and have made a £2 donation on ParentPay towards the cost.

Name of pupil: _____

Class: _____

Please reserve me this number of spaces: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please note that this workshop is not appropriate for children to attend.

Happy Puzzle Company parent and family programme
Friday 19th June 2015 - 3.30-5.00pm

I would like to attend this parent and family programme.

Name of pupil: _____

Class: _____

Please reserve me this number of spaces: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____