

NEWSLETTER

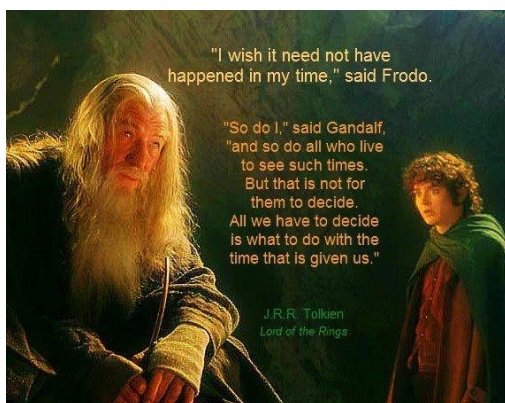
↓ 96.8% Attendance

No 13: 10th Dec 2020

BFJS Continuing through Covid

Please find attached to this newsletter, a communication to all parents about how and when to contact the school about a positive Covid-19 case when the school is closed. We now have a new email address to use - covidcontact@barnesfarm-jun.essex.sch.uk. Certain classes have been recently affected directly by this virus and we are taking all the necessary steps to follow the guidance from Public Health England in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. It is such a difficult time for our school community, but the manner in which our children and staff (in particular) are responding is tremendous and makes me very proud as a headteacher. Nationally, the school attendance rate is 86%. So the fact that our attendance is at 96.8%, given the challenges, fears and anxieties that each and every family has, is testament to the commitment of families and staff to providing education throughout such a difficult time. It is also clear that the protective measures that we currently have (click [here](#) to find out more about these) is minimising

and preventing the further spread of this virus across our community. Thank you all for your continued diligence in following the guidance. A recent webinar that I took part in with Mike Gogarty, Essex head of Public Health England, certainly highlighted the worrying fact that Essex saw little impact on the overall infection rate despite second lockdown. Therefore, we need to heed the public guidance over the coming weeks in order to best protect ourselves and others from this indiscriminate virus. The Lord of the Rings quote seems more relevant than ever as we look towards a more positive 2021.



Ross McTaggart
Headteacher




Reading Challenge Champions Week 12 – Class 6C with 86%

Stars of the Week

4th December 2020



Autumn Term 2020



Y6 Jack Engwell
Y5 Daniel Oriol
Y4 Eloise Hollidge
Y3 Kostek Beba

Guy Janes
Anna-Rose Lonsdale
Ki-Ki Parsons
Layla Dixon

Isabella Graham-Douglas
Ashton Millard
Ivy Hards
Lucy Poulson

Remote Learning Success

We are pleased to report that our Remote Learning provision has received very positive feedback so far from the parents of pupils who have needed to access it. Given this has been in place for only 6 weeks and used repeatedly in various scenarios, we are proud of our pupils for their adaptability and resilience in successfully undertaking a very different mode of learning. These are a few of the results from a survey sent to Year 3 parents recently:

My child was able to access the school's remote learning offer

[More Details](#)

Yes	30
No	0



Overall, my child engaged well with their remote learning

[More Details](#)

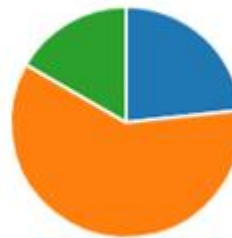
Strongly Agree	9
Agree	15
Neutral	6
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0



My child's remote learning experience was successful

[More Details](#)

Strongly agree	7
Agree	18
Neutral	5
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0



We also received lots of helpful suggestions which we are reviewing and will consider putting in place for the future. Thank you once more to any parents of pupils involved in remote learning for their effort, time and patience in helping the children access lessons - we really appreciate working in partnership with you.

We collected evaluations from staff across the school as well and they have identified some good practice for individual pupil absences, as follows:

Remote learning good practice - individual cases

- Remote learning is for a child's absence due to coronavirus-related reasons **only**. Pupils who are otherwise off school due to illness must rest/recuperate or return to school if well.

- The teacher's main priority is to teach and manage the children in front of them in the classroom but remote set-up will happen as soon as we can achieve it. Reporting the absence on Studybugs in detail will help to speed this up in the morning.
- We will share audio and computer presentations in the live stream - no video should be shared either way.
- The system has some limitations and we appreciate your patience and understanding if an aspect such as sound is not of a brilliant quality.
- If parents need to discuss something with the teacher, please call or send an eSchools message. Teachers are not expected to respond during a lesson and the Teams chat function should just be used for lesson-specific questions.
- Only Teachers and LSAs should be inviting pupils to the lessons.
- Please remember to disconnect when leaving the lesson meeting.



Our Grotto of Gratitude

Thank you to all the children and parents who took the time to say a thank you to a member of staff recently. The staff were very surprised to find these messages for them on Monday morning with more arriving over the course of the week. It has given everyone a lift!



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Online Safety – Making New Tech Safe



Online safety is as important as ever in the lead up to the festive season. The Essex Safeguarding Children Board are reminding parents that if their child does receive new technology for Christmas, it's important to set up devices correctly to keep them safe when online.

Follow the online safety awareness campaign on Facebook @ESCBSafeguards and Twitter @EssexSafeguards and access resources about online child exploitation on the [ESCB website](#).

Santa Dash - non-uniform day TOMORROW!

Tomorrow, we will be taking part in the National School Games Santa Dash along with many other schools around the country. I am sure that we can all do with a bit of extra Christmas cheer. The dash will take place during curriculum time on Friday 11th December. Children can come to school dressed in red and white or a Christmas Jumper. Santa hats or Christmas headwear will also be encouraged.





Y5 Designing and Creating

Y5 have been busy being inspired by their Ancient Egypt-based enquiry and developing their own Egyptian God. They are representing these in a head-dress - each with their own unique design and area of responsibility.

Can you work out their personalities and duties from the designs and photos?



Christmas Charity Appeal via ParentPay



We have chosen Farleigh Hospice as this term's charity. We are asking all parents to consider donating the money they would have spent on Christmas cards to bring into school to donate to our charity appeal on Parentpay instead. All of the events we are laying on for the children in the next fortnight - Santa Dash, Christmas Carol performance etc, are all free and are to encourage charitable donation at this time of year. Please give generously!

Parents' Evenings January 2021

Sadly, we cannot meet parents in person in the school due to the current covid restrictions. However, we have arranged for a virtual set of parents' evenings to be held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 12th January and Thursday 14th January.

You can view the booking window via your eschools account and then **make bookings from Monday 7th December at 8:00pm onwards.**

Dates reminder

Christmas Dinner Weds 16th December – *Christmas Jumper optional*

End of term Friday 18th December 2020 (usual end time)

Spring Term starts Tuesday 5th January 2021