

From the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term edition of the CLP Parent and Carer Newsletter. This has been an incredibly busy term in all our schools, and you'll find a lot of information contained in this newsletter about some of the work that has been going on this term. This is only a snapshot, however, of the incredible work that goes on in our schools on a day-to-day basis.

I am pleased to announce that the Department for Education (DFE) have approved William de Ferrers School joining our trust and we anticipate that the school will formally transfer into our trust in April 2024. William de Ferrers is a large secondary school in South Woodham Ferrers, and we are excited that they will be joining our family of schools next year. I am also pleased to let you know that, following consultation, the DFE has also approved the amalgamation of Barnes Farm Infant School and Barnes Farm Junior School. From September 2024, these schools will join to become Barnes Farm Primary School and, again, we look forward to this exciting development and the benefits it will bring the pupils and families of the new school. We will be sharing details and plans for the school with parents and carers next term.

As Christmas approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers and families for their continued support of our schools and the trust this term. The partnership between families and schools is so important and your support is a significant factor in ensuring the best outcomes and quality of education for your child/children. I hope that everyone has a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

Paul Banks
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up another term, the Trustees of the CLP extend warm and festive wishes to you and your families. Our schools have been filled with the spirit of learning, joy, and the magic of the holiday season.

This term has been a sleigh ride of achievements and growth, and we want to express our heartfelt thanks for your continuous support. Your commitment to your child's education and the collective spirit of our school community are the shining stars on our Christmas tree.

Our students have been Santa's little helpers, spreading kindness and learning along the way. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the dedication of our amazing teaching staff who make each day merry and bright.

Looking ahead to the twinkling lights of the new term, we are excited about the possibilities it holds. Your

engagement and support are the ornaments that make our educational tree truly spectacular.

As the year comes to a close, we wish you a season filled with laughter, love, and the joy of shared moments. May your holidays be wrapped in warmth and the spirit of giving, reflecting the magic of this festive time.

Thank you for being part of our school family. Here's to a Christmas filled with love and the promise of a bright and joyful new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Best wishes

Roger Blundell
Chair of Trustees
CLP



New Look Reception Classrooms



Over the summer holiday, we were able to revamp our Reception Classrooms. We are very proud of our new classrooms and have enjoyed welcoming our new children and their families to Barnes Farm. Thank you to all who have helped to make our setting very special.

Barney the Bear and Hootie the Owl made sure that all the new children to our school felt at home straight away. Our new Reception cohort settled brilliantly to BIG school and have been amazing this term. The children have 'blown our socks off' with their great teamwork especially in Forest School. We are also impressed with their reading, writing and mathematics efforts already!



Year 1 Panathlon Challenge

Year 1 visited Melbourne Sports Centre to have a super sporty day of activities! The children took part in a morning of games and races and out of all the schools competing, the children achieved the silver award! We were very proud of the children's effort and behaviour – GO BFIS!



BFIS Health Champions – Year 1 and 2

At BFIS, we work hard to ensure that we have happy and healthy lunchtimes. Each year, two children from each class are chosen to help our Midday Assistants at lunchtimes as 'BFIS Health Champions'. The BFIS Health Champions have regular meetings with us to set active challenges for the children, award children who are following the Owl Code and improve lunchtimes by ordering resources and organising games.



In the past, the BFIS Health Champions have helped us to plan the Weekly Mile Track by measuring the site, choosing the colour of the mulch and checking on the contractors work when they were installing the track!



Year 6 Kingswood Residential

In October, we took 80 of our Y6 pupils away on a 4 day residential to the Kingswood centre in North Norfolk. They took a full part in a range of adventurous and team-building activities led by qualified instructors that ranged from climbing to caving to other more unusual activities such as 'nightline' which encouraged trust and leadership in others.

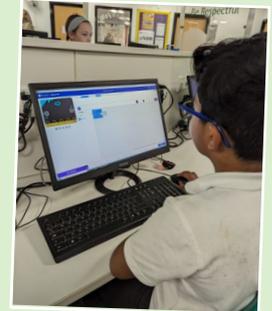
The children were exposed to a level of risk that they needed to manage and also were challenged to live away from home for three nights. Back at school, our remaining group were trained as sports leaders and took part in wider enrichment activities before they were all reunited just before half term. The residential experience was financially supported by parents and carers and forms such an important part of our curriculum aimed at building character and resilience so that they are truly ready for secondary school. Huge thanks must also go to the staff and Governors who pledged their time voluntarily on a Sunday to enable this trip to be as cost-effective as possible during these current times.



Promoting Engineering at BFJS

Microbit:

Children in upper school have begun to explore the many applications of Microbits - tiny computers similar to a Raspberry Pi - and how they can be used in classrooms. Children have played rock, paper, scissors using them and also created digital dice and random number generators that can be used to assist in maths lessons. Staff and children at the school are continuing to explore the endless possibilities of this technology for fun and learning.



Lego WeDo:

Children in Year 5 have been exploring the possibilities of using robots to automate tasks that might be dangerous for humans to undertake. With a focus on Ancient Egypt, one such task that has been explored is raiding a tomb for hidden treasure and artefacts! By using the Lego WeDo kits, the children have begun to learn how to create robots which can explore areas too dangerous for humans to step foot inside.



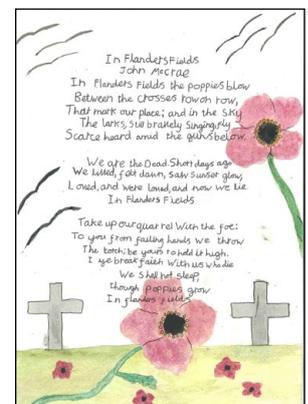
Radio Station

We are also getting our popular radio station up and running again with the help of DJs trained up in every year group to entertain children at lunchtime and learn new engineering skills at the same time.

ArtWork at BFJS

Encouraging creativity has always been important to staff and pupils at Barnes Farm Junior School. Here are some recent examples of the wonderful artwork and skill on show around our school in response to the subjects being taught.

Mr McTaggart
Headteacher



The Barnes Farm Junior School Values

BEING POSITIVE

BEING RESPECTFUL

BEING RESPONSIBLE

Remembrance Day at Beaulieu Park

Every November, the primary phase create their very own 'Field of Remembrance' for Remembrance Day. Throughout the day, the children visited with their classes and we had many members of the community visit too - including our local nursery. In our Secondary phase, all students in Years 7 to 11 paid their respects in the Sports Hall, where poems and speeches were made before the two-minute mark of respect was held.



Creative Arts Exchange with Boswells

Our first creative arts exchange with The Boswells School was a great success. Students from our GCSE music, dance and drama classes combined to join with students at Boswells for a morning of creativity and building new relationships. Students worked together to perform for each other and to share skills and information that each other could use when they returned to their lessons. The pupils who went on the trip came away feeling exhilarated and inspired by the experience.



Year 5 Visit The Royal Gunpowder Mills

Recently, the children in Year 5 went to visit The Royal Gunpowder Mills. As part of their 'Anne Frank' topic, the children visited a World War 2 shop and worked out what they could get with a ration card, handled real artefacts from the war and learnt about the role of women in the war.



Year 11 Trip to The Globe Theatre

We are thrilled to share the success of our recent Year 11 trip to The Globe Theatre in London to experience the timeless classic, Macbeth. Our Year 11 students had a wonderful time, immersing themselves in the world of this Shakespearean drama as characters performed not only on stage but also within the audience. The scenes with the three witches, including the intriguing "blender scene," were certainly a hit, and witnessing the play performed live on stage undoubtedly deepened their understanding of the intricate plot. We are proud to report that our students received high praise from the staff at The Globe Theatre for their exemplary behaviour and engagement throughout the performance and, as usual, we were exceptionally proud of how keen our students are to join in these co-curricular activities. Such experiences not only enhance their academic understanding but also contribute to the overall growth and enrichment of our students.





Jack Petchey Awards Evening October 2023

The Jack Petchey award recognises students, who are nominated by their peers or teachers, for outstanding performance in a field either in school or as part of an extra-curricular activity. Many congratulations to the winners for 2022-2023 who received their award from the Mayor. A massive congratulations must also go to Jaden M who performed a piece on the piano to open the evening and he represented the school in a remarkable manner playing to his largest ever audience.



Year 10 exploring the structure of the eye!

This has included a chance to dissect an eye and see the lens inside the eye. The class explored the structure of the retina, cornea, iris and lens, as well as getting to see how the eye is held in place by muscle tissue!



Year 8 Rugby

Huge Congratulations to the boys on their recent performances in the U13 Essex Cup competition.

On the 3rd October, we ventured into the first round of the Essex Cup competition, winning all our games against Chelmer Valley, Maltings Academy and Emersons and qualified for the second and final round on the 7th November.

With teams coming together from all over Essex who had qualified from the two previous competition days, the rugby was of a much higher standard and we encountered some of the counties 'big boys' of rugby.

All the boys involved over these two dates really did us proud and stepped up to the highest standard of schools' rugby they have faced since starting secondary school.



UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

A team of four Boswells Sixth form students competed in a Sixth form Maths Challenge against 19 other teams from across the county. They did amazingly well and finished second place. This is the best result for a non-selective school for at least the last 5 years. The team represented the school well and should be commended for their hard work and effort in the lead up to the competition. Well done to Anthony, Jonathan, Sam and Reilly.



Forest School

Year 1 started their Forest School sessions with Mrs Thompson earlier on in the term. The back of the school field has been converted to a Forest School site, completed with an area for a fire pit, mud kitchen and even a little pond. There is so much beautiful wildlife out there – we cannot wait to see it in the summer!



Harvest Assembly

Our pupils from Reception to Year 3 performed a variety of songs and poems for their parents for our Harvest Assembly. The pupils were taught about reasons why people celebrate Harvest and how it is one way we give thanks. We also contributed over 130kg worth of food and items to the Colchester Foodbank.

Stave House

This year, we have partnered up with Stave House to deliver our music lessons. Children from as young as Reception are learning to read music and even performed a short piece of 'Good King Wenceslas' on the glockenspiels. We also have lots of other music enrichment plans in the pipeline – we hope to perform in the Colchester Schools Music Festival next term with our choir and will also be beginning to offer peripatetic piano lessons.



Children in Need

Our pupils took part in lots of activities across the school to raise awareness and money for Children in Need – we took part in the Bearpees Challenge with Joe Wickes, designed our own Pudseys and wore spotty accessories too. At the time of writing, we have raised over £100.





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

Core Values – Responsibility and Kindness

Every three years, we ask the parents what Core Values they would like the school to help instil in their young children. The first half term Core Value was RESPONSIBILITY. The whole school focused on being responsible for their learning, behaviour and belongings. This was a focus across the school and at home. The second half term we have been focusing on KINDNESS and what it generally means to be kind to someone, whether that is by what we say or do. We have looked at how we feel when people say kind things to us or do kind things for us. We also looked at how we felt when people do the opposite and say unkind things to us.

The focus on kindness linked to being kind to everyone no matter what gender, culture, race or age we are and being enthusiastic about our similarities and differences and celebrating them. Together, we learned about Black History month and all dressed up in red to show racism, unkindness and bullying the Red Card!



Macmillan Coffee/Cake Day

All of the children, parents and staff had a wonderful time in September learning about the good work of charities and how we have helped to raise money to help people who are poorly.

A big thank you to everyone who donated cakes for the children to enjoy. I know they had a wonderful time. We raised a fantastic £820.

Boccia, Curling Competitions and the Smash Festival

In October, seven of our Year 2 children went to the Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre to take part in an inter-school Boccia and Curling competition, against 10 other schools. Our children were absolutely superb showing team spirit and determination. We came 4th place in Boccia and 2nd place in Curling and won a silver medal. What a great result! Well done everyone.



In October, we also took part in the Year 1 'Smash' Festival. The afternoon consisted of a number of tennis based skills including passing the ball to each other as a team, balancing the ball to a target and carefully dropping it in, batting the ball to a wall target and more! The children had 4 minutes to work as a team on each task and try to score points. Some of the activities were very challenging but they all worked really hard against all the other schools (14 in total). We came 1st place and took the gold medal! A huge well done to Alex, Phoebe, Tommy, Charlie, Soren and Robyn. You worked so hard and deserved your 1st place.

Happy Diwali

The children have been learning about the 'Diwali' Festival of Lights. This is celebrated all over the world, is one of the most popular holidays in India, and for Hindus in particular. A celebration of good over evil, it is observed across faiths over five days with gatherings for prayer, feasts and fireworks displays.



We are particularly lucky here at Perryfields Infant School where four of our fantastic staff, Mrs Shankar, Mrs Mani, Mrs Challa and Mrs Kumar spent time teaching the individual classes some special Diwali Dances. All of the children took part and the buzz of excitement within the school was fantastic! A big thank you to you all.



Reading Workshop 2023 – Rocket Phonics

Our end of 2023 reading results were fantastic! We are in the top 5% of schools when compared to all schools nationally for the expected standard in reading and in the top 6% of schools for the greater depth in reading. Our school is also in the 13th percentile when compared to all schools nationally for Year 1 expected phonics standard. Even with these great results we continue to think of ways in which we can help all our children reach the expected standard. This year we started our new validated phonics scheme 'Rocket Phonics'. This has meant extra training, new resources and high quality new books. A big thank you to our literacy lead for holding a reading/phonics workshop to our parents recently. The feedback was extremely positive and all parents are now able to access the Rocket Phonics resources on line – FANTASTIC!





Revision Workshops

Our students have been incredibly busy this term when it comes to revision, preparation and study!



Our Year 12s & 13s were involved in revision workshops with Mr Miah, Ms Goodall & Ms Curling that aimed to create excellent study habits & remind our students about our tried and tested revision strategies! Our students created Buzan Mind maps, interleaved timetables & exam strategies; let's hope it got them fired up for their first round of Pre Public Examinations!



It was also an excellent opportunity to re-share our RVHS Revision A-Level microsite; a website that has been made by our curriculum leaders. Each page contains subject specific revision material; so that our students have all that they need in one place!

Halloween STEM Session at RVHS

Students got into the Halloween spirit and carved pumpkins today. Working in pairs, they came up with creative and interesting designs for their pumpkins. Once the students had finished carving their pumpkins, we selected the 3 biggest ones and made them "puke". We achieved this with the simple combination of baking soda, vinegar and food colouring. Just before leaving we lit tea candles in the pumpkins and took photos with them in the dark, ending the session on a very spooky note.



RAAC

At Roding Valley, we had a very busy start to the academic year! Finding out that we couldn't open a whole building, including 18 classrooms & a canteen really was quite a surprise! However, we got to work making sure that we could get classrooms up and running.



Phase one included the construction of 'Roding A' - comprising 10 excellent classrooms with interactive whiteboards. Our fantastic English Faculty have made themselves at home in this building.



Phase two then resulted in 'Roding B', adding another 9 classrooms to our school. Our Maths department couldn't wait to create their Maths Kingdom at this brand new site!

Student Voice

At RVHS, we thrive on hearing the voices of our students! This term we have recruited a brand new student voice team, been to the Epping Forest Youth Council & two of our students took part in the Epping Forest Parliamentary debate!



Epping Forest Parliamentary Debate 2023

Two of our year 10 students attended Chigwell School to take part in the parliamentary debate. We were given the task of opposing the motion that the "internet does more harm than good". Both of our students performed excellently as they put forth well researched and considered ideas, articulated themselves in a clear manner and with grace and took interventions from the opposition (notably year 12 students from other schools) respectfully and professionally. Although we did not win on this occasion, both students should be immensely proud of their contributions as they were amazing!



Student Write-up:

'The Epping Forest Parliamentary Debate was one of the most epic things I have ever done. For someone who has never done anything like this it was an experience I will forever remember. I adore public speaking and debating so this was right up my alley and I highly enjoyed it. The night started with each team's first speaker giving their debate. One minute in we were allowed to intervene and in the final minute, all intervening stopped, it was a very different experience and highly serious but I still enjoyed myself and had fun.'

ACED Teaching & Learning

On Tuesday 7th February, we held our Year 9 Pathways Evening. At RVHS, high quality Teaching & Learning is at the core of everything we do. Our teaching staff love sharing photographs of what our students get up to during their lessons.



Our digital learning strategy is in full force this year; all supported by our Chromebook purchase scheme. Throughout the year, each year group participates in 3 digital learning weeks; where technology is incorporated into their subject lessons.

Our Year 7-11 cohort also use 'Bedrock' an online digital literacy platform to improve their vocabulary skills.

At RVHS, we are constantly striving to improve our ACED Teaching & Learning toolkit!

On the run up to this Pathways Evening, our students engaged in taster sessions and workshops that supported them to make their choices. We also held a number of Options clinics for parents and students to attend, if they required any further support.

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



Wartime Tea

As part of their topic on WWII this term, Year 6 children have been studying the impact that the war had on the people of Chelmsford. On 2nd November, Year 6 hosted a Wartime Tea for their Grandparents, Great Grandparents and local residents as part of our Remembrance commemorations. The children performed some WWII songs for their visitors as well as the Lindy Hop dance. Our visitors enjoyed tea and cake whilst showing the children the WWII memorabilia that they had brought with them. This event really brought the children's learning alive and helped them to understand the real-life impact that such a significant historic event had on the people of Chelmsford. It was also a great opportunity for the children to talk to people from a different generation to themselves.



Year 6 Trip to Bawdsey Manor



From 6th – 10th November, our Year 6 children stayed at the Bawdsey Manor PGL centre for their residential journey. The children had a fantastic week developing their independence, initiative, team work and problem-solving skills and really pushed themselves to achieve some amazing personal challenges.

A big thank you to all the staff who gave up their time to accompany the children; this really was an experience that will stay with them for a lifetime!



Black History Month – ‘Saluting our Sisters’

Throughout October, children across the school celebrated Black History Month by learning about people who have had a significant impact on British history in a wide range of different fields. Each class focused on a chosen individual and presented their project at our Black History Month Gallery on October 31st, which was visited by the whole school. A huge thank you to Mr Woollard and the large group of children in Year 5 and 6 who coordinated this project!



‘Saluting our Sisters’



New Play Equipment – Thank you FOT!

Both the Infants and Juniors now have a fantastic set of new play equipment to use at break and lunchtimes which will hugely enhance their play experience. This is something that School Council have asked for repeatedly and has also featured in feedback from parents so we are delighted to have now been able to save up enough money to make this happen. A huge thank you to FOT for donating a fantastic £12,000 towards the equipment - we wouldn't have been able to achieve this without you!

