

October 2016

Welcome to the new academic year!

The children have all settled down nicely into their new classes with their new teachers and support staff. After our first year settling into our beautiful building, we are now enjoying seeing the school and our local area grow and develop into a stimulating and exciting learning environment. Kings Cross is buzzing!



Staffing

We have a new interim leadership team this year, with Dani Sive as the Acting Head, Katherine O'Grady as the Acting Deputy, Rachel Gillingham as the Senior Teacher/Team Leader and Catherine Drew as the Leader of Bilingual Practice. Jodie Griffiths (who was recently awarded a First Class with honours BA degree!) has taken on the role of the temporary Deaf Instructor, and Mischa Cooke as temporary HLTA. We welcome Judith Evans as our acting SENCO, and Manuela Rossmar as our Family Liaison officer to the FB team, and also Sandra Duguid as our BSL Centre Manager. We also welcome Hiral Shah and Rupal Chandi as well as two new Teaching Assistants, Lee Smith and Mandy Tobin who will start after half term. Julia Hollier and Caroline Sherrick have also returned to the Speech and Language Therapy team. Sadly, we have said goodbye to our in-house interpreter Rachel Tibbitts after 17 years, and wish her best of luck in her career as a freelance interpreter. We will also be saying goodbye to Manjula Shah, who is taking maternity leave after half term, for her first baby.

School Uniform

Parents can now order school uniform items on www.just-schoolwear.co.uk/shop. Please make sure that all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name so that we can easily identify lost/misplaced items.

BSL classes

We are running BSL Level 1 for parents on Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm, and BSL Level 2 for parents on Wednesdays, 10.30am-12.30pm.

Parent Coffee morning

We held our first parent coffee morning of the year in the "Parent Centre" on 19th October. Thank you to Noelia and Manuela for organising it for parents. Please do come to the next one as it is a valuable opportunity for parents to meet and discuss any issues.

Parent Mail

We have now set up Parent Mail to communicate with parents via text/email quickly and easily. You should have received a text/email about this, so please do register to sign up as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have already signed up.

National Teaching Assistants Day

We held a special assembly for all of our wonderful Teaching Assistants on 16th September in recognition of all their support they give to the teachers and children. Without them, we would not be able to give our children the fantastic educational opportunities they deserve.

Parents Afternoon

Thank you to all parents who came to our Parents Afternoon on 5th October to meet with the teachers. Our next Parent - Teacher Afternoon will take place in the Spring Term on Tuesday 7th February from 2.15pm to 5.30pm – letters will be sent out in January 2017 with more information.

PE & Sports Development

We have been lucky to have Benjamin Lampert, a Deaf sports coach from Brentford FC here at Frank Barnes to deliver PE lessons to our children. Australia and South America classes have been learning football. Europe and Africa classes have been learning multi-sports. The children's skills are coming along nicely!

Australia class will be participating in the annual Deaf Boccia tournament on 17th October. We are all rooting for them!

We are arranging for Dance workshops for PE after the half-term, hopefully we will be able to showcase our moves in the upcoming Christmas show!

BSL Celebration Day



Wednesday 5th October was BSL Celebration Day. We were joined by James Woolfe, Blanche Nevile and Oak Lodge Schools, and it was lovely to see all of the children (around 70 children) together enjoying the day's celebrations. We started off with an Art activity- Mystery Art. The children had to use different mediums to complete a section of 'mystery art', then we put all the sections together to reveal the picture. After break, we had a Signing treasure hunt where teams raced around the school finding clues to collect handshapes, this was a lot of fun and burned off our energy! In the afternoon, Handprint Theatre performed a lovely visual act called, 'The Sky's the Limit'. We ended in our Frank Barnes tradition of having lots of cakes for everyone to take home and enjoy!

Maths packs

We have been busy creating some exciting Maths Packs for each child to play Maths games with and complete their Maths homework at home. They will come home with the children in a small zipper folder and will have different resources and games in them. Please have a look at the packs with your child and use the signs on the number cards to practice your counting and Maths BSL with your child. We hope it will make Maths more exciting and help parents to know the signs and resources we will be teaching the children.

Home Grown Little Roald Dahls

To celebrate the centenary of Roald Dahl's birthday, South America class have learnt about Dahl's popular book 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. They are working hard writing their own fictional story, which will be published using the **Book Creator** app on our iPad. We plan to show excerpts of the story online, so please keep checking Frank Barnes' Facebook webpage.



Wayfinding Project

Our collaborative art project with Kings Cross Academy, Regents High and Central St Martin's was a great success last year, with all the children and students attending art workshops and producing individual pieces to make one large art piece. We will continue this project in the Spring Term, so watch this space.

Ice-Skating at Westfield

We have a whole school trip planned for 1st December to go ice-skating at Westfield. This will be a fantastic way to kick start our Christmas Festivities and we all had so much fun last year! We have planned for the younger children to explore the exciting Kidzania which is also at Westfield.



Christmas Show

All of our children and staff voted in assembly and this year's Christmas Show is **Peter Pan!** We are very much looking forward to getting started with rehearsals and getting creative in our Christmas workshops next month. We hope to see all of you at our Christmas Peter Pan performance on **Tuesday 13th** and **Wednesday 14th December 2016**.

If you could bring or make any cakes that we can sell before or after the show to raise money for Frank Barnes School please can you let us know? Thank you so much in advance for your help & we are all very excited!

We will be filming the show as normal, so you can purchase the DVD after Christmas for £2. Please note that you will **not be allowed to use your mobile phone or tablet to film during the show** because it spoils the view for parents and relatives around you. You are welcome to take photos of your child at the end of the show but photos of other children must **not be put up on any social media sites** for their privacy.

Term Dates

Please note that the last day of the Autumn term is **Friday, 16th December 2016** at **2.30pm**.

Wishing you all a restful half term holiday next week. School opens again after half term on **Monday, 31st October**.

Interested in activities for deaf children?

See our website for details www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk