

## Autumn 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term – December 2018

### Christmas Show

This year's Christmas production of 'Mary Poppins' was another showstopper! The children did so well performing their roles and bringing their characters to life! The show seems to get better and better each year with all the fantastic props, scenery and costumes! A huge thank you to directors Mischa and Mandy and to all the staff who worked so hard on the production and to all the parents who came to watch the performance.



### Christmas show workshops

We had our annual Christmas show workshops on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November where the children enjoyed designing and making their costumes, painting the scenery and making the props for 'Mary Poppins'. All their hard work paid off with their brilliant production, where all these were used! Thank you again to Mischa for organising the workshops so efficiently, and to all the staff and Deborah Drew and Becky for supporting with the costume-making workshop.



### PE & Sports Development

This term, the children enjoyed dance lessons where they worked hard on their routines for the Christmas show.

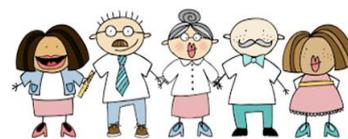


The Key Stage 1 and 2 children will all go ice-skating at the Tower of London on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, and the EYFS children will go to Gambado soft play for their end of term trips.

Next term, deaf coach Ben Lampert will deliver multi-sports PE lessons for all the children.

### Staffing

We have appointed two new teaching assistants, Ashley



Hodgkinson and Rose Oliver who are working in our Key Stage 1 class and in the Nursery. We have also appointed a new SENCO who was a former FBS teacher from ten years ago. We look forward to welcoming Katie Johnston to the FBS team next term.

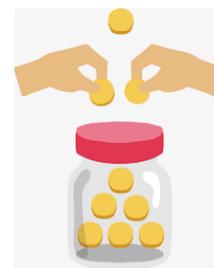
### BDA launch event

We were kindly invited by the British Deaf Association to attend the free launch of Huawei's Story Sign app on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at Winterland in Central London. The children and their parents enjoyed the food, meeting some celebrities including Tess Daly from Strictly Come Dancing (pictured), and meeting Father Christmas. The app works with an avatar signing the story in BSL when you place the phone over a page in the book. Huawei have kindly donated a phone to the school for us to use for all the children. Thank you to Mischa for taking the children and for organising the trip, and to the BDA for inviting us.



### Fundraising

The children did Christmas carols sign singing at the new Coal Drops Yard shopping centre to raise money for the Friends of Frank Barnes charity on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The children also made gingerbread men to sell.



We also took part in the Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December with Kings Cross Academy and raised about £167 for both schools.

Thank you to all the parents and staff who brought in cakes and biscuits to sell on the Christmas show days, and to Pam and the Business Team for selling refreshments and for organising the raffle. We raised approximately £300 for the school.

**Looking for more information?**

See our website for details [www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](http://www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)

## Marketing video

We launched our brand new marketing video at the parents' performance of the Christmas show. We hope that you enjoyed the short video and agree that it captures the magic of Frank Barnes! The video has now been uploaded to our school website. We hope that new parents and potential visitors will enjoy this and encourage their deaf children to visit us, or consider Frank Barnes for a school placement. Do share and let others know about it.



## Governors

Our long serving Parent Governor and chair of the Business Committee, Cheryl Rosenthal-Warlow, has sadly resigned from the Governing Body. Cheryl has given many years (13 years!) of service and support to the school in this role. We are very grateful for Cheryl's support and commitment over the years and we will miss her greatly. We wish her best of luck for the future. Thank you, Cheryl!



A warm welcome to Sherin Elie, our new parent governor, who has now joined the Governing Body. We are confident that Sherin will make a valuable contribution to the school in her new role.

We do have another vacancy for parent governor, so please do get in touch if you are interested in nominating yourself or another parent for this role.

## Class news

As always, apart from rehearsing hard for the Christmas show, our classes have been busy.

The **Nursery** loved their trip to the theatre to see 'The Gruffalo's Child' with the BSL interpreter as part of the cast, acting and signing at the same time. There's another BSL performance on 27<sup>th</sup> December if you'd like to take your child in the holidays.

<https://www.tallstories.org.uk/the-gruffalos-child>

**Cinderella class** have been doing 'Festivals' as their class topic this term, seeing that there have been so many this term with Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas.

**Little Red Riding Hood class** have been learning about the Victorians, and the 'lady with the lamp' Florence Nightingale, in particular, whom they made a signed biography on.

**Beauty and the Beast class** went to the Chiltern Open Air Museum in Buckinghamshire to learn more about their houses and homes topic. They saw a Victorian Toll House and made scones like they did back in the day without electricity and heating.

**Puss in Boots class** designed and made ferris wheels, merry-go-rounds and chair-o-planes in Design and Technology for their Funfair topic linked to the 'Mary Poppins' Christmas show.

## School attendance

Our current whole school attendance stands at 91.4%, which is slightly below our 92% target. Persistent absentees (pupils with 10% or more absence) is 31%. Please ensure that your child attends school as much as possible and avoid any absence unless they are ill or have a hospital appointment. We want to exceed our attendance target!

Our 2019/20 term dates are now available on our school website, so please ensure that any family holidays are booked outside of term time.

## Term Dates

The school term ends on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm** for the Christmas holidays. School opens again for the Spring Term **on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January**, with half term the week of 18<sup>th</sup> February, and the end of the Spring Term on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April**.



Please make a note in your diaries that the next Parents' Afternoon is on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Wishing you all a wonderful  
Christmas holiday with your families,  
and all the very best  
for the New Year in 2019!**

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**

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