

**Spring term –  
April-May  
2025**



The first half of the Summer Term has gone by very quickly in just 5 weeks, but as usual, lots of news to share! Happy reading!

## Class news

### Ice Age class (EYFS)

We had a lovely visit from ZooLab and loved looking at all the animals they brought with them! We got to pet a corn snake, leopard gecko, White tree frog, scorpion, tarantula, stick insects, snails, cockroaches, a millipede, and some very cute gerbils. Some of us were brave, while others were a bit frightened. In the end, we were all willing to touch the gerbil. Thank you, ZooLab for a brilliant and enjoyable visit!



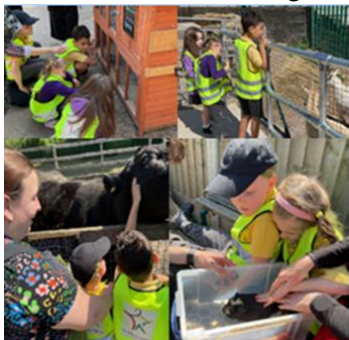
### Ancient Egypt class (Key Stage 1)

Ancient Egypt class went to the Ragged School Museum to immerse themselves in what it was like to be pupils in a school in Victorian times, which is our topic this half term. They enjoyed the afternoon being led by a strict Victorian teacher. Look how serious their little faces are!



### Jurassic class (KS1/2)

This Term Jurassic Class have been learning all about living things. We did lots of planting and have taken part in Forest School workshops. We also had a trip to Kentish town farm to learn about different animals and their life cycles.



### Roman class (Key Stage 1/2)

Roman class celebrated Africa Day with great enthusiasm. The children enjoyed learning African drumming and dancing, wearing colourful African-patterned clothes, and tasting delicious foods like jollof rice, plantain, and jerk chicken, and celebrating the rich diversity of African cultures together.



### Tudor class (Key Stage 2)

Our class's topic is "Great Inventors" this half term. The pupils learned about Louis Braille (who invented Braille), Spencer Silver (who invented Post-it Notes), and Garrett Morgan (who invented traffic lights). It's been so interesting to learn about different inventors! In Science, we have been learning about electricity and making circuits using electrical equipment to light up a bulb. The pupils are very focused and are analysing how to make the light bulbs work by connecting wires. The children really enjoyed the activity.



### Sports and PE

Our KS2 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their kayaking sessions. For some, it was their first time on the water, and they embraced the challenge of learning new skills with great enthusiasm. Those with prior



experience were able to build on their abilities—mastering advanced techniques such as standing up in their kayaks, joining them together, and even walking across them!

Meanwhile, our KS1 pupils took part in a calming and enriching yoga session led by a deaf yoga instructor. It was wonderful to see them learning



Facebook

Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children



Instagram

frank\_barnes\_school\_deaf



Twitter

@FrankBarnesDeaf

important techniques in breathing, mindfulness, and relaxation.

A lucky group of pupils from our lunchtime football club had an exciting opportunity to visit the Emirates Stadium (Arsenal FC) for a behind-the-scenes tour and to play a game, accompanied by our fantastic lunchtime football leaders, Ross and Subhaan.

Looking ahead to next half term, we're excited to offer football coaching delivered by one of our own staff members—an FA-qualified coach. We can't wait to see the progress our pupils will make!

### Waitrose Cookery School

Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils (3 classes) all went to the local Waitrose Cookery School for a fun cooking session with a Waitrose chef in a proper kitchen. They made bean burgers following instructions from the chef. What a fantastic opportunity!



### Deaf Day at the City Lit

Dani, Catherine, Katie, Ashley and Bengi-Sue all took turns to run the Frank Barnes stall at the annual Deaf Day at the City Lit on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school and see past and current pupils and staff as well as advertise some of our services. Thank you to everyone who came along to say hello and support us!



### Youth BSL Poet Laureate Competition

We collaborated with the British Deaf Association (BDA) on a BSL Poetry competition, launching the first ever Youth BSL Poet Laureate competition on National BSL Act Day on 28<sup>th</sup> April. The BDA came in to film the children perform their own poems which they created themselves in an assembly in front of last year's BDA Poet Laureate Ismail Mansoor, Dani and Catherine as judges. Well done to all the children



who did us so proud performing their fantastic poems. The judges awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Halle and Ayaan; 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Freya and Kiyo-Rei; and 1<sup>st</sup> place to Tanzia, our new Youth BSL Poet Laureate of the year!

You can watch the BDA's clip here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_EQLUhJ-rc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_EQLUhJ-rc)

### BSL Advisory Board

The BSL Advisory Board's role is to provide expert advice to the government on implementing the BSL Act 2022 and ensure full access for BSL users and representing the views of the Deaf community. We are delighted and proud to share that our Deputy Headteacher, Catherine Drew, has been invited to join the Education sub-group of the BSL Advisory Board. Catherine will no doubt have a very positive impact and influence on the board advocating for BSL and bilingual education and fly the FBS flag, too! Congratulations Catherine!



### Minibus drivers

Congratulations to Ross, Lisa and Ciaran on passing the school minibus drivers' test recently and are now able to drive our school minibus for trips and outings.



### Lithuania visitors

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, we hosted a visit from 6 deaf children and their teachers from Kaunas Deaf Education Centre in Lithuania. They gave a wonderful presentation in BSL on their country to our Key Stage 1 and 2 classes, and then Tudor Class presented on our school, BSL and the UK. The children enjoyed learning some Lithuanian Sign Language. Thanks to Lukas' mum Sonata, who came in to help with interpreting!



### Deaf Awareness Week

Lisa delivered a presentation on Deaf Awareness to staff at Eurostar in St Pancras station during Deaf Awareness Week (5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May). She ran two successful sessions, each



Facebook

Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children



Instagram

frank\_barnes\_school\_deaf



Twitter

@FrankBarnesDeaf

with around 30 staff members. She shared interesting and important facts about Deaf identity—reminding everyone that Deaf people are just as diverse and unique as hearing people. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the staff were asking for even more! As a generous thank you, Eurostar kindly donated £200 worth of Marks & Spencer vouchers to the school, split into 10 individual gift cards. These vouchers will be included in our raffle during International Evening—so don't forget to come along, buy your raffle tickets, and you might just be one of our lucky winners!



### Parent coffee mornings

The next parent coffee morning at school after half term is on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 9.30am-12noon.**



Natalie Emmett, School Nurse will talk about the importance of hydration and share advice on any bladder and bowel issues.

**Please let Katie know if you will be attending by emailing her at [senco@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](mailto:senco@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)**

### Camden Music Festival

Thank you to all the parents of the pupils who came along to the Camden Music Festival at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. The children did us so proud signing songs with



other Camden Primary and Secondary Schools. Thank you to Ruth for leading our FBS choir and staff for supporting all afternoon and evening. A truly memorable event!



### Run Kids Run

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May, we took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Run Kids Run fundraising event in Lewis Cubitt Square in Kings Cross. Thank you to the 3 FBS children and their families that came to run and huge thank you to Louise for all her hard work in arranging and organising the event with support from Hiral, Ross, Heidi and Grisha.



Please do sign up and join us next year!

### School attendance

Currently we are at **90.6%** so still just below our 92% target. Please ensure your child attends school every day to ensure we reach our whole school target. We need to meet our target this year!



### Diary dates for the Summer Term:

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July:**

Centre Parcs residential (Year 5/6)

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July:**

Winning House Trip

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Sports Day

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

Deaf Festival Week

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

International Evening

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July:**

Whole school trip

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

Year 6 Leaver's assembly & **END OF TERM (2.30pm)**

### International Evening 2025

Our annual International Evening is back on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025.** Join us for a celebration of cultures, flavours, and fun — please bring your favourite traditional international dish to share and enjoy together. We look forward to seeing you there! **Please bring along an international dish to share with everyone.** Please confirm your attendance (and how many) by emailing Fahmida at [office@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](mailto:office@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)



**Have a restful half term holiday!**



**School re-opens for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Summer Term on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**



There are 2 **Remark! playschemes** in London during the half term for children **aged 6 and above**. Please see Lisa's message on Seesaw for details.



## Term Dates 2025-26

ACTIVITY	START	END
<b>AUTUMN TERM</b>		
Autumn 1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
INSET DAY(S)	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025</b>	
INSET DAY(S)	<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025</b>	
First day back for children	<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025</b>	
Autumn Half Term	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
Autumn 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
INSET DAY	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025</b>	
First day back for children	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	
<b>Total Autumn: 75</b>		
Christmas Holiday	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026
<b>SPRING TERM</b>		
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
INSET DAY	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	
First day back for children	<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	
Spring Half Term	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
First day back for children	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</b>	
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Total Spring: 55</b>		
Easter Holiday	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>SUMMER TERM</b>		
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
First day back for children	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	
Summer Half Term	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Pupils back to School	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026	
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Last Day of Term for pupils	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	
<b>Total Summer: 65</b>		



Facebook

Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children



Instagram

frank\_barnes\_school\_deaf



Twitter

@FrankBarnesDeaf