



Welcome to the first newsletter of the new 2024/25 academic year. We've all settled in really well this term and everyone has been enjoying themselves. Here's our news for this half term....

Class news

Ice Age class (Nursery/Reception)

The children have enjoyed creating a variety of art and crafts featuring Elmer the Elephant. They also went to watch an 'Elmer the Elephant' theatre performance with BSL interpretation at the Tall Stories Studio last Friday.



Ancient Egypt class (Key Stage 1)

The class visited the local St. Pancras Church as part of their topic on 'Harvest' this half term. They learnt about why it is important to celebrate harvest and understand the significance of farming. They discussed how the harvest can support families in need especially if they are unable to afford food and the way the church can serve during the Harvest Festival. The pupils enjoyed the visit and even donated some tinned food to the church.



Jurassic class (Key Stage 2)

This term we have been reading and exploring the stories of Elmer the Patchwork Elephant. We role played the story and practiced signing and writing all our colours and animal names. On our Class trip we went to see a theatre show all about Elmer.



Roman class (Lower Key Stage 2)

Roman class visited the Verulamium Museum to learn about the history of the Romans and attended the workshop to learn about the different Roman artefacts that have been discovered in Britain. The children had the opportunity to dress up in



Learn, grow and flourish

traditional Roman clothing. They enjoyed looking the artefacts on display, including Roman pottery, coins, mosaics, and tools used by the Romans.



Tudor class (Upper Key Stage 2)

This half term the children have been learning about the Tudors and exploring the significance of Henry VIII and his famous six wives, as well as the lifestyle of the Tudor period. They visited the Tower of London, exploring the execution sites, the Crown Jewels, and the imprisonment areas inside the Tower. Seeing a raven was particularly significant for them! They had an amazing day out!



Staffing

We have welcomed new class teachers **Samira Mohamed** in Ancient Egypt class and **Mairead Harley** in Jurassic class as new this term.



Fahmida Akther is now covering the receptionist role in the office for Elvira who is now on maternity leave. **Heidi Beasley-Elich** and **Subhaan Butt** have joined us at 1:1 Teaching Assistants, as well as **Sonny O'Neill**, **Masuma Akhtar**, and **Hannah Jessop**.

Levy Joseph has also joined us as our new Facilities Assistant. We are saying a sad farewell to **Claire Elliott-Purdy** from the Speech and Language Therapy who leaves this term – thank you for all your support over the last few years! We also said goodbye to our finance assistant **Louise Lee** last month – thank you for your support to the school.

Sports and PE

EYFS and Jurassic Class pupils have enjoyed a variety of activities to develop their gross motor skills such as throwing, catching, jumping and moving energetically, led by Camden coach, Elijah. KS1 & 2 pupils have enjoyed weekly cricket lessons delivered by a team of Deaf coaches from Brentford FC. We look forward to next half term,



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where we will all have dance lessons, planned and delivered by our own class teacher, Hiral.

All KS1&2 pupils have gotten off to a good start this term with swimming lessons. We have weekly half an hour swimming at the Pancras Square Leisure centre delivered by swimming instructors every Friday.

Parents afternoon

Thank you to all the parents that attended a meeting with their child's classteacher on 2nd October to discuss their child's progress. This year 32 out of 34 (94%) of parents attended a meeting with their child's teacher, either face to face or on Zoom – this is fantastic! Please try to arrange a time with your child's teacher to come into school and observe your child in class. We always welcome parents to visit the school.

National TA Day

On Friday 27th September we had our annual special assembly to celebrate and thank our hardworking Teaching Assistants who do so much for the school to support the teachers and children.



We are truly grateful for everything they do and deserve much recognition for all their support. Teaching assistants play such a valuable and important role in school for both teachers and pupils.

WFD International Week of Deaf People

From Monday 23rd to Sunday 29th September we uploaded short videos to Seesaw and our social media platforms on a different theme each day to celebrate the International Week of Deaf People.



This year's **International Day of Sign Languages** theme on 23rd September is: "Sign up for Sign Language Rights."

BSL Celebration Day

We held a wonderful BSL Celebration Day themed "BSL in Our Hands" inspired by the British Deaf Association's current campaign. The event featured making a creative banner, and the children enjoyed watching BSL poetry videos, which inspired them to create their own! Stay tuned, as we'll be sharing these videos



soon. To top off the day, everyone savoured a delicious cake made by Mairead. We also welcomed the arrival of two Deaf Flags, with Mischa explaining their significance in the BSL News bulletin. The flag now hangs proudly in the school. It was a fantastic day of learning and celebration!



Family Fun Day

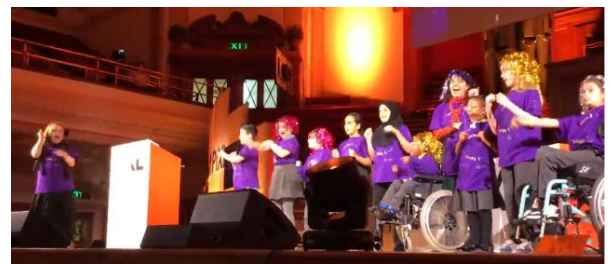
We held another very successful Family Fun Day at the British Library on Saturday 21st September. This year's theme was 'Marvellous Me!'



and was organised jointly between Frank Barnes, the British Library, the British Museum and Camden Family Learning. Over 1000 people attended the event this year, with 95 Deaf families from across London taking part, and 11 FBS families coming along, which was fantastic! A highlight was the FBS and KCA Signing Stars choir sign signing in the main foyer.

Signing Stars Choir

Our Signing Stars choir (FBS and KCA pupils) also performed Abba's 'Dancing Queen' at Westminster Hall for an education conference on



3rd October in front of more than 1000 people. We were so proud of them standing on the stage where many famous people have performed before. Well done and thank you to Louise, our wonderful choir leader for organising it all!

BSL Advisory Board meeting

We hosted an important meeting on Wednesday 18th September at school for the education subgroup of the BSL



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Advisory Board to discuss and feedback on barriers and issues in early years education for deaf children and the importance of learning BSL early. The government Minister for Social Security and Disabilities, Sir Stephen Timms, visited the school for a tour and joined the meeting he said: *Thank you for taking the time to attend the BSL Advisory Board's first early years summit and sharing your powerful and thoughtful feedback with me on the importance of BSL for Deaf children and the barriers Deaf children and their families currently face.*

Rights Respecting School

We are now a UNICEF Rights Respecting School and have been awarded Bronze status. This means we are committed to teaching and learning about children's rights as laid out in the Children's Rights Charter (CRC) from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (42 articles). We have started our journey to include the CRC in our curriculum, school culture and ethos to improve wellbeing and knowledge of children's rights.



Music Mark School

We are also now a Music Mark School, recognising our commitment to providing high-quality music education for our children. Thank you to our Signing Choir and to Ruth for providing both whole class and individual music lesson for the children.



Governors

There have been some changes in the school's Governing Body (GB) this year. Our long-standing governor, Robert Adam has stepped down as Chair of Governors and has been elected vice-chair. Many thanks to Robert for all his support as the chair over the last 7 years. Joanna Wooten has stepped up from vice-chair to Chair of Governors and will no doubt do a great job in her new role. We also welcome Akaine Mitchell as a new parent governor in the GB, joining our other parent governors, Agustin, Joe and Shikha. Congratulations to our new appointees.



Friends of Frank Barnes (FOFB)

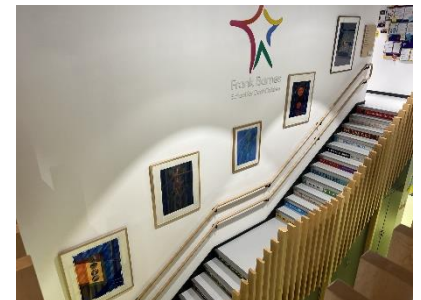
Our clerk to the governors, Maria's, daughter Sabina, did a charity run recently and generously chose to raise funds for our BSL development work at Frank Barnes. All proceeds go to the school, so please share her funding page link on your social media and show your support. Thank you, Sabina! Good luck!

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/supporting-families-and-children-to-develop-their-bsl-skills>

Sadly, we are also in the process of closing our FOFB charity account as we don't have staff capacity to run this without more support. Thank you to Mischa and Louise who have worked so hard to keep this going for so long. Donations can still be made directly to the school, and we will fundraise where and when we can.

Donated artwork

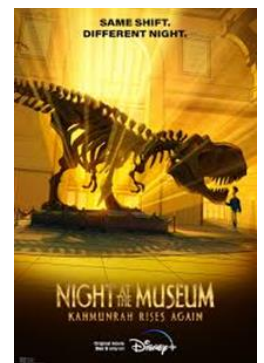
The widower of local artist, Anita Ford, has kindly donated some of his late wife's artwork to us. Anita became deaf later in life and her husband wanted



her art to be enjoyed by deaf people. The framed abstract art pieces are now displayed in our school on the wall by the staircase for the children and staff to enjoy.

Christmas performance

Everyone in our school community voted for the title of this year's annual Christmas show. We are delighted to announce that this year our Christmas Show will be **'A Night at the Museum'**. The children will start rehearsing after half term. Please make sure you note the date of the performance for parents on **Wednesday 18th December at 1.00pm.**



Parent and pupil surveys

We recently analysed the responses from the pupil, staff and parent surveys from the summer term. Thank you for returning the surveys. We are very pleased that the feedback has been very



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positive with so many things that both the children and parents like and are happy with about the school.

School attendance

We have reviewed and updated our Attendance Policy. We will be sharing this after half term, including a summary sheet for parents. Our whole school attendance target remains at 92%. Currently we are at **91.4%** so just below our target. Please ensure your child attends school every day. If your child is unable to attend, please complete a Leave of Absence (LOA) request form with evidence of the appointment (letter, text, email) and send/give to us well in advance.



Diary dates for Autumn Term (2nd half):

Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th November:

Christmas show workshops

Friday 13th December:

Christmas lunch

Tuesday 17th December, 10.30am:

Christmas Show for the community

Wednesday 18th December,

1.30pm:

Christmas show for parents/families

Friday 20th December, 2.30pm:

Last day of Autumn Term



Have a good half term holiday!

There are 2 Remark! playschemes in North and South London this half term. Please see Lisa's message on Seesaw for details. Do try and go – it will be great fun!



School re-opens for the 2nd half of the Autumn Term on Tuesday 5th November 2024



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