Frank Barnes
School for Deaf Children

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Learn, grow and flourish

Autumn term – November-December 2025



We've had such a busy and exciting 2nd half of the Autumn Term with everyone focusing on preparation for the Christmas show, Aladdin!

Class news

Bowling class (Nursery/Reception)



Bowling class enjoyed their trip to Winter Wonderland where they went ice-skating! They also met Father Christmas during their trip to Willows Farm, where they decorated gingerbread men, enjoyed a tractor ride, played in the soft play area, and did a Build-A-Bear activity. The children also chose a wooden toy to take home!

Athletics class (Key Stage 1)



Athletics class have been reading and learning the story of Aladdin this term. In Literacy, they wrote down their three wishes to ask the Genie! They ended the term by making and painting a large tiger character for the play.

Swimming class (Key Stage 1/2 SEN)



Swimming Class enjoyed painting Christmas placemats for our Christmas lunch on Friday 12th December. They also made their own hats and place names. The children had fun being creative artists and proudly showed off their art to their friends at the Christmas lunch.

Basketball class (Lower Key Stage 2)



This term in Art, the children explored weaving by making paper carpets as part of their Aladdin topic. They carefully wove paper strips up and down to create repeating patterns. The children said weaving wasn't easy and felt very proud of their lovely creations.

Taekwondo class (Upper Key Stage 2)

This term, the children have been learning how to write instructions in their Literacy lessons. Inspired by our Aladdin topic, they created their own sets of instructions using imperative verbs and adverbs to make their writing clear and effective. They also designed and made their own 3D lamps using cardboard, which they then painted and decorated. The finished lamps look fantastic!



Staffing



Last week we said farewell to **Mairead Harley** who is now on maternity leave. We welcome **Habiba Alli** who is teaching Swimming class until Mairead returns next year.

Congratulations to **Janet Payne** who has been promoted to HLTA 3 days a week and is supporting in Bowling class. Welcome to new 1:1 teaching assistant **Sally Welton** who started with us this week and will be supporting in Taekwondo class. We have also recruited new PPA cover teacher, **Rebecca Anderson-Griffith** who will start in January, working 1 day per week, as well as new 1:1 TA **Tanja Braithwaite** who will be supporting in Bowling class full time.

Sports and PE



Our EYFS, KS1, and KS2 pupils have loved weekly dance sessions with our specialist instructor, preparing amazing routines for our Christmas performance of

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Aladdin. We hope you enjoyed watching their choreographed moves on stage!
Next term, all pupils will have the chance to try Taekwondo, learning new skills and building confidence.

Looking Ahead: PE & Sports 2025–2026
Our full PE and Sports Programme for the year is now available on the school website. This year, all activities are linked to Deaflympic sports, including basketball, taekwondo, and more, giving our pupils the opportunity to develop skills and enjoy sports in a Deaf-friendly environment.

School attendance



Our current whole school attendance stands at **93%** this term which is excellent! This half term we have 12 pupils with 100% attendance! Well done! A reminder that any requests for holiday leave during term will not be authorised.

Family Fun Day

Thank you to the 8 FBS families that came along to the 10th annual Family Fun Day at the British Library on a very wet **Saturday 22nd November**. The event was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves. Almost 1000 people/316 families came along of which about 16% had a deaf family member. Next year we hope to reach more deaf families to join this annual event.



Christmas show workshops



We had two very productive days on 26th and 27th November making all the props, costumes and scenery for our Christmas show. Huge thanks to the volunteers who gave up their time to support the children during the workshops. It was wonderful to see all their hard work paid off making use of all the creations in the performance.

Christmas performance

Well done to all the children and staff for yet another brilliant performance this year! Thank you to all the parents, families and friends that came to watch the children perform 'Aladdin'. The show was yet again a wonderful opportunity to showcase our children's excellent performance skills on the stage! Huge thanks to all the staff who worked so hard behind the scenes in different roles. Special thanks to the show's director Lisa and assistant director, Leyla for an outstanding production!



Term dates 2026/27

We have published our term/holiday dates for the 2026/27 academic year. These can be found on our website in the 'Parents' tab.

Diary dates for Spring Term (1st half):

Thursday 15th January:
NDCS meeting for Year 5 parents
Friday 23rd January:
Parents coffee morning
Tuesday 3rd February, 9.30am:
Internet Safety and AI workshop for KS pupils and parents.
Wednesday 4th February, 2- 6pm:
Parents afternoon
Tuesday 10th February:
Safer Internet Day
Friday 13th February:
Last day of 1st half Spring term



Wishing all our families, staff, governors and school community a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2026!







School re-opens for the 1st half of the Spring Term for pupils on
Tuesday 6th January 2026