Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children

Spring term – January-February 2026

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Learn, grow and flourish

It's been a very cold, wet first half term, but nothing can dampen the spirits of our eager children learning all sorts and making the most of school! Enjoy reading our news round for the 1st half of the Spring Term!

Class news

Bowling class (Nursery/Reception)



Bowling class has been learning about the **Chinese New Year** zodiac sigs and animals this half term. 2026 is the Year of the Horse, and we made horse masks. The children also went to Chinatown in central London to see the Chinese New Year decorations and eat at a Chinese restaurant.

Athletics class (Key Stage 1)



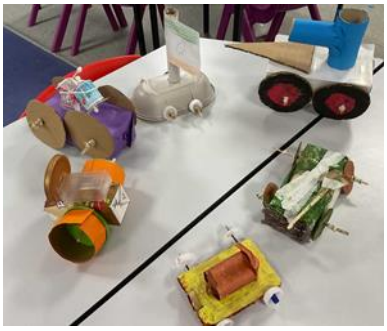
Athletics class visited the Houses of Parliament as part of their learning about **Guy Fawkes**. This trip helped bring their history topic to life and the pupils were amazed by how big the building was inside.

Swimming class (Key Stage 1/2 SEN)

This half term's topic was on London, and the class has been doing lots of learning about **London's famous landmarks**. We also learnt about Paddington Bear and how much he loves to travel! We created small replicas of the bear and large replicas of landmarks like Big Ben from junk modelling/ painting, and we cooked British foods like marmalade sandwiches and lemon drizzle cake. At the end of the term, we celebrated our learning and fantastic hard work by visiting "*Paddington Bear Experience*" in Waterloo.



Basketball class (Lower Key Stage 2)



In our DT lessons, the children designed and created their own moon rovers as part of our **Space** topic. They used different materials and tested their rovers to see if they could move. The children were most excited to explore how their designs worked and learned the importance of careful and accurate measuring.

Taekwondo class (Upper Key Stage 2)



Our pupils have been having great fun in their BSL lessons, learning how to fingerspell using a vibrant range of colours and lip patterns. They especially enjoyed playing a colour chart bingo game, which helped them discover and practise new colour names. In Literacy, the children have been travelling back in time to explore the **Indus Valley**. They have been busy writing imaginative diary entries, pretending they were living way back in 2,500 BCE!

Staffing



We said farewell to 1:1 teaching assistant **Anisa Musammath** who goes on maternity leave and wish her all the best with the birth of her first child. **Toyosi Allen** will be covering her maternity after half term.



Congratulations to our Deputy Headteacher, **Catherine Drew**, who received her *MBE award* at an investiture at St James' Palace on 29th January. Catherine was awarded for her contributions to Deaf education.

We are all very proud of this recognition and Catherine's outstanding achievements!

Catherine is planning an assembly with the children to talk to them about her wonderful experience.

Frank Barnes
School for Deaf Children

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Learn, grow and flourish

Sports and PE



This term, all pupils have been taking part in **taekwondo** lessons delivered by Westminster Taekwondo. EYFS and Swimming Class have been taught by Coach Zolfa, focusing on developing gross motor skills, balance, coordination, and confidence through fun, structured activities. KS1 and KS2 have worked with Coach Faryad, developing strength, discipline, and technique as their taekwondo skills progressed each week.



After half term, pupils will move on to **basketball.** EYFS and Swimming Class will work with a Camden coach, developing fundamental ball skills and teamwork, while KS1 and KS2 will be taught by Scott Ellis, focusing on game play, technique, and cooperation.

Our PE programme for 2025–2026 is available to view on our school website, please check out what exciting PE lessons we have planned for the rest of the year!

Internet Safety Week

We celebrated **Safer Internet Day** on Tuesday 10th February, with all classes learning something about how to keep themselves safe online and then presented what they had learned in a special assembly at the end of the day.

Basketball and Taekwondo classes also attended a special workshop at the local Samsung store at the Coal Drops Yard in Kings Cross focusing on understanding of AI and keeping safe. Thank you to all the parents that came along to join in the workshop and to **Samsung KX** and **Internet Matters**.

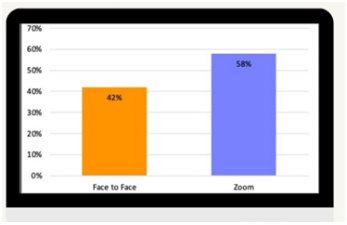
School attendance



Our current whole school attendance remains at **93%** this year which is excellent and better than at this time last year! Keep up the good attendance!

Please remember any **requests for holiday leave during term time will <u>not</u> be authorised**.

Parents afternoon



Thank you to all the parents who attended a meeting with their child's classteacher on Wednesday 4th February to discuss their child's progress. We are pleased to share that **85% of parents** attended our parent-teacher meetings, either in person or online. Remember that you are always welcome to come into school and observe your child learning and interacting in class at any time. Please arrange this with your child's classteacher.

Breakfast club



Our daily breakfast club continues to be attended by an average of 10-12 children every morning. The children have a choice of bagels/toast, cereal or oats and milk or water. If your child prefers to have breakfast in school on arrival at **8.45am** they are welcome to join the free breakfast club. A healthy breakfast gives children a good start to the day!

Year 5 Secondary School visits

Please note the following dates/times for our **Year 5** pupils and parents to deaf secondary schools:

Friday 13th March, **11am** – **Oak Lodge School**, Nightingale Lane, SW12 8AN

Thursday 26th March, **11am**, **Blanche Nevile School,** Burlington Rd, N10 1NJ

Pupils will travel with staff from FBS by tube/bus, and will meet parents at the schools.

Any questions, please contact Katie – senco@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk

Diary dates for Spring Term (2nd half):



Thursday 26th February:
Charlotte Morten Mad Hat Day

Thursday 5th March:
World Book Day

Monday 9th – Friday 13th March:
British Science week!

Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd March:
Sign Language Week

Wednesday 18th March:
BSL Recognition Day

Wednesday 18th March:
Sex Education Meeting for Year 5/6 parents

Friday 27th March, 2.30pm:
Last day of Spring Term

Easter holidays: 30th March – 10th April

Have a restful half term holiday!



School re-opens for the 2nd half of the Spring Term on



<u>Monday 23rd February 2026</u>

Facebook
Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children

Instagram
frank_barnes_school_deaf

Twitter
@FrankBarnesDeaf