Frank Barnes
School for Deaf Children

# Spring term – February-March 2026

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It's finally feeling more like Spring with brighter, warmer days! It's been a very short but busy half term!



## Class news

### Bowling class (Nursery/Reception)



Bowling Class have been learning about **animals and their habitats**, exploring woodlands, forests, deserts, under the sea, and Arctic (polar) environments. They also learnt about different countries and where their families are from, using a globe to find places and discovering how far away Australia is. The children particularly enjoyed learning about a desert mouse with very long ears. They have really enjoyed this topic.

### Athletics class (Key Stage 1)



Athletics class visited the Golden Hinde as part of their learning about **pirates**. This trip helped bring the topic to life and the children were amazed by how big the ship was inside.

### Swimming class (Key Stage 1/2 SEN)



This half term the children have been learning all about different types of **transport**, and used junk modelling to create various transport vehicles, like helicopters made of cups, hot air balloons made of bowls, and aeroplanes made of bottles and toilet rolls. They then went on an exciting scavenger hunt in the local Coal Drops Yard area to spot buses, bikes, boats and more!

### Basketball class (Lower Key Stage 2)



Basketball class had an exciting trip to the 'Ramses the Great' and the 'Gold of the Pharaohs' exhibition to learn about **Ancient Egypt.** They enjoyed looking at artefacts such as jewellery, coffins, pharaoh masks, and hieroglyphic wall carvings, and learning about the life of Ramesses II.

### Taekwondo class (Upper Key Stage 2)



The class went on a trip to visit **Shakespeare's Globe**, which is related to our class topic this term. They were interested in learning about the structure of the Globe Theatre and enjoyed the tour. It was lovely to see that some of our children asked very thoughtful questions. They also walked across the Millennium Bridge to see some of London's famous landmarks. It was a lovely day out!

### Sports and PE

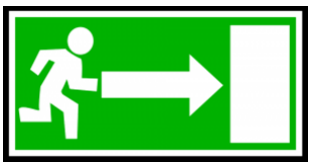


Last term, EYFS to KS2 pupils participated in **taekwondo** lessons as part of their PE programme. The feedback from both pupils and staff was extremely positive. Staff noted that pupils were active throughout the sessions and engaged in sustained physical activity from start to finish. Due to its success, we plan to include taekwondo again in next year's programme.



This term, pupils have enjoyed **basketball** lessons delivered by Scot, a PE coach who is a BSL user. Pupils benefit from direct communication in BSL and have developed a strong rapport with the coach while building their basketball skills.

### Emergency Drills



In the event of a real-life emergency, we aim for our staff and pupils to be ready to act decisively and safely. Throughout the school year, we conduct three statutory drills designed to cover various scenarios: an Evacuation **(fire drill)** to practice exiting the building quickly, **"Sleeping Lions"** (internal sheltering within classrooms), and a **Basement Lockdown** for enhanced security. These rehearsals ensure that procedures become second nature, allowing us to maintain a calm, controlled environment and prioritise the well-being of every child should an actual emergency incident occur.

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## British Science Week



British Science Week took place from 9–13 March 2026 with the theme **Curiosity: What's your question?** Each class led a Science Day, carrying out an investigation based on a key question. At the end of each day, other classes visited to observe the experiments and discuss their findings, encouraging curiosity and collaborative learning across the school.

As part of the week, Taekwondo Class collaborated with Heathlands School and Blanche Nevile School for a STEM day involving forensic science activities and an engineering bridge-building challenge, promoting teamwork and cross-school collaboration.

## Maths Day



To celebrate World Maths Day and this year's theme **Mathematics and Hope**, we held a whole-school Maths Day in the final week of term. Pupils explored Maths through cooking, applying concepts such as fractions, measurement, capacity, time and temperature while learning about food and culture from around the world.

## Charlotte's Mad Hat Day 2026



In memory of Charlotte Morten, we held our annual Mad Hat Day on her birthday, 26th February. We also launched **"Charlotte in Bookland"** reading corner with a special chair. Charlotte's niece attended and officially opened Charlotte in Bookland. Charlotte worked at Frank Barnes as a Teaching Assistant and sadly passed away from bowel cancer in 2019. Staff and children all wore hats in her memory, and we raised £143.40. Charlotte's parents kindly donated an additional £100, which was given to a bowel cancer charity. A big thank you to everyone who donated and took part.

## World Book Day



This year's World Book Day theme was **'Around the World'**. The children dressed up as storybook characters and brought along their favourite books, or wore clothing representing different cultures. It was wonderful to see both children and staff dressed as such a wide range of characters. The children took part in activities based on 'Marvellous Message: The Amazing Story of Communication' by Rose Ayling-Ellis, including making their own passports and exploring different ways people communicate around the world. By the end of the day, the children had learned a great deal about communication globally. Each child also received a £1 book voucher to take home.

## BSL Recognition Day



On Wednesday 18th March, we celebrated BSL Recognition Day, marking the **23rd anniversary** of British Sign Language being officially recognised as a language in the UK. This year's theme was '**BSL Games**'. We were joined by children and staff from Blanche Nevile School and Laycock School. The children enjoyed playing a handshape game, where they thought of as many signs as the can using the same handshapes. We also played a variety of other games, including 'Broken FaceTime' (adapted from 'Chinese whispers'), 'Wink Murder', and 'Imposter'. Afterwards, we discussed why playing games in BSL is important and ended the day with celebratory BSL-themed cakes.

## Sign Language Week



Invited guests, staff and pupils in Taekwondo class attended a special BSL Reception at the Camden Town Hall hosted by the Mayor of Camden, Councillor Eddie Hanson, to

mark the anniversary of the recognition of BSL on 18th March 2003. Guest speakers included our Deputy Head, Catherine Drew, BSL teacher, Feras Moubayed, the Chief Executive of the BDA, Rebecca Mansell, Camden's Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion, Vikram Hansrani, and the Mayor himself. Taekwondo class pupils recited their own BSL poems in the council chamber, leaving a profound impact on the audience! The Mayor and Camden are committed to recognising and celebrating BSL and gave much praise for all our hard work in providing an "inclusive education and specialist provision' for our pupils.
It was a truly wonderful and successful morning – thank you to Catherine and Asif Iqbal for organising the event.

## School attendance



Our current whole school attendance stands at **92%** this year to date, so we are on target! Keep up the good attendance! Please remember any **requests for holiday leave during term time will not be authorised**.

## Parent governor elections



We will be running parent governor elections for a new parent governor after Easter. Thank you to parent governor Agustin Molina whose 4 year term has now ended. If any parent is interested in a parent governor role and would like to nominate themselves or another parent, please do come forward! More information about the process will be shared early in the Summer term.

## Diary dates for Summer Term:

**Tuesday 28th April:**
National BSL Act 2022 Day
Youth BSL Poet Laureate competition
**Thursday 30th April:**
Parent coffee morning
**Monday 11th- 15th May:**
Key Stage 2 SATS week
**Thursday 21st May:**
KS2 Music of Life performance
**Friday 22nd May:**
Last day of half term
**25th – 29th May HALF TERM**
**Thursday 25th June:**
KS1/2 School sleepover




**Tuesday 30th June:**
Winning House Trip
**Wednesday 1st July**:
Sports Day
**Monday 6th-10th July**
Deaf Festival Week and Gala
**Wednesday 8th July**
History of FBS evening
**Monday 13th July**
Transition Morning (new classes)
**Wednesday 15th July**
Whole School Trip
**Friday 17th July, 1.00pm**
Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Last day of term **(finish 2.30pm)**



**Have a restful holiday!**
**Happy Easter!**
**School re-opens for the Summer Term on**
**Monday 13th April 2026**









## Half Term Deaf/BSL events/activities (also shared on Seesaw)

