Frank Barnes
School for Deaf Children

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Learn, grow and flourish

Summer term – June-July 2026



What an incredibly HOT and BUSY 2nd half of the summer term it's been! Everyone has worked so very hard and put in so much despite the heat, but it's paid off to end another very successful academic year with our wonderful 75th anniversary celebrations of Frank Barnes School – an absolute highlight!

Class news

Bowling class (Nursery/Reception)



Bowling class has had a fantastic summer term, enjoying lots of exciting trips and learning new things. We went out for fish and chips, visited Swanley Park (our favourite!), and explored a new park near the school. In class, we also learned about **recycling** and why it is so important to protect our environment. We discovered how plastic pollution can be dangerous for our oceans and the animals that live there, and we talked about ways we can all help by reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Athletics class (Key Stage 1)



The Athletics class has been learning about **"Save the Planet"** this term. As part of their D&T lessons, they completed a 'Save the Planet' shoebox project. They were very proud of their work and were excited to present their projects to the class.

Swimming class (Key Stage 1/2 SEN)



Swimming Class has been learning about '**Happy Healthy Me**' - being healthy, safe and learning about people who help us. We went for a 6 week course of horse riding lessons at Penniwells Horse Riding Centre, which the children LOVED and really benefited from. We also have been learning about eating healthy foods and how exercise helps our bodies. We then visited Kentish Town City Farm, and saw animals like rabbits and sheep, and learned about the role of farmers. We also visited Euston Fire station where we learned about the role of firefighters. The children were drawn to various interesting fire and rescue equipment, looked inside a fire engine truck, and had a go at spraying the water hose!

Basketball class (Lower Key Stage 2)



This term, children in Basketball and Taekwondo classes learned about **South Korean** foods and cooked a variety of traditional dishes. They also visited the Korean BBQ restaurant, where they enjoyed grilling meat, tasting different Korean dishes, and sharing food together, which is an important part of Korean culture. Many children said they would like to visit again!

Taekwondo class (Upper Key Stage 2)



Our children have been learning about **South Korea** this term. They took part in cooking lessons in FT, where they prepared a variety of Korean dishes and had great fun discovering new flavours. We also had a wonderful workshop where the children learned about Hangeul calligraphy. They were fully engaged and enjoyed practising writing Korean letters using traditional paintbrushes and ink. They applied Korean words onto beautiful scrolls and proudly took them home, creating a perfect way to wrap up the term.

Sports and PE

EYFS and SEN classes took part in football coaching delivered by a Camden coach, while KS1 and KS2 pupils received football coaching from Rajeev Bagga, a Deaf coach and former Deaflympian. Learning directly from Deaf role models and BSL

users continues to be a significant strength of our PE programme, providing pupils with excellent sporting opportunities alongside positive Deaf representation.

Staffing updates



We will be saying farewell to classtecher **Ashley Hodgkinson**, who will be moving on to teach in another school next year. We are also saying goodbye to HLTA **Ross Terry** who will be leaving to embark on a new career as an interpreter. Cover teacher **Rebecca Anderson-Griffith** is also leaving this term. Long term agency staff **Duane** and **Toyosi** will also be leaving us at the end of term. Thank you to all our staff leavers for all their hard work and support and we wish them well for the future.

HLTA **Nimco Hersi** and class teacher **Mairead Harley** have returned from their maternity leaves this term and we are delighted to have them back! We have recruited 2 new teachers in September who will also be new Team Leaders: **Chloe Fordham** will be EYFS/SEN Team Leader and **Simon Herdman** will be the KS1/2 Team Leader. We look forward to welcoming them to FBS next year.

Camden Art Biennale



Every 2 years Camden invite all schools to take part in the Camden schools Art Biennale by submitting 2 pieces of art work from each Key Stage which is displayed at the Lethaby Gallery in Kings Cross. The Key Stage 1 and 2 children went to visit the gallery and admired the artwork that was selected from FBS pupils as well as artwork from other Camden schools. If you would like to visit the exhibition, it's free and on until **26th July**, so do go and visit: https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/csm-public/camden-schools-art-biennale

https://news.camden.gov.uk/camden-schools-art-biennale-returns-for-2026/

Flood workshop and performance



On Monday 8th June Key Stage 2 children enjoyed a pre-show environmental awareness workshop with cast from the Theatre Temoin, and the whole school with KCA watched an interactive, sensory performance in the playground telling the story of a seasick world and the effects of sea pollution and climate change on Tuesday 9th June.

Winning House Trip



Deepa Shastri (Purple House) has done it again — winning the House Trip for the second year in a row! Following a whole-school vote, the children chose Thorpe Park as their destination once again. Everyone had a fantastic day, and luckily the weather had cooled down after the recent extreme heatwave.

The children enjoyed going on a variety of rides, spending time together and making wonderful memories. It was a brilliant day filled with fun, laughter and excitement!

Sports Day



Everyone enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day in the warm weather at Lewis Cubitt Park, taking part in a wide range of activities and showing great enthusiasm throughout the day. Congratulations to Deepa Shastri House for winning the most points and to Yonis for receiving the Sportsmanship Award. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support their children. Thank you also to Kings Cross Estate for providing gazebos to keep everyone cool in the heat!

Deaf History Week



What a fantastic week we had celebrating 75 years of Frank Barnes School! Bowling Class had their own special timetable for the week, while Swimming Class also had their own activities and joined some of the KS1 and KS2 sessions. It was

wonderful to see everyone coming together to celebrate our school's history.
During the week, the children learned about Frank Barnes himself and explored the history of our school. They also discovered what life was like in different decades by looking at food, clothing, games and popular dance routines from the past.
It was a very special week for everyone, celebrating our Deaf community, our history and the amazing journey of Frank Barnes School over the past 75 years.

75th Anniversary celebrations

We celebrated the 75th anniversary of school since it was renamed Frank Barnes in 1951. We enjoyed a full week of celebrations between **6th and 10th July:**



Monday – formal assembly introducing the week with past and present pupils/staff/sharing memories of the school, including a speech from the Mayor of Camden and the co-chair of the BSL Advisory Board.



Tuesday – bus tour visiting former sites of FBS in Central Street, Swiss Cottage and Jubilee Waterside Centre
Wednesday – FBS Deaf History Community Evening with special recognition of TA Grisha's 40 years of service to Camden and FBS, and Dani's 25 years' service to the school.
Friday – Children's disco in the afternoon and a special Gala dinner in the evening.

Many thanks to all the staff who worked so hard to prepare for and run each of the brilliant events through the week! Wonderful memories of a very special occasion!



Transition Morning

On Monday 13th July, the children enjoyed a transition morning introducing the new Space-themed class names and their new teachers and classmates. The children are excited about returning in September and joining their new classes. We will have 6 classes next year: **Stars, Rockets, Meteor, Comet, Supernova** and **Galaxy** classes! You should have received a letter on Seesaw with your child's new class name, teacher and support staff.



Whole School Trip

On Thursday 16th July, the children enjoyed a whole school end-of-year reward trip the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. Three classes enjoyed time in the All-Hands interactive gallery and the Cove playground, while the two KS2 classes enjoyed an Astronomy workshop as an introduction to their new class names next year!



Leavers Assembly

The annual Leavers Assembly was held on the last day of term, 17th July, where we say goodbye to staff leavers and also our Year 6 pupils who all leave for their secondary schools in September. A fond farewell to our six Year 6s: **Tanzia**, **Freya**, **Kallesta**, **Kiyo-Rei**, **Halle** and **Helen**. We will miss them all and wish them all the best for the next chapter of their school journey!

School attendance

Our current whole school attendance has dipped 0.2% below our 92% target at **91.8%%** this year!



Parent governor elections

Thank you to all the parents who submitted their ballot papers for the parent governor election. Congratulations to **Frances Othen-Wales** who was elected as our new parent governor who started her term on 7th July.



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Free School Meals

Please Check Your Free School Meals Eligibility
As we prepare for the new academic year, we encourage all families to check whether they are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).
From September 2026, the Government is expanding the eligibility criteria, meaning more children may now qualify. Even if you've applied before or don't think you're eligible, it's worth checking.
Why apply?

- Your child could receive free school meals, helping to reduce household costs.
- Every eligible application provides the school with additional Pupil Premium funding, helping us enhance teaching, provide targeted support, enrichment opportunities and valuable resources for our pupils.
- You may also be eligible for additional financial support with educational visits and other school-related costs.

Apply online:
https://www.camden.gov.uk/apply-for-free-school-meals
The application is quick, easy and confidential. Even if you're unsure whether you qualify, we encourage you to apply—every successful application helps support both your family and our school. Thank you for your support.

Diary dates for Autumn Term:

Tuesday 23rd September
International Day of Sign Languages
Friday 25th September:
National TA Day
Wednesday 7th October
BSL Celebration Day
Parents Afternoon
Friday 9th October
Parent Coffee Morning
21st – 30th October: HALF TERM
24th & 25th November
Christmas show workshops
Tuesday 15th December
Christmas show (community)
Wednesday 16th December
Christmas show (parents)
Friday 18th December, 2.30pm
Last day of Autumn Term





Have a wonderful summer holiday!



School re-opens for the Autumn Term on
Thursday
3rd September 2026

Don't forget the Remark! playschemes in North and South London are happening during the summer holidays – please see Lisa's message on Seesaw for details.





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