Frank Barnes
School for Deaf Children

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Learn, grow and flourish

Autumn term – September-October 2026



Welcome back to the start of the new academic year! It's wonderful to see everyone back in school again after a long hot summer! This year we have 6 classes and 41 children at Frank Barnes which is fantastic! Enjoy reading what we've been up to this half term and what's coming up after half term.

Class news

Star class (Nursery/Reception)



Star Class had a wonderful time visiting Wigmore Hall to enjoy The Big Dreaming, a special musical performance with BSL interpretation! As part of our 'All About Me' topic, the children had the opportunity to enjoy music, explore storytelling and feelings, and experience different ways of communicating. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to share a special experience together and discover the joy of music in an accessible and welcoming space.



Meteor class (Key Stage 1)







Meteor class has been learning about Harvest this half term. They visited Kentish Town City Farm to see the farm animals and learn more about life on a farm.

Rocket class (SEN)



This half term in Rocket class the children have been learning all about space and rockets. They loved their trip to the Science Museum and enjoyed exploring the space area and role playing astronauts. They are very proud of their class name – Rocket class!

Comet class (Key Stage 1)



This term, Comet class explored the topic 'Around the World in 80 Days'. They visited the London Transport Museum, where the children learnt about different types of transport in the past and compared these with present day transport. Everyone enjoyed exploring the different vehicles and discovering how transport has changed over the years.

Supernova class (Key Stage 2)



The class visited a local bakery, wrote warning posters and sequenced how the fire spread through London in 1666. The children also created burning-house silhouettes using colourful tissue paper, creating fiery effects without setting off the school's fire alarm! They brought their learning together in their own Great Fire of London books and acted out the story through drama and BSL, including a Deaf boy escaping from the burning houses!

Galaxy class (Key Stage 2)

As part of the World War II topic this term, the children had a fantastic time visiting HMS Belfast in the Thames River. They enjoyed exploring the ship, discovering the different rooms, climbing the narrow ladders and taking part in fun interactive games. The BSL videos helped to make the experience accessible and engaging for everyone. They also enjoyed a lovely lunch on the deck while admiring the beautiful views of London. It was a wonderful day. The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and would love to visit HMS Belfast again.



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Sports and PE



Our EYFS and SEN classes enjoyed a range of multi-sports activities this half term, led by a Camden sports coach. The sessions focused on developing pupils' gross motor skills, coordination and confidence through a variety of fun and engaging activities.

Meanwhile, our KS1 and KS2 pupils enjoyed cricket lessons delivered by BSL coach Scott Ellis, developing their batting, bowling, catching and teamwork skills.

A huge thank you to all parents and families for supporting our PE uniform expectations: white T-shirts, black shorts or joggers, and black trainers. It has been fantastic to see everyone looking smart and ready for PE in the sports hall, with pupils participating enthusiastically in their lessons. Your support has made a real difference!

Swimming lessons also got off to a great start for all our Year 1 to Year 6 pupils. Once again, thank you to families for ensuring that children have the correct swimming kit each week.

We are also excited to introduce our new Frank Barnes swimming caps after half term! We will be in touch with families shortly with further information.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping our pupils enjoy PE and swimming, stay active and develop their physical skills and confidence.

WFD International week of Deaf People
BSL Celebration Day

It has been a fantastic term full of Deaf history and celebrations! All the KS1 and KS2 children visited the opening of RAD's Deaf History Exhibition. We were very lucky to have Mark Wheatley, CEO of RAD, give the children a special tour. This was a wonderful start to the International Week of Deaf People.



We also celebrated our annual BSL Celebration Day, with 'puppets' as this year's theme. Jodie from Little Angel Theatre led a brilliant workshop, where the children created their own puppets. We ended the day with a lovely celebration BSL cake!



Michael Woods

We hosted Deaf mountaineer Michael Woods for an inspirational afternoon and evening on Friday 9th October. Michael is the first Deaf British person to reach the summit of Mount Everest, achieving his dream earlier this year. He gave a fantastic presentation in assembly to the Key Stage 1 and 2 children about his journey and how he achieved his dream and encouraged them to follow theirs and never give up. In the evening Michael shared his journey with the Deaf community in a fundraising/ticketed event in the school which was very emotional, inspiring and well received.





Family Fun Day

Thank you to the 10 FBS families who came along to the annual Family Fun Day at the British Library on Saturday 17th October. Everyone enjoyed themselves very much, taking part in a range of creative activities in the afternoon. This year's theme was 'Stories Sign and Shine', and everyone certainly shone! Thank you to the staff volunteers who generously gave up their time to help with the FBS stall for children to dress up in a story character against a green screen background of the story setting of their choice!







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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 **'The Polar Express'**. The children will start rehearsing after half term. Please keep an eye out for requests for donations of costumes, volunteers for workshops, and any other support we may need. Please make sure you note the date of the performance for parents on **Wednesday afternoon, 16th December.**

Parent governor nominations



We are recruiting again for a new parent governor to sit on the school's Governing Body. A letter/video was sent out last week about this on Seesaw so please do check your messages. The deadline date for nominations is **Monday 2nd November**. If we receive more than one nomination we will hold an election after the half term.

School attendance



Our current whole school attendance is **88%**, below our 92% target We had a few pupil absences at the start of the year, but hopefully attendance will improve over time and we'll reach our 92% target. Please take extra care over the winter months to avoid illnesses and ensure children are well enough to attend school.

Diary dates for Autumn Term 2:

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 good half term break!





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

Monday 2nd November 2026

Don't forget the Deaf Remark! playschemes in North and South London during the October half term (27-30th October)

Contact community@remark.uk.com



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