

## Spring 1<sup>st</sup> Half Term – February 2019

It's been another busy half term as usual! The children have been doing lots of fun learning activities, and keeping themselves active, mentally and physically. We hope that they all had a good half term break and got some rest because we'll have another busy 2<sup>nd</sup> half term! Here's our news round-up from the first half term, and what's coming up for the rest of the Spring Term.

### PE & Sports Development

This term, the children have had multi-sports PE lessons from deaf coach Ben Lampert, which they've enjoyed. Mandy organised a swimming gala for our Key Stage 2 children run by Panathlon. This term the children will be doing gymnastics in PE. This half-term, we will start a new bike-riding lunchtime club with our brand new bikes and riding kit that we have purchased for the children.



### Staffing

Our Facilities Manager, Luke Gilbert will be leaving us at the end of February to take up a new post in a secondary school nearer to home. Our thanks and best wishes to Luke on his new venture. We have now promoted our Facilities Assistant, Sean Gilbert, to take over as Facilities Manager, following a successful interview.



Marios Costi, our BSL teacher, has resigned from his role, and we know the BSL Level 1 students and the KCA children/staff will miss him, as will we. We are currently advertising for a new BSL teacher.

### Internet safety

Last half term there was a focus on teaching online safety to the children, and we also had a whole school assembly on the national Safer Internet Day on 5<sup>th</sup> February. "Stranger Danger" has been a theme, with children learning that the internet can be as risky as talking to a stranger in the park.



Learn, grow and flourish

### Sign2Sing

We had our annual Sign2Sing event to raise money for Sign Health. Kings Cross Academy joined us in the singing of this year's song from Take That – "The Greatest Day of our Lives".



Thank you to Mischa and some of our FBS staff for leading the sign singing and to everyone for taking part.

### Class news

The **Nursery** and **Cinderella class** went on a trip to the Islington Fire Station and loved meeting the firefighters, many of whom could sign. They explored the fire engines, jumped down poles and used the fire hoses.



**Little Red Riding Hood class** did "fairgrounds" as their class topic last half term and designed and made their own funfair rides in D&T. The children had such fun!

**Beauty and the Beast class** did "castles" as their topic and visited the Tower of London as an example of a castle building.

**Puss in Boots class** did the Titanic as their topic last half term. One of their highlights was designing, preparing and serving a Silver Service meal to 6 staff which they absolutely loved!

### Governors

We are still looking for a parent governor to fill the vacancy on our Governing Body, so please do get in touch if you are interested in nominating yourself or another parent for this role.



This is an exciting opportunity to represent parents with 3 other parents to influence decision making in the school, and support the school's vision in ensuring high standards of teaching, learning, strategic leadership and management.

**Looking for more information?**

See our website for details [www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](http://www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)

## School attendance

Our current whole school attendance stands at 93.9%, which is above our 92% target! We want to maintain this!



Please note that we cannot authorise any requests for leave during term time, unless in exceptional circumstances. Any requests for leave for family holidays in term time will not be permitted and, if taken without authorisation, may be liable for a penalty charge notice.

Our 2019/20 term dates are now available on our school website, so please ensure that any family holidays are booked in advance outside of term time.

## Magic Hands

The producers of our marketing video, Flashing Lights Media, have made a fun, accessible programme called 'Magic Hands'. It's on CBeebies every day at 11.15am, so do record it or watch with your children.



## Fundraising

Six staff members will be travelling to Nepal this summer to help transform the school dormitories of Sri Jana Deaf School, which are in desperate need of a revamp. Please support them to raise money for this project through their justgiving page:



[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frankbarnesstaffnepaltrip](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frankbarnesstaffnepaltrip)

Any donations, however big or small, will be very much appreciated.

## Events coming up this term:

**World Book Day** – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

**BSL Recognition Day** – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March

## Term Dates

The school term ends on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April** at **2.30pm** for the Easter holidays. School opens again for the Summer Term **on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**, with half term the week of 27<sup>th</sup> May, and the end of the Summer Term on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**.



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