



Fawbert & Barnard's Primary School Newsletter 16 || 09.01.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Spring term! It has been a real pleasure welcoming the children back to school this week. They have returned refreshed, smiling, and ready to learn, and we hope you all enjoyed a restful and happy break with your families.

This first week has focused on settling back into school routines, re-establishing expectations, and reconnecting with friends and adults. The children have done this brilliantly and have already shown great enthusiasm for their new learning. Our topics this term promise to be both rich and exciting – from exploring sunny Kenya, delving into the world of the Ancient Greeks, to investigating the power of roaring tornadoes. There is a lot to look forward to across the curriculum, with plenty of opportunities for curiosity, discussion, and creativity.

To keep up to date with what your child is learning each week, please continue to visit our school website and check your child's Seesaw account, where teachers will be sharing curriculum information, updates, and examples of learning.

The chilly start to the term has certainly been felt, and we really appreciate your support in ensuring children are coming to school dressed appropriately for the cold weather. As temperatures remain low, please make sure your child continues to bring a warm coat, and where needed, hats and gloves for outdoor play.

Year 1 have enjoyed sharing their learning this week in the Class Corner, giving a lovely insight into the fantastic start they have made to the term.

Finally, after-school clubs will begin next week. Please look out for confirmation regarding your child's place in a club.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to a busy, purposeful, and exciting Spring term ahead.

Warm regards,
Sophia Ovonlen
Headteacher



Achievements



Please see below for some of the achievements that were celebrated this week.

STARS OF THE WEEK	
Reception	Whole Class
Year 1	Essie
Year 2	Jacob
Year 3	Niamh
Year 4	Josh
Year 5	Lailah
Year 6	Ruby



Year 1 Class Corner

Welcome back to a brand-new Spring term in Year 1! We are excited to begin our learning as we explore our theme Kings and Queens, discovering what life was like for significant monarchs and connecting this to our work across the curriculum.

In English, we will be studying the beautifully illustrated book *Snow Thief*. Children will explore the characters and setting, make predictions, discuss emotions, and retell key events through drama and storytelling. They will continue building strong sentence-writing skills, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops, while developing confidence in sequencing a beginning, middle and end.

In Maths, children will deepen their understanding of place value, as well as addition and subtraction within 20. Later in the term, they will begin measuring length, height, mass and volume, applying these skills in practical, meaningful contexts.

In Science, our focus is Plants. Children will learn what a plant is, identify common plants and trees, and explore the parts of trees and flowering plants. Through outdoor observations and simple investigations, they will compare plants, look closely at leaves and flowers, and begin to spot patterns in the natural world. Next half-term, this will link into our ongoing learning about the Seasons.

In History, children will be learning about Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III, finding out what a monarch does and how the role has changed over time. In Geography, the class will expand their global knowledge by learning the seven continents and five oceans using maps, globes and songs.

In Art, children will explore collage and 3D techniques, experimenting with textures, shapes and layered materials to create imaginative artwork. In DT, they will design and build simple bridges, learning what makes structures strong and stable through hands-on testing.

In Computing, the term begins with programming, where children will give instructions to move a robot and understand simple sequences. Later, they will learn to group and sort data to answer questions.

In Music, children will continue exploring rhythm using djembe drums, playing simple patterns and listening to different pieces of music to discuss tempo, volume and mood.

In PSHE, they will focus on developing gratitude through the Appreciate unit and strengthen their understanding of friendships, listening and empathy in the Relate unit. In RE, children will be exploring the question “What do Jewish people remember on Shabbat?”, learning about traditions, rest and family time within Jewish life.

In PE, the children will develop football skills such as control, passing, attacking and defending. Across the term they will also take part in dance, exploring movement, rhythm and expression, before building teamwork and communication through cooperative games and fitness activities.

Academic Calendar 2025-2026

Spring Term 2026

INSET DAY: Monday 5 January 2026

Pupils Start: Tuesday 6 January 2026

Half Term: Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February 2026

Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Pupils Start: Monday 13 April 2026

Half Term: Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May 2026

INSET DAY: Monday 1 June 2026

Term ends: Friday 17 July 2026

INSET DAY: Monday 20 July 2026

Please note that holidays requests during term time will not be authorised.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2025	
5 January	INSET Day
6 January	Pupils Return
12 th January	After school clubs start
19 th January	Choir Event
27 January	Year 6 Trip
4 th February	Mental Health Week
6 th February	After school club end
9 th February	Parents Consultation
10 th February	Parents Consultation
13 th February	Valentines Disco
16 th - 20 th February Half Term Holidays	

Please note that holidays requests during term time will not be authorised.

🌿 Our F&B Values 🌿



At Fawbert & Barnard's, our values guide everything we do in the classroom, on the playground, and beyond the school gates.

They help our children grow into kind, confident, and responsible individuals who make a positive difference in their community and the wider world.

FAWBERT & BARNARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parent & Carer Communication Flowchart

Helping you find the right person, first time

1. Learning Concerns

(Progress, attainment, classwork, behaviour for learning)

Start with → Class Teacher

They know your child best and will be able to resolve most issues.

If unresolved → Behaviour Lead: Miss Sansom

If still unresolved → Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Derriman

Next → Headteacher: Mrs Sophia Ovonlen

2. Pastoral / Emotional / Friendship Concerns

(Playground issues, friendships, wellbeing, possible bullying including discriminatory behaviour)

Start with → Class Teacher

If unresolved → Behaviour Lead: Miss Sansom

If still unresolved → Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Derriman

Next → Headteacher: Mrs Sophia Ovonlen

3. SEND Concerns

(Suspected or known SEND, learning needs, behaviour linked to SEND, access arrangements, reasonable adjustments)

Start with → Class Teacher

Then, SENCo – Mrs Derriman

Then → Headteacher: Mrs Sophia Ovonlen

4. Safeguarding Concerns

(Immediate safety, disclosures, neglect, abuse, welfare concerns)

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mrs Sophia Ovonlen

Deputy DSLs: Mrs Deriman, Miss Sansom, Mr Downey, Mrs De Howes,
Mrs Hutchinson

For urgent concerns: Contact via the school office immediately.

5. Family / Home Support Needs

(Housing difficulties, finances, behaviour at home, routines, attendance challenges, parenting support)

Contact

Family Support: Mrs De Howes

or

DSL/Deputy DSL

6. Administration / Office Queries

(Invoices, ParentMail, school meals, trips, attendance, paperwork, forms)

Contact:

School Office Manager – Mrs Hutchinson

or

School Office Team

7. Concerns About Staff Conduct

Contact:

Headteacher – Mrs Sophia Ovonlen

If the concern involves the Headteacher → Chair of Governors

(Contact details available via school office)

8. Making Contact

Teachers and staff can be contacted via the school office:

Phone: 01279 429427

Email: Office@fawbert-barnards.essex.sch.uk

In person: Appointments can be arranged through the office

Our Promise

We aim to respond within **48 working hours** to acknowledge your concern and outline next steps.