



Fawbert & Barnard's Primary School

Newsletter 18 || 23.01.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely weekend. Thank you for your patience in receiving this week's newsletter. It has certainly been a cold start to the week, and we appreciate your support in ensuring children come to school dressed warmly for the colder mornings. Despite the chilly weather, learning across the school has continued with great enthusiasm.

In this week's Class Corner, Year 6 have shared some thoughtful reflections on their recent learning, which I know you will enjoy reading. They are also extremely excited about their upcoming trip to Harry Potter World, and we wish them a wonderful and memorable experience.

Last week, some of our pupils who attended Young Voices at the O2 took time to reflect on this incredible opportunity. Their comments truly capture the excitement and scale of the event, and I am delighted to share them with you below:

Dominika

"We had to sing in a choir with lots of children. It was two and a half hours long. I liked that we went for the whole day to practise."

Olivia

"Other singers came to sing at the O2. I liked that we all got to sing together. My favourite song to sing was the Pop Medley."

Amira

"My favourite song was Disco Fever because there were lots of different songs to sing. I also liked that some celebrities joined us to sing with us."

William P

"We got to do lots of dances to go with the songs, and we also learnt sign language to go with the songs. My favourite song to sing was the Sea Shanty Medley."

Ruby

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to sing at the O2 with Young Voices. My favourite song was the Wicked Medley because I really like Wicked."

Sophie

"My favourite part of the experience was being inside the O2 singing with so many other children. My favourite song was the Wicked Medley because Wicked is my favourite show. We even tried to sing the highest note in Defying Gravity!"

Warm regards,

Sophia Ovonlen
Headteacher



Achievements

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

| STARS OF THE WEEK | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Reception | Hira |
| Year 1 | Elsie |
| Year 2 | Amber |
| Year 3 | Nell |
| Year 4 | May |
| Year 5 | Margarita |
| Year 6 | Millie |
| | |
| Numbots Cup | Year 1 |
| Numbots Champ | Scarlett Y2 |
| TTRS Cup | Year 3 |
| TTRS Champ | Olivia B Y5 |



Year 6 Class Corner

The children have worked incredibly hard over the past few weeks as they continue to prepare for SATS very diligently each day. Their resilience and determination have really shone through. In maths, we have been focusing on ratio, with the children confidently using both ratio language and the ratio symbol. This week, we have launched our new topic of algebra, where the children have begun replacing letters with numbers and exploring how algebra works.

As an exciting hook into our new class text, *Pig Heart Boy*, the children transformed into doctors, nurses and surgeons in preparation for “heart surgery.” They completed a step-by-step drawing of a heart, carefully colouring their work using pastels and pencils. These fantastic pieces of artwork are now proudly displayed in our classroom.

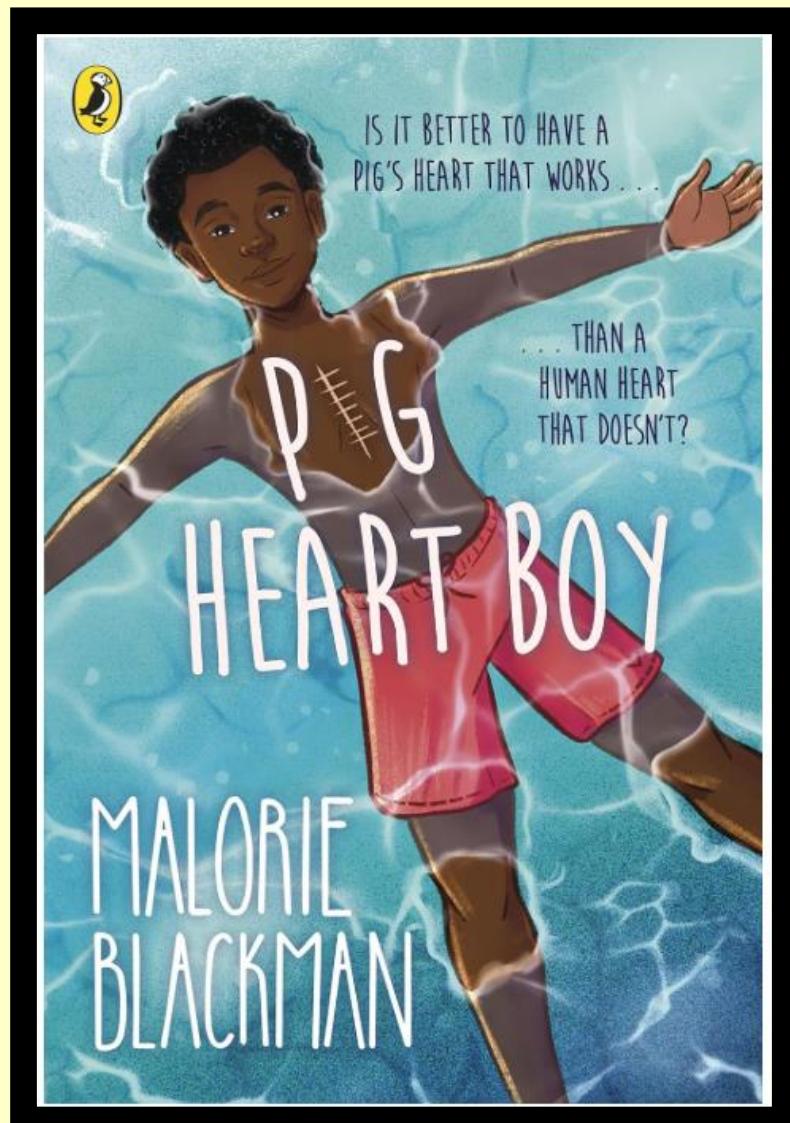
In English, the children have used text mapping to learn a new story linked to *Pig Heart Boy*. They have worked hard to understand the structure and key features of the text and will be using this as a model to write their own versions of the story in the coming weeks.

In Geography, we have been learning about climate change, identifying its causes and discussing its impact on the world around us. In Science, we have continued our work on classification and will soon begin our new topic on the circulatory system, which links brilliantly with our class text.

In PE, the children have learnt a new dance along to a song and will soon begin choreographing their own routine to perform at the end of the term. They have enthusiastically chosen “Uptown Funk” as their music and are very excited to get started. In Computing, we are learning about variables in games, exploring how different controls make things happen.

The children are also very excited to be auditioning for their chosen parts in our end-of-year school play, showing great enthusiasm and confidence as they prepare to perform.

We are all very much looking forward to next week, where we will be fully immersed in our trip to Harry Potter World, discovering all things magical. It promises to be an unforgettable experience!



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.

Reading at Home Makes a Difference



Why reading at home matters



Builds vocabulary and language



Improves reading fluency and comprehension



Supports confidence and wellbeing



Strengthens parent-child relationships



Children who read at home regularly make up to **6 months** more progress in reading.



Just **10 minutes** of reading a day exposes children to **thousands** of new words a year



Children who **enjoy** reading are more likely to succeed across all subjects

A few minutes every day really adds up.

Healthy Screen Time Guidelines

0-2 Years:
No Screen Time



2-5 Years:
Up to 1 Hour/Day



5-18 Years:
Up to 2 Hours/Day



What is Cyberbullying?

About **1 in 3** children have experienced cyberbullying.

Girls are affected **slightly more** than boys.



Declining Grades



Avoiding Friends



Sleep Problems



Low Self-Esteem



Avoiding Devices

Warning Signs of Cyberbullying:

How Parents Can Help



Talk with Your Child



Report to Platform & School



Involve Law Enforcement



Get Professional Support

🌿 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.