



Fawbert & Barnard's Primary School
Newsletter 19 || 30.01.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another good week at school, despite the continuing cold weather. We were delighted to participate the Indoor Athletics Festival today, and our pupils represented the school brilliantly—well done to all involved. A huge thank you also to our parent volunteers who continue to support school trips; we truly appreciate your time and commitment.

This week, Year 5 have shared their learning in our Class Corner and have been extremely busy across the curriculum.

On Friday 6 February, we will be celebrating NSPCC Number Day. Children may wear an item of clothing with a number on it (e.g. a football shirt or patterned clothing). This is completely optional. Our KS2 pupils will also be taking part in a Times Tables Rock Stars competition against Jerounds and Longwood from Monday 2 February to Friday 6 February. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to spend just 10 minutes a day on TTRS at home because every effort counts.

Do remember to book your parent consultations. The meetings will provide a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, look through their books, and share feedback with us about what is working well and how we can continue to improve together.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to a Parent Tea & Chat on Tuesday 10 February from 5:40pm, straight after parent consultations. This session is a chance to share what is working well and what we should focus on improving. For those unable to attend, a short online feedback form will be shared. Tea, biscuits and cakes will be provided.

Finally, please note that after-school club will end on Thursday 6 February. External providers clubs (football and Kungfu) will carry on as normal.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Sophia Ovonlen
Headteacher

Achievements

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

STARS OF THE WEEK	
Reception	Anthony
Year 1	Ayaan
Year 2	Leo
Year 3	Teya
Year 4	Charlotte
Year 5	Alfie
Year 6	Lara
Numbots Cup	Year 1
Numbots Champ	Lushomo
TTRS Cup	Year 4
TTRS Champ	Oliver



Year 5 Class Corner

Year 5 have had a fantastic start to the spring term, and we certainly came back from Christmas with a bang! Our learning launched with an exciting WOW Day, where a hurricane swept through the Year 5 classroom, leaving destruction in its wake. Furniture was displaced, resources were scattered and the classroom told the dramatic story of the sheer power of nature. This immersive experience immediately captured the children's imaginations and provided the perfect stimulus for our English work.

Following this, we have been writing our own disaster stories based on the book Floodland. The children have explored and described the treachery of natural disasters in vivid detail, whether that be a volcano erupting, a hurricane tearing through a community, or the ground shaking violently during an earthquake. They have focused on building tension, creating atmosphere and using ambitious vocabulary to draw the reader into their powerful and dramatic narratives.

We have also begun to look at earthquakes in depth, exploring what causes them and how we measure them. The children have learned about tectonic plates, fault lines and seismic activity, as well as how earthquakes are measured using scientific tools and scales. This learning has prompted thoughtful discussions about the impact of earthquakes on people, buildings and the wider world.

In science, we are learning about how plants reproduce and channelling our inner botanists. We have only just begun to start growing our basil cuttings, and it is still very early stages. The children have carefully prepared their cuttings and are beginning to learn how plants can reproduce in different ways, making predictions and observations as they wait to see the first signs of growth.

Creativity has been in full swing this term. In dance, we have been improvising our own dances to the disco classic Boogie Wonderland, exploring rhythm, movement and expression while working confidently and enthusiastically as a team. We have also been fortunate enough to be having drama sessions with Sam on a Tuesday afternoon, giving the children opportunities to build confidence, develop teamwork and express themselves through performance.

It is definitely safe to say that Year 5 have had a busy and exciting start to the Spring Term!

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	
2 nd - 6 th February.	Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) competition
4 th February	Mental Health Week
6 th February	NSPCC Numbers Day
6 th February	After school club end
9 th February	Parents Consultation
10 th February	Parents Consultation
10 th February	Parent Tea & Chat (from 5.40pm)
11 th - 13 th February	Bikeability
13 th February	Valentines Disco
16 th - 20 th February Half Term Holidays	
23 rd February	Children return to school
5 th March	World Book Day
2 nd - 6 th March	World Book Week
20 th March	Red Nose Day
20 th March	Learning Showcase (From 2.45pm)
23 rd March	Rocksteady Concert
26 th March	Easter Bonnet Parade
27 th March	Last Day of term (finish at 1.30pm)

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

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS TOURNAMENT!!

Year 3 & Year 4 Battle of the Bands



Dates: Monday 2nd – Friday 6th February



Play Time: 7:30am – 7:30pm



Play at school **AND at home**

★ **Every player counts – try your best!** ★

★ **You're competing as a CLASS TEAM!** ★

★ **It's not about speed – it's about effort and accuracy** ★



VS



VS



Fawbert & Barnard's ⚡ Jerounds ⚡ VS Longwood



Friday is NSPCC ROCKS DAY!

★ **Your points count for BOTH competitions!** ★



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.