

Staffing

We will be saying goodbye to Mr Townsend at the end of May. After 18 years of service with us he has decided to retire. We would like to thank him for his commitment to the school and wish him an enjoyable retirement. We are currently in the process of recruiting.



We are pleased to inform you that the school has received another two awards recently. The first is recognition in becoming a Prem Aware School. Teachers and support staff have received training to highlight the effects of premature births to children's learning and development.



The second is the KS1 Sport & Activity Mark through Active Essex.

This was to acknowledge that 2 hours per week of PE takes place and classes were offered to take part in competitions and festivals last academic year.

Breakfast Club

We are thrilled to be able to inform you that we have received sufficient interest for our breakfast club to continue when we return from the Easter break. Due to our funding expiring, this will now be a paid for service. We will be writing to those who have registered providing them with the final details.

We still have availability should anyone wish to register. Please see office staff for more information.

SCHOOL EVENTS

School Visits

Our Year 2 pupils had a lovely day exploring the Tower of London on Wednesday 24 January 2024 and this enhanced their learning of their themed topic of Fire. Here are some excerpts from their adventure:

"All of the groups except Mrs Scott's got a photo with a Beefeater. After we went to see the crown jewels. We went to the Fire! Fire! talk with Simon and I felt elated. Finally we went to the Bloody Tower and saw a throne and went up tiny steps and saw some ravens." (Isla)

"When we got there I saw the crown jewels. I saw my favorite crown! We went up some hard stairs. Last but not least the guards scared us by shouting "move, move, move"." (Charlotte)

Festivals

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a Tag Rugby festival on 19 January 2024 and played outstanding games which put them through to the final stages between other local schools. This took place on 26 January 2024 where they competed with 16 other schools winning several games and came 9th overall. This was a fantastic achievement against the opposition teams.

World Book Day

We will be taking part in World Book Day on 7 March 2024. Children are encouraged to attend school dressed as their favourite book character on this day. Further details of events will be issued after half-term.

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REMINDERS

Policies for Consultation

We circulated a Parentmail on 5 February 2024 with our reviewed Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies. If you have any comments to make on these, please address them to the admin@fawbert-barnards.essex.sch.uk e-mail before 26 February 2024.

After-school Clubs attendance

If your child has been allocated a place to attend an after-school club and is unable to attend, we would be grateful if you could let the club staff member or the office know. If your child is absent on the day due to illness etc we will already be aware, but we have had occasions where children are going home without us being informed so then need to contact parents to ensure they are safe, following our safeguarding procedures.

Leave of Absence

As part of the government's initiative to improve attendance our Attendance Officer, Clare Morgan regularly reviews the schools data and is leading with this. She will be writing to those where improvement is required and arranging meetings were necessary. More details of any absences and parents duties can be found in our Attendance policy available on our website and the link below.

If you are requesting a leave of absence for your child, please ensure that the school form is completed and your statement for seeking exceptional circumstances is attached. The form is available in the hallway entrance to the office. This should be given to the school at least **two weeks** before the absence so the school can have sufficient time to provide you with a response. Where a parent removes a child when the application for leave was refused or where no application was made to the school, the issue of a penalty notice may be requested by this school in accordance with the Essex Code of Conduct. More information can be found in our [Attendance Policy](#).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
16 February 2024	Parent / Staff Quiz Night, Raffle & Auction (19:30) Further details will be circulated through class parent ambassadors
19-23 February 2024	Half-Term
26 February 2024	Pupils return to school After-school clubs resume
29 February 2024	Photographer in for in-class portraits
1 March 2024	Mother's Day Sale by Friends for children
7 March 2024	World Book Day—children are encouraged to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

