

CLP Parent and Carer Newsletter

Edition 2: **March 2020**

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From the Chief Executive Officer

It has been an excellent start to 2020 in all our schools. This month saw the publication of the validated GCSE and A Level results. It is incredibly pleasing to note that our secondary schools perform well above other secondary schools nationally:

Key Performance Measure	CLP Secondary Schools	National
Progress 8	0.17	-0.03
Attainment 8 Score	48.7	46.5
Grade 5+ (strong pass) in English and Maths	45%	43%

This month also saw the trust having our first review meeting with the Department for Education. These review meetings take place every 2 years and this meeting was scheduled as we are coming towards the end of our second year as a trust. The meeting covered all aspects of the trust and its operations including pupil outcomes, governance, finance, strategy and school improvement. It was a very positive meeting. All schools in the trust have taken part in writing and safeguarding audits since September. Both reviews were extremely positive and it is very clear there is outstanding practice taking place in the areas of writing and safeguarding across the trust.

We were delighted to appoint Mrs Anslow to the position of Headteacher at Lakelands Primary School. Mrs Anslow takes up her position after the Easter Holidays and will join the CLP leadership team to improve outcomes for all pupils in the CLP trust.

Working Together

We will start to introduce trust-wide School Improvement Hubs. These 'Hubs' will meet on a half termly basis and will be looking at key areas of school improvement that colleagues in schools can work on collectively together and share best practice.

Main areas of focus across the trust are:

- **English/Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **SEND**
- **Curriculum Development and School Improvement**
- **EYFS**

Our new Hubs will begin in the summer term and we aim to ensure sustained professional development for our staff which in turn will impact on the provision provided by individual schools.

Each term, the trust hosts a conference for all governors and trustees. This term's conference will be looking at how we develop school improvement across the trust and also how we shape the strategic direction of the trust in the coming years.

As a trust, we are on a very exciting journey and we continuously strive towards our vision – We believe that, as a collective of schools, we are stronger together and that by working together we provide an outstanding education for every child in our family of schools.



Forest School

The Spring Term has seen the reintroduction of Forest School to our BFIS Curriculum.

Our Forest School sessions are delivered by Mrs Doggett, a Forest School trained LSA, and our fantastic team of BFIS volunteers.

We are very lucky at BFIS to have a truly beautiful outdoor environment to support our Forest School learning, and we have certainly been maximising the use of the space so far this year. The wet and windy weather of late has not stopped the children from having a fantastic time and adding this wonderful outdoor experience to their learning.



So far this term, Year 2 have been exploring the topic 'What is Nature?' and have been gathering natural materials to create their own animals.

Our Year 1 children have been on a bug hunt, looking for as many different types of creepy crawlies as they could find, while showing our 'Capes of Success' value of team work to build dens to enjoy their 'Love of books' session.

As well as our main aims of developing the children's confidence, self-belief, problem solving skills, communication and learning capacity, we can already see that it is impacting on their emotional well-being. This was evident when we talked them to them during 'Children's Mental Health Week' in February about the activities that made them feel calm and happy. Forest School was top of their list!

We are looking forward to our Reception children having their turn at learning outside later this term.

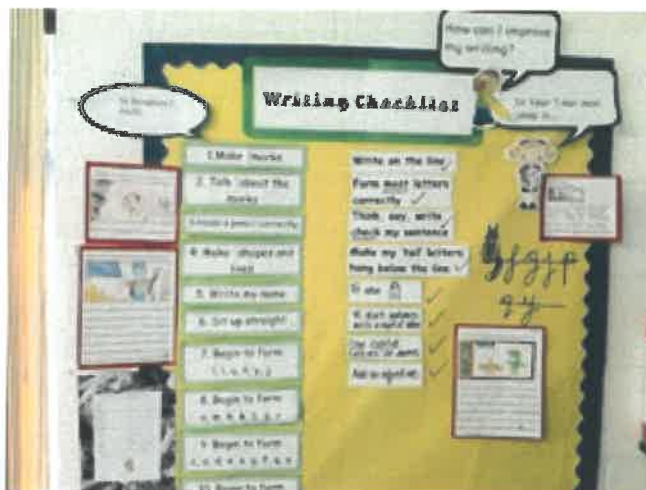
BFIS Cheerleaders

On the 25th February, the first day back after the half term, eight children from Barnes Farm Infant school competed in a local cheerleading competition. The team had to say a chant that reflected their school and complete a 2-minute routine that included lots of specific cheerleading moves. It was obvious that the children were using all the growth mindset skills they have been learning about in the classroom, they particularly showed drive and teamwork. Not only did the children represent the school brilliantly, they went on to receive first place in the KS1 division. The children now will compete the Cheerleading Country finals that will be held later in the month.



The Writing Checklist

At BFIS, our youngest children begin their writing journey in Reception when they start to make marks using different medium such as paint, pencils, crayons and even mud! Writing skills develop up to Year 2 where children begin to use subordination and use a range of punctuation. To record the first skills of writing we begin to commit each skill to the class Writing Checklist which is then agreed with both the class teacher and pupils as an expectation that all children can do.



Skills continually get added until the end of the year. The list of skills then goes up to the children's next class teacher who then has the same expectation set right from the start of the year.

This has proven to raise the expectations within the class and sets a high standard from the very first day in a new year group. The Writing Checklist is constantly being referred to during lessons as a reminder for children to use the skills they already know and have been taught.

We Love to Read!

This term, we have been very lucky to see a new reading scheme introduced at the school. Our new Big Cat – Letters and Sounds reading scheme is supporting the children from Reception onwards. We have a range of different types of books throughout the school, including our reading scheme, 'We Love to Read' texts and our brand-new library resources. Here are some of the responses from our children about the new books:

'I like them because there is lots of information in the books – and I like information'

'They are really good and I think that they are really fun to read'

'I like the library because it has lots and lots of nice books'

'I like it because it has lots of different fact and animals books'



Chinese New Year at BFJS

We are proud to be in our 6th year of teaching Mandarin as a modern foreign language. Through the support of the British Council, we host a Chinese teacher to deliver lessons from September through to June each year.

This term, we engaged the whole school with the following activities based around Chinese New Year:

- Year 3 learned about the Willow Pattern Plate story and made their own replica, as well as enjoying a shadow puppet theatre show
- Year 4 learnt a new Chinese chopsticks dance
- Year 5 enjoyed making dumplings and lanterns
- Year 6 improved their calligraphy skills



Curriculum Presentation Dates

As part of our revised curriculum aims, content and outcomes in each year group, we have planned opportunities to invite parents into school. This will be close to the culmination of the inquiry question that has driven the children's learning this term. We would like to invite **Barnes Farm Junior School** parents to attend on the following dates:

Year group	Inquiry question	Date	Time
3	Are we too small to make a difference?	Wednesday 22nd April	2.15pm
4	What is it like to be Danish?	Thursday 2nd April	2.15pm
5	How has Chelmsford contributed to the development of communication?	Monday 30th March: 5C Tuesday 31st March: 5S Wednesday 1st April: 5V	9.05am
6	Have you got what it takes to survive?	Tuesday 31st March	2.30pm

Green Day and Junior Traffic Wardens

In the week before the February half-term, our whole school took part in the following activities which supported the environment:

- Upcycling Art/DT projects
- 'Switch-off monitors' – elections in classes held to choose representatives responsible for turning off electrical devices and lights when not in use in order to reduce energy waste
- Class climate pledges – children pledged to demonstrate how they will support greater sustainability in school
- 'Paperless' lessons taught
- PSHE work linked to climate change and sustainability
- Writing/speaking and listening activities linked to climate change and global warming.

Many children were inspired to be active within their community too and we recognised these achievements in a special assembly.

Our Year 6 House Captains also put themselves forward to work with the local community policing team and council to challenge anti-social parking behaviours in and around our school. They learnt a rehearsed script and spoke directly to parents who chose to park either dangerously or anti-socially. Parents and carers were especially rewarded for parking and walking from Asda too!



The Barnes Farm Junior School Values

BEING POSITIVE

BEING RESPECTFUL

BEING RESPONSIBLE



'Chinese New Year' Celebration

Our 60 students in Reception have recently enjoyed a 'Chinese New Year' celebration where their teachers created a restaurant for the children to experience trying Chinese food, listening to music and even reading their very own fortune cookies! This was a fantastic way to end our 'Magic Paintbrush' topic, based on the book by Julia Donaldson.



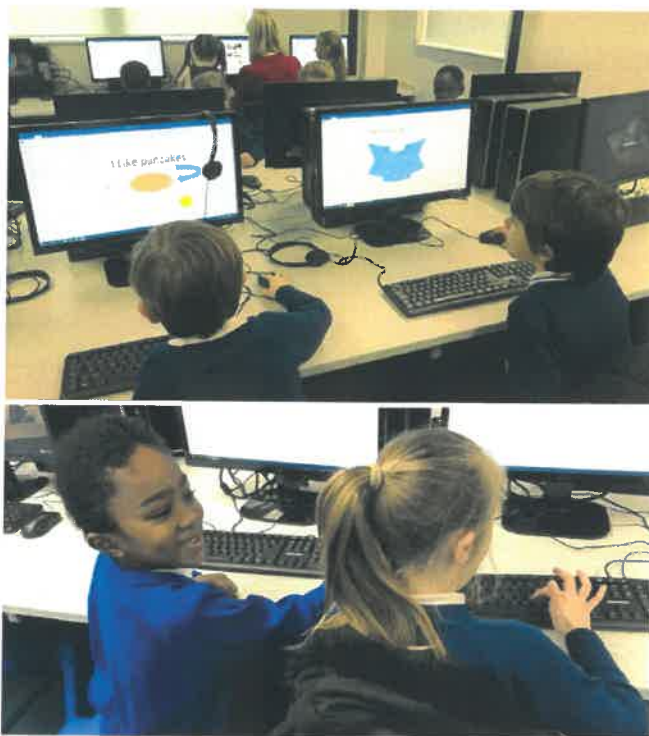
Our Homework Policy

We have reviewed our homework policy in the primary phase of the school. Taking into account responses from our staff, students and their families, we decided to trial our 'Homework Challenge Grids'. In addition to reading regularly at home, our children choose at least one task from the grid each week to complete. The tasks are all based on recent learning and are linked to current learning in school. The amount of effort and quality of the work produced by our children is fantastic and

many parents have reported a positive change to their children's enthusiasm and attitude towards homework!



Computer Club



Our Year 1 students are lucky enough to have 8 co-curricular clubs offered this term. One of the clubs is computer club. The children walk across to the secondary phase of the school and use one of our 3 ICT suites. So far the children have been taught to log on, use Word and import photographs into their work.

The Chelmsford Schools Rotary Youth Speakers Debate

We are very proud of our Year 7 public speakers who competed recently at the Chelmsford Schools Rotary Youth Speakers Debate (for KS3 pupils – most of whom were in Year 8 and Year 9). One of our teams, speaking about the topic of phone photo filter apps, won and are now competing in the regional final against Brentwood Independent School,

Felsted Independent School and Grays Convent School. Some tough opposition - older pupils and from strong schools with quite a tradition in this area. We are very proud of our Year 7 team for making the final and wish them luck.

