

Barnes Farm Junior School

Henniker Gate, Chelmer Village,
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Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year for 2015.

I hope you all had an enjoyable break and it is great to welcome you all back safe and sound. As it is traditional at this time of year to make new resolutions for the year ahead, I felt it right to reiterate some ongoing good intentions for all pupils at Barnes Farm Junior school this academic year.

Uniform

As outlined at the end of last term, we wish to continue the strong reputation the school has for being smart and presentable. Please follow the policy outlined below and (in more detail) on the website:

Boys	Girls
Grey/black trousers/grey flannel shorts White shirt/school polo shirt 'Barnes Farm' green sweater	Grey/black skirt/pinafore dress or grey/black trousers White blouse or school polo shirt 'Barnes Farm' green cardigan/sweater Plain, simple hair bands
Shoes (boots may be brought to change into in the event of bad weather) Plain socks (no bright colours) Jewellery, with the exception of a watch and one pair of stud earrings, is inappropriate for school. Nail varnish, make-up and body art are not appropriate in school	

Morning Punctuality and Safeguarding

Both Barnes Farm Schools open their doors in the morning to pupils between **8:45am and 8:55am**. Towards the end of the term, there was an increasing drift of pupils arriving after this time. Similarly, there were some pupils dropped off at school at around 8:20am and waiting in the playground on their own; this is too early.

In the interests of keeping our children safer once dropped off, the 'top' gate by the Henniker Gate footpath will not be opened from now on. The main gated entrance to the school will always be staffed from 8:45am onwards. Can all parents/carers please aim for the morning 'window' to begin the day safely and on time?

Homework

In line with the Infants, we are currently revising our homework policy and approach. After consultation with parents through our Governing Body and at Parent Voice, we will launch our new approach towards the end of this term. For now, there are the following minimum expectations:

Upper School (Y5/6)	One piece of Maths and Literacy per week
Lower School (Y3/4)	Maths and Literacy alternate weeks

Alongside this homework should be the ever-important reading practice. Headteacher's homework is due by Friday 9th January. This can be uploaded by pupils logging into their school website account and completing the homework assignment section.

Polling Day Closure

It is with regret and after much consideration, both schools will have to close to pupils on **Thursday 7th May 2015**. The school has been commissioned as a polling station for the General Election and with the expected turnout, we cannot assure ourselves of the usual high levels safety of the pupils in our care.

Clubs

Spring Term club schedule begins next week from 12th January onwards.

And finally...

We received some happy news over the break, Mrs Grantham and Mrs Cornforth gave birth to a baby girl and baby boy respectively in the Christmas week. Congratulations to them; all involved are doing well.

We welcome Miss Lisa Gardner to our teaching team who joins us as our full-time SENCo. This is a significant investment in our SEN provision and one that will make an impact over the coming terms.

Mr Paul Crudgington joins us on a temporary basis to cover Class 7 in Mrs Cornforth's absence.

Mrs Wickert, who joined us in September as a teaching assistant, is leaving us for a Secondary school appointment. We wish her well in her future career.

In partnership with the whole Barnes Farm community, I look forward to making 2015 a most successful, hard-working and enjoyable year.

Regards,

Mr McTaggart
Headteacher