

NEWSLETTER

**Next week's Home Learning from the Oak National
Academy: Week 6 (w/c 1st June)**

No 33: 5th June 2020



Three 'schools', one community

With the wider opening of the school site to Year 6 pupils this week, we are now operating three separate 'schools' of learning: our Year 6 pupils in school, the children of Key Workers coming to our childcare provision, and the remainder of the pupils who continue to learn virtually from home. We remain one special Barnes Farm community though, and look forward to the day when we can all safely return to school together.

You can imagine that a great deal of planning and time went into setting up and managing the new arrangements and we want to say thank you to parents and pupils for adapting once again to another change. A special word of appreciation goes to all our staff for their commitment to BFJS and their adaptability at this present time, and we are also grateful to our governing body for their support as they continue to meet and fulfil their duties of oversight.

Mr McTaggart has written a special message to all parents on the next page.



Yesterday we successfully began another new chapter of life at Barnes Farm Junior School by forming into 3 distinct groups: Y6 School, Key Worker childcare provision and Virtual School (for remaining Y3-Y6 pupils). It has been truly wonderful to welcome back many more pupils into school to deliver provision which more closely resembles our mission to 'inspire and educate'. At the same time, we fully recognise the majority of children who remain at home and, as such, BFJS is incomplete until they also return.

62 children in Y6 have returned with more due to restart next week and are split into 6 different bubbles (each led by a teacher). They each have their own dedicated classroom, set of toilets and play areas (on rotation). The staff have worked incredibly hard to rearrange furniture and set up these new classrooms so that they are compliant with the Government guidance and our own risk assessments.

Our Key Worker provision has also expanded into 3 distinct bubbles to allow for more parents returning to work and needing this emergency childcare provision.

Children who remain at home in Y3-Y6 now all have a revised key teacher contact who will guide them through their online learning offer and be on hand to support remotely.

I would like to publicly thank the staff for their extraordinary flexibility over the past 10 weeks which has taken us from closing the school (at very short notice), establishing an online learning offer, supporting the onsite emergency childcare provision, remotely checking in on hundreds of pupils each week, writing reports (more details further in this newsletter) and then engaging so purposefully in safely opening the school back up to more pupils by 4th June. Their enthusiasm and commitment to do whatever it takes to keep children safe, encouraged and engaged has been a credit to their professionalism. We have a great team here at BFJS!

I'm sure the coming weeks will bring further revisions and changes both at school and in the community but we are well-placed to continue to keep you informed of how we will manage this. The Government is still keeping phase 2 of the wider opening (provision for Y3-Y5) from July 1st under review and we keenly await this decision.

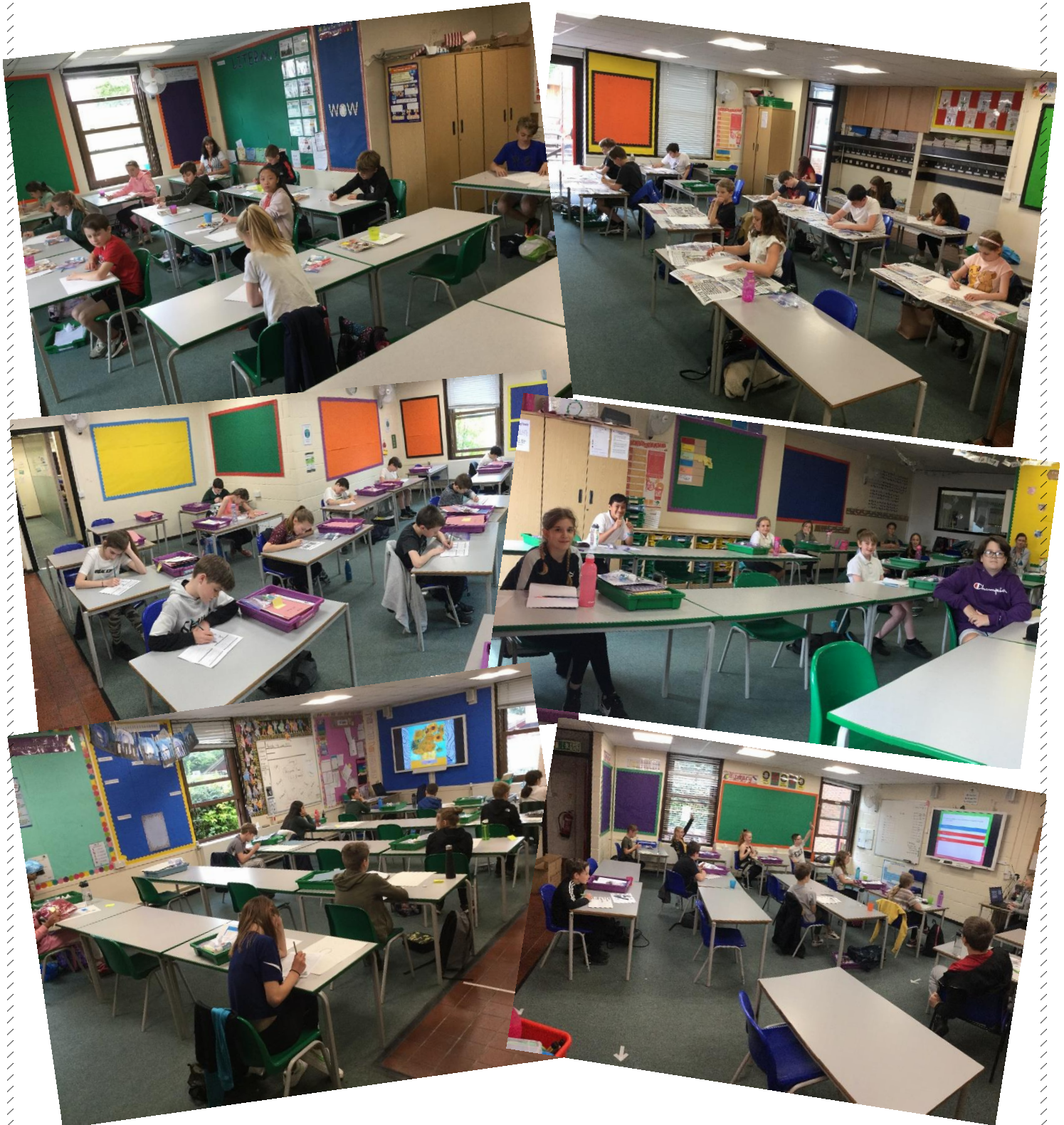
This new chapter has not been without new opportunities and for me, I delivered my first virtual assembly to the school this morning. We are also working on improving our digital learning platforms so that we can improve further our remote offer to children who cannot attend school.

Finally, I would like to thank the many families who prepared their children so well to return safely this week. Your co-operation in reading newsletters and guidance has meant that new routines established to keep our community safe are being implemented well for the benefit of us all.

Ross McTaggart
Executive Headteacher

The return of Year 6

It was a very happy day on Thursday when we welcomed back most of our Year 6 pupils. Classes, staff, timetables, furniture, procedures and much more were adjusted to enable this to happen under the current circumstances but it was all worth it to see them back with us. The Year 6 pupils were very sensible in following all the new rules and staying within the restrictions we have had to put in place. Here are some photos of their first days back:





We received lots of photos and some videos from children who participated in the 'Joy of moving home school festival' on Friday 22nd May or on another day. These have been kindly put together by Mrs Hollick on a separate news sheet which has been sent with the newsletter email. The videos sent in by Oliver (Year 6), William (Year 5) and Zak & Parisa (Years 3 and 4) can be found on our website here:

https://www.barnesfarmjuniors.co.uk/website/june_2020/487059



Here are some photos of the children who were at school on the day, participating in some of the different activities:



Jokes - Match the question to the punchline (number 5)



See if you can work out the punchline



If you can't - try to match from the selection below

1. What did one strawberry say to another strawberry?
2. What's the strongest vegetable?
3. What is the difference between a piano and a fish?
4. What is small, round and giggles a lot?
5. What's the worst thing about being an octopus?



- a) Punchline: A muscle sprout!
- b) Punchline: How did we get in this jam?
- c) Punchline: A tickled onion!
- d) Punchline: Washing your hands before dinner!
- e) Punchline: You can't tuna fish!

Answers on next page

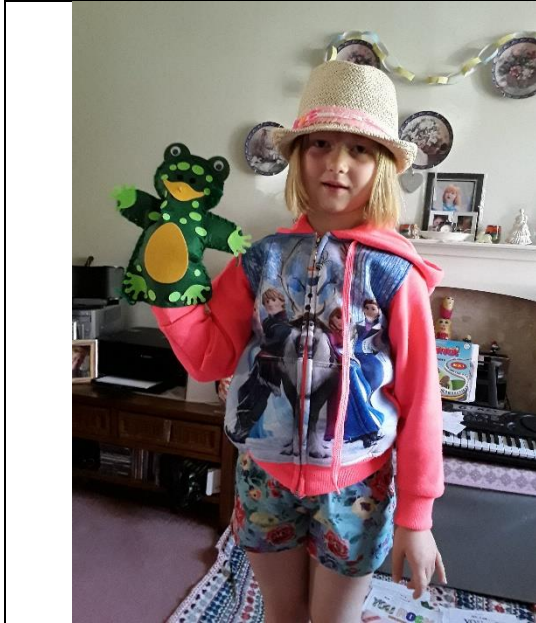
Jokes - Match the question to the punchline (number 5)

Answers: 1b, 2a, 3e, 4c, 5d

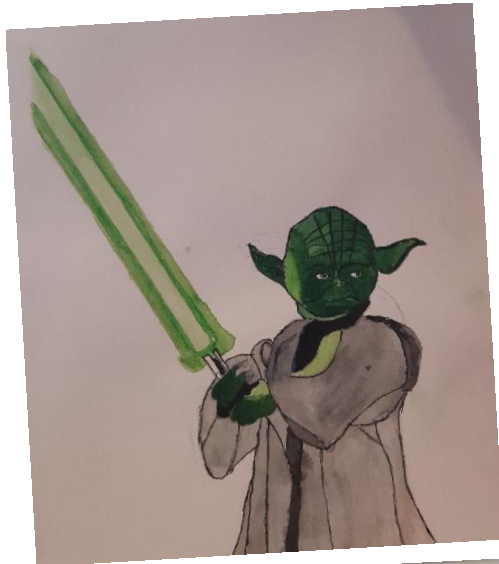


Jokes supplied from: The Little Puffin Joke Book

Home learning examples



Scarlett from Year 3 has been doing some sewing



Keenan from Year 6 has been practising his painting skills:



Summer Reading Challenge

A Seriously Silly Summer!

Join the Silly Squad this Summer !



This summer we're going to get silly!
The Summer Reading Challenge
2020 will feed the imaginations of
the UK and create a greater sense of
togetherness through the joy of
reading.

For 2020 we are delighted to
present the 'Silly Squad' – our
hilarious cast of characters ready to
bring the UK a seriously silly
summer.

Using the power of silly, we will
help kids stay kids and
embrace the fun just when we
need it most.

We have created our online
Silly Squad to entertain and
engage children with uplifting
content and reading
recommendations.

Please see the attachment sent with the newsletter for full details of the annual
Summer reading challenge.