



Fawbert & Barnard's Primary School

## Newsletter 16

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic second week we've had at school!

Our Book Fair was a tremendous success, and it was wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic about choosing and buying books on their own. A special mention goes to our Year 6 pupils, who demonstrated outstanding leadership skills as they took charge of running the fair. Their professionalism and teamwork were truly impressive. A big well done to them! The Chair of the School Council has also written a lovely thank-you letter, which you can find on page 3, along with some photos from the fair.

A gentle reminder: If your contact details, especially phone numbers, have changed recently, please update the school office. Keeping your information current helps us stay connected with you at all times.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the phonics and spelling workshops this week. Your support means so much, and we hope you found the sessions valuable. A huge thank-you to Mrs. Scott for leading these workshops—your feedback has been overwhelmingly positive!

This week, we also enjoyed two exciting class trips. Year 1 explored the Harlow Museum, while Year 2 visited the Tower of London. Both trips were a great success, offering the children valuable hands-on learning experiences.

Lastly, don't miss this week's "Class Corner" from Reception. They've shared some of their amazing learning, and we're sure you'll be impressed by the fantastic progress they've made.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Sophia Ovonen  
Head Teacher



OUTSTANDING TRAVEL PLAN 2024



## Achievements



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

AWARD	WINNER
Timestables Rockstar Cup	Year 4
Numbots Cup	Year 2
Timestables Rockstar champion	Lucas
Numbots champion	Jacob
STARS OF THE WEEK	
Reception	Felicity
Year 1	Thea
Year 2	Whole Class
Year 3	May
Year 4	Zayna
Year 5	Robyn
Year 6	Aimee
House Tokens	
Moore	283
Gibberd	166
Fawbert	275
Barnard	189

# Congratulations!

# Letter from the Chair of the School Council

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing you on behalf of the F&B School Council team to thank you for your book donations. We as a school are all very thankful for your generosity. In total, we are very pleased to say that we raised a lot of money. We will let you know the total next week.

Yours thankfully,

Jonathan  
Chair for School Council



# Calling All Parents and Carers!

## Become a Volunteer Reader at Fawbert and Barnard's!

Do you have an hour or so to spare during the school day? Would you like to make a lasting impact on the lives of our children? At F&B, we are passionate about raising the profile of reading and fostering a love of books next term. But we need your help!

### Why Volunteer as a Reader?

Reading is the foundation of learning, and with your support, we can:

- Boost children's confidence and fluency in reading.
- Spark imagination and creativity.
- Cultivate a lifelong love for books and stories.

Whether it's reading one-on-one with a child or sharing a story with a small group, your time can make all the difference.

### What's Involved?

It's simple! If you have an hour or more to spare during the school day, you can volunteer to read with our pupils. We will provide guidance and support to make your time enjoyable and rewarding. No previous experience is needed—just a willingness to help and a love for reading.

### Interested?

If you'd like to get involved or learn more, please contact the school office. We'd be thrilled to have you join us!

Thank you for your support!



## Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2025	
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Phonics Workshop for KS 1 parents
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 1 School Trip
14 <sup>th</sup> January	School Council' Book Sale
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Phonics Workshop for KS 2 parents
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 School Trip
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Community officer visit to school
16 <sup>th</sup> January	School Council' Book Sale
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Scholastic Book Fair
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Open Book Afternoon
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Parents Consultations
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Open Book Afternoon
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents Consultations
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Valentine Disco
17 - 21 February	Half term holidays
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Week
6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 School Trip
7 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> April - Holidays	

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

London Road, Old Harlow, Essex, CM17 0DA

Telephone: (01279) 429427 E-mail: [admin@fawbert-barnards.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fawbert-barnards.essex.sch.uk) Website:



# Parents Page

## WHAT IS ESSEX ACTIVATE?

Essex ActivAte is the name for the Holiday Activity and Food programme across Essex, run by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education.

### Who is the programme for?

Clubs are suitable for children aged 4-16 years old who are eligible for benefits based free school meals or from 'low income' working families who benefit from this extra support. Some clubs may offer paid spaces that run alongside Essex ActivAte, however these can be limited.

### What do the clubs offer?

Essex ActivAte clubs offer mainstream primary and secondary provision across the county, also dedicated mental wellbeing and SEND clubs. Each club delivers a variety of physical and enrichment activities, fun food education and a nutritious meal. Family support is also available alongside the programme.

### How can I book my child onto a club?

To book onto a club during February, May/June or October half term, head over to the Essex ActivAte booking page on our website, then select the area you live in or the category you require and follow the steps.

To book onto a club during the easter, summer or winter holidays, use the link on your WONDE e-Voucher to find a club and book on, or contact a club directly.

### What is considered 'low income'?

We understand that all families circumstances are different, therefore if you are in employment or on an income which means you are unable to attend a holiday club without our support – you can book on.



## BOOK ONTO A HALF TERM ACTIVITY CLUB WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!

Eligible children and young people are invited to book onto FREE, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations across Essex, brought to you by Active Essex on behalf of Essex County Council!

### IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Essex ActivAte offer free, club spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years), who are eligible for benefit based free school meals, or from 'low-income' working families, as well as children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation.

### WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

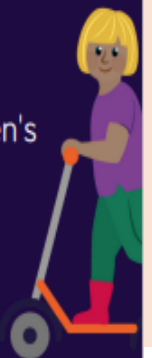
Clubs will run in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford! Due to half term programmes being solely funded by Essex County Council, unfortunately there will not be any clubs running in Thurrock.

### WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs provide a range of different physical, enrichment and food activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a delicious, nutritious meal!

### HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

As half term programme are smaller and offer less activity days, you will not book on with your HolidayActivities voucher, but book on through the Essex ActivAte website instead. Simply find your local area and book on with the link provided or contact the club directly.



# Home Learning Page

## Exploring Sentence Structures

Learning about sentence structures can greatly improve your child's writing and comprehension skills. Below is a simple guide to help understand three key types of sentences: simple, compound, and complex.

### 1. Simple Sentences

A simple sentence has one idea or action. It contains a subject (who or what the sentence is about) and a verb (what the subject does).

#### Example:

The cat sleeps.

We went to the park.

#### Activity Idea:

Ask your child to write five simple sentences about their day.

### 2. Compound Sentences

A compound sentence combines two simple sentences using a coordinating conjunction (such as and, but, or, so). Each part of the sentence can stand alone as a complete thought.

#### Example:

I wanted to play outside, but it was raining.

She likes pizza, and he likes pasta.

#### Activity Idea:

Write down a list of simple sentences together and then connect them using coordinating conjunctions.



### 3. Complex Sentences

A complex sentence has one main idea and one or more dependent ideas (extra information that cannot stand alone). It uses conjunctions like because, when, although, or if.

Example:

I stayed inside because it was cold.

When the sun came out, we went to the park.

Activity Idea:

Give your child a simple sentence and help them add extra information using conjunctions. For example:

"The dog barked" → "The dog barked because it saw a cat."

### Quick Tips to Practice:

Use different coloured pens to highlight subjects, verbs, and conjunctions in sentences.

Challenge your child to identify simple, compound, and complex sentences in a book or story.

Practice speaking different types of sentences in conversations.

Encourage your child to experiment with these sentence structures in their writing this week! A mix of sentence types will make their work more interesting and creative.

Happy learning!