



Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

The wet weather has not damped our spirits in school and we have had an enjoyable week of learning and fun.

Tomorrow is 'National Compliment Day', which we have celebrated today in school. I spoke to the children about what a compliment is, and I have challenged the children to pay a compliment to someone in school today, and to someone at home tomorrow. We linked this to our core value of 'love'.

We are proud to be a 'Smartphone Free Childhood' school and as a headteacher who regularly hears about upsetting issues linked to mobile phone use between children outside school, I was pleased to also hear this week about the proposed government changes to social media for under 16's. I have been delighted to receive communication from several parents this week who are wanting to support the school further with the Smartphone Free School initiative. Some of these parents were able to attend the first of three webinars which the schools in Basingstoke have organised, and more details about the additional webinars are in the newsletter today. Please do come and join one of the sessions to find out more and I will be sending out more information in the coming weeks to support this initiative further.

Wishing you a lovely, restful weekend and thank you for your support.
Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school
attendance
(year to date):
95.2%

National
average (year
to date): 94.6%

Our target:
96%

Amazing attendance – a great start to 2026

Well done Fairfields!

It has been a great start to 2026, with our attendance yesterday at 97.5%. We are currently above the national average. We are monitored by Ofsted for our attendance, so this is a positive start to the New Year. For any information about absence please call the School Office, we are happy to help.

Chinese New Year – volunteers needed!

We will soon be celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year which this year begins on 17th February and continues until 3rd March. 2026 will be the Year of the Horse. We are always keen to offer a chance to celebrate with the children so if you are interested and able to help us support some Chinese New Year-themed activities one day after school (after half-term) to celebrate, please leave your name with the School Office. Thank you!





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Mental Health, Smartphones and Tech - What is the balance? - Free Basingstoke Webinars

In June 2026, the Basingstoke-wide "Smartphone Free" initiative was launched. 33 schools are taking part, including Fairfields, representing the vast majority of Basingstoke children. This came from a place of deep concern around recent research and statistics which show the negative impact that tech and smartphones can have at all ages.

On the back of this, we're pleased to offer more free webinars for parents, which cover:

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology

Dates for your diary! The dates are:

- Tuesday 3rd Feb 7:30pm - 8:15pm - [Link here](#)
- Thursday 26th Feb 6pm - 6:45pm - [Link here](#)

Each webinar is the same, so you only need to attend one. No need to pre-register. We would love for every parent in Basingstoke to have attended one of these webinars!

More information is attached. We look forward to seeing you online.

<https://www.smartphonefreebasingstoke.org>

The Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show 2026

The *Young Artists' Summer Show* is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–18 years studying in the UK. We have registered as a school which means that parents, as well as teachers, can submit artwork on behalf of students. These are then judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Please click [here](#) to find out more information if you would like to submit individual work.





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PTA update

Break the Rules Day

Next Friday, 30th January will be '[Break the Rules Day](#)'! Students can choose to 'break' rules: no crazy hair, no temporary tattoos, school uniform only, smart black shoes only or no nail varnish. Each rule broken costs just 50p and all proceeds will go toward supporting our children's learning experience. You will be able to donate cash or donate on our website [here](#). Card payment will also be possible on the day, although please note that this incurs additional charges, so will reduce funds going to school.

School Disco

You can also now book your School Disco tickets [here](#) for Thursday 12th February. We are still *looking for volunteers* to run this event. Please have a look if you can help and sign up [here](#). As FS, Year 1 and 2 will go straight from class to the disco, they can come to school in their party clothes but must wear appropriate footwear for school and bring a coat. Children in other year groups must come to school in normal school uniform. If your child is going to ACE after school club, please let the staff know and they will ensure they bring them to the Disco and pick them up after.

Year group updates

Kapow! **Foundation Stage** have kicked off their 'Superheroes/People Who Help Us' topic this week. They learnt about real life superheroes in the community who carry out jobs to help society. They have been colouring superheroes and decorating a superhero mask to further develop fine motor skills. In Drawing Club, they have been learning the story *Supertato* and drawing the main character in the story. Just a reminder that children should be coming to school wearing their PE kit every Monday (as that is our PE day) and they do not change during the school day. Thank you. Have a lovely weekend!

Well done **Year 1** for another great week. We had a brilliant time reenacting the Crimean War on Tuesday. There were soldiers and nurses and we saw how Florence Nightingale looked after the people who needed help. In science, we looked at the five senses and talked about how each sense helps us. In Geography, we looked at countries that were important for Florence Nightingale. Our library day is Wednesday each week, please have a look at home for any stray library books as children will be unable to borrow another book if they already have one on loan. Thank you!

We have had a fantastic week of learning in **Year 2** as we have continued to delve into the smoggy smoke that is the Great Fire of London. The children are becoming more confident with telling the time and have made some great progress with this. If you would like to



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Gold**
Hampshire EMAS 2025



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SCHOOL**
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continue to support your child with this at home, there is a brilliant watch you can purchase from [Amazon](#) for them to wear at home and to school. Please remember that topic homework is to be brought in on the designated date at the bottom of the homework sheet and not before as we have planned time to share this. We hope you have a lovely weekend!

Year 3 were finally able to take their walk around Basingstoke town on Monday. We looked closely at all the landmarks and even found the Blue Coat Boy statue! The facts we have gathered are now going to be written in children's reports about 'Brilliant Basingstoke'. During art this week, we are learning about local artist Sian Storey and we were very excited to find her real art on display in the town. Our next art project will involve junk modelling, so please can pupils start to bring in any clean cardboard boxes, tubes, pots and cylinders to school. Thank you in advance and thank you to those parents who volunteered and walked with us on our trip.

Year 4 have had a great week! The children thoroughly enjoyed making their musical instruments in DT, and they will continue developing these next week. In Geography, they learnt about different types of maps and even created their own Ordnance Survey-style maps. They also had a fantastic time in Music, where they learnt about musical scores. Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Year 5 have had a busy week as they had a court case to perform on Monday! It was the trial of Lady Evelyn who was suspected of murdering Lord Carnarvon in our imaginary drama. The children are now busy writing witness reports about this event. Also, we have been learning how to handle clay in preparation for making canopic jars next week.

Year 6 have had a fantastic week. The children have been working incredibly hard on their biography writing, and in maths they have made a great start on our new learning around decimals and measures. We are really proud of the focus and effort they have shown. Looking ahead to next week, Bikeability will continue on Monday and Tuesday. Please ensure that all children come to school wearing their PE kits on both days, along with suitable outdoor clothing such as a coat, hat and gloves. If your child is bringing their own bike and helmet, we would like to remind you that these will need to be brought into school each morning on their Bikeability day and taken home again at the end of the day, ready to return the following morning.

Children will not need to wear their PE kits on Wednesday, as the Bikeability sessions will take the place of our usual outdoor PE activity this week.



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Dates for your diary	
Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th January	Year 6 Bikeability
Friday 30th January	Break the Rules day
Wednesday 4th February – Friday 6th February	Year 4 residential to Ufton Court
Tuesday 10th February	Year 3 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
Thursday 12th February	School disco (FS, years 1 and 2: 3.15-4pm, years 3 and 4: 4.15-5pm), years 5 and 6: 5.15-6pm)
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February	Half-term (school closed)
Wednesday 25th February	Parents Evening, 3.40pm-6pm
Monday 2nd March	Parents Evening, 3.40pm-6pm
Friday 20th March	Year 1 trip to Marwell Zoo
Tuesday 24th March	Year 2 Parent Showcase, 2.40pm
Thursday 26th March	Year 1 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
Thursday 26th March	Last day of term
Friday 27th March	Inset day – school closed
Monday 13th April	Start of the Summer term





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PE days for the Spring term are as follows:

FS: Monday
Year 1: Tuesday (indoor)
Year 2: Thursday (outdoor)
Year 3: Thursday (indoor)
Year 4: Wednesday (indoor)
Year 5: Friday (outdoor)
Year 6: Wednesday (outdoor)

Start and finish times are as follows:

- Foundation Stage, years 1 and 2: 8.40am- 3.10pm
- Years 3- 6: 8.45am- 3.15pm

Absence guidance and procedures

Medical/dental appointments

If you are unable to obtain an appointment outside of school hours, please call the School Office on 01256 473886 to inform us of the time and date of your child's appointment.

Illness

When your child is unwell, you must inform us on the first morning of absence by calling the School Office on 01256 473886. For safeguarding reasons, absence should be reported daily and before 9.30am. Please click [here](#) for guidance on whether your child is too ill to come to school.

Absence Request Form

For any planned time away from school, an Absence Request Form must be completed for the attention of the Headteacher and submitted via the School Office. This form must be completed before any time away is taken.

To discuss planned absences, please speak to our Attendance Officer, Tracey Kinchenton, who will be happy to advise you on the types of absence which may or may not be authorised and give information regarding **penalty notices issued by Hampshire County Council**.

