



# Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

I can't believe it is already the middle of January! Time is already flying in the spring term and the children continue to be very busy in school. I have seen some super writing this week as we have spent some time moderating books across the school. Please also ask your child about our phrase 'I can't do it .....' Can they remember from assembly what word this phrase ends in at Fairfields?

We are very proud that our attendance is creeping up and I appreciate all your support to get your children into school on time, and every day, where possible. This creates much needed structure and routine for children, as well as ensuring your child does not miss any of their education. The children start work as soon as they have put their coats and bags away with their literacy based early morning activity, so thank you! If we can keep this up, we will be able to reach our school target.

We have some work underway on removing the old play equipment including the broken bridge, and on repairing the blocked pipe under the tarmac in the canopy area which caused the flood in the boiler room before Christmas. We will keep you updated on any areas of the playground which may be restricted if this is necessary as this work commences, but school will be open as normal.

Many thanks and have a great weekend.  
Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school  
attendance:  
95.1%

National  
average:  
94.6%

Our target:  
96%

## Lost property

This term, we are trialling a new approach to managing lost property. Any unnamed coats, items of uniform, water bottles and lunch boxes/bags will be recorded by the office and kept for four weeks (excluding school holidays) in the lost property racks under the canopy. If the item is not collected after four school weeks, it will be recycled or disposed of as appropriate. As always, please ensure that your child's clothing, water bottles and lunch boxes are clearly named with a permanent pen. Items that are named will be returned to your child as soon as possible. Thank you.

## Safeguarding update

Our Safeguarding Update for the Spring term is attached. Please take a look at this for information on who our Designated Safeguarding Leads are and what they do, and for details of our safeguarding focus in school this term – *Clever Never Goes and Speak Out, Stay Safe*.



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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, 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 20th Jan 7:30pm - 8:15pm - [Link here](#)
- 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.

Basingstoke Smartphone-Free Schools

<https://www.smartphonefreebasingstoke.org>

## Football club and Netball

Just a quick reminder that football club starts again on Tuesday 27th January. Netball club for years 5 and 6 will begin again on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January and year 3 and 4 netball club on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.



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## PTA update

Only two weeks until ['Break the Rules Day'](#) on 30th January! 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 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.

## Christmas Fair feedback

Thank you to everyone who sent us their feedback for the Christmas fair. We are pleased to hear that it was overall a great experience with the new layout and waffle van addition.

We appreciate that this may have been your first online raffle experience and wanted to respond to a few questions we received:

- *Did not receive the confirmation email:* these likely landed in your junk mail. So please put support@peoplesfundraising.com in your safe sender list. See [here](#) more detail on what to do.
- *I'm not sure how the raffle system worked, as a few people were drawn several times and received multiple prizes:* we used the People Fundraising website for this, who uses a built-in, certified random number generator to impartially and securely select the winning ticket numbers from all entries automatically. We understand most people imagine random results will be evenly spread out, but in real randomness, streaks and repeats happen surprisingly often. Just like flipping a coin can give you "heads, heads, heads" in a row, a raffle can select the same person. Looking back at manually drawn paper raffles, we had 7 people win multiple prizes at last summer fair, 3 at the christmas fair and 6 at the 2024 summer fair. It is also worth noting, that the system selects tickets, not people.

## Year group updates

**Foundation Stage** have had a great week finishing their Winter topic. They discussed all of the different signs of Winter that they could remember. In Drawing Club this week, the children learnt the story *The Magic Porridge Pot* and practised writing two-word captions to go with the story. In Maths, we continued working on sharing between equal groups. Just another reminder that our PE day will be Mondays going forward so that is the day they will need to come to school in their PE kits. Thank you! Have a lovely weekend!



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This week in **Year 1**, we took part in lots of different science activities at QMC. We talked about our senses and used our sense of taste to identify different types of chocolate, looked at x-rays and different bones in our bodies, talked about how germs spread, and measured our heart rates. In maths, we have been reading and showing the time to o'clock and half past. Every Tuesday, we now have indoor PE. Children will need to take shoes and socks/tights off for this. Please could you make sure they are wearing clothes they can take off and put on quickly and easily.

Well done **Year 2** on a brilliant week in school. We have started this term's Design & Technology topic where the children will be making their own bread rolls. As part of this topic, next Friday, the children will have the opportunity to taste a range of bread rolls. If you do not want your child to participate in this, please let Miss Facey or Miss Bradley know by Thursday after school. Have a nice weekend!



**Year 3** pupils have continued to gather interesting facts about Basingstoke and were able to meet The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane on Tuesday. They heard all about his role and which landmarks they should look carefully at when they visit the town centre. For example, did you know that Fairfields used to be an all-boy's grammar school called Charles Chute School until 1970? All pupils listened really well and we will be using this information in our reports about the town. Unfortunately, due to the weather, we were

not able to go on our local walk, but we will try to go again on Monday morning. Please send pupils to school in their winter coats.

We've had a fantastic week in **Year 4**! The children have enjoyed learning more about Philip Astley and exploring the features of biographies. In Maths, we have started working with fractions, and in Guided Reading, we've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the main character of our text, *Wild Boy*. Next week, we will be making our own musical instruments in Science. If you have any clean junk modelling materials, please send them in with your child.

In **Year 5** this week our study of Tutankhamun has gone in a strange direction - fantasy! We have asked, 'What if Lord Carnarvon was murdered?' The children are coming up with inventive ideas about the key characters, such as what their motive for murder would be. Next week, we are going to act out a courtroom drama complete with prosecution and defence lawyers!

**Year 6** have had another fantastic week! In maths, the children have been working hard to further their understanding of finding percentages of amounts. In English, we have started writing biographies on a famous scientist linked to evolution. They will continue developing these pieces next week. A reminder that our first Bikeability session will take place on **Friday 23rd January**. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing appropriate clothing for



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this day (PE kit and trainers) and brings a coat, gloves, and a hat, as they will be outside for a large portion of the day.

The following Bikeability sessions will be on **Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th January**. On each of these mornings, if your child is bringing their own bike and helmet, please can these be brought into school in the morning. Bikes will be stored safely on the playground during the day but will need to go home with the children at the end of each session and then be brought back for the following day, as we do not have sufficient space to store all bikes securely overnight. If there are any issues with this, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher

<b>Dates for your diary</b>	
Friday 23rd January – 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



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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.

### 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.

### 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.

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**.

