



# Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 20th March 2026

Dear parents and carers,

I think spring has finally sprung! Let's hope this lovely weather is now here to stay!

We have enjoyed a visit from two residents from Ashcombe House, a local residential home we have linked with. School council enjoyed meeting Joan and Roy, former students from Fairfields. We had tea and biscuits with them, and enjoyed showing them around and hearing their stories about the school from the 1930's. The children were amazed to hear that Roy is now 94 years old, and Joan is 99 years old this year. Please see the Basingstoke Gazette link below for more details about their visit.

[Ashcombe House residents visit former primary school | Basingstoke Gazette](#)

Each week in assembly, the children will come in and leave to a music artist which we will learn a bit about. This week we enjoyed 'Here comes the sun' by the Beatles. The children learnt about where the Beatles came from, when they were popular, and that they were initially called the 'Silver Beatles' before they became famous. We look forward to learning about a new artist next week.

Finally, Eid Mubarak to all our families who are celebrating. We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school attendance (year to date): 95.3%

National average (year to date): 94.7%

Our target: 96%

**Eid celebrations-** join us after school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March for activities and music.

### Inset day reminder

Next Friday (27th March) is an inset day so the school will be closed.

### New menu

Our hot lunches menu will change after the Easter break to Caterlink's spring/summer menu. A copy of this is attached for your information. As the weather continues to warm up, we hope to be able to open up the canopy area and playground picnic benches for packed lunches when we return after Easter.

### Class photos

Fraser Portraits will be in school to take class photographs on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. **Please ensure your child is wearing full school uniform and not PE kit.** If you do not wish your child to be included in their class photo, which will be made available for purchase by other parents/families, please inform us by calling the school office by 8.45am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### Competition time!

As part of the launch of our new core value, Belonging, the House Captains would like the children's help to design an image to represent '**Belonging**' at Fairfields. Entry forms have been handed out to all children this week and a copy is also attached to this newsletter. Entries should be placed in the collection box in Mrs Bogalski's office by Friday 17th April. Good luck!



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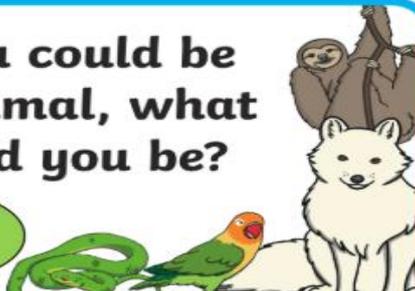
Friday 20th March 2026

## Oracy Corner

Here's this week's oracy activity to enjoy at home. Remember, you can find lots more ideas and guidance on our website in the Oracy Workshop presentation. These small, simple conversations make a big difference in helping children build confidence, vocabulary, and clear communication.

**If you could be an animal, what would you be?**

Why?



**Would you rather be a flower or a fruit?**



**Think Talk Phrases**

**Including your partners:**

- What have we been asked to talk about?
- What do you think of this?
- Do you see what I mean?
- What about...

**Giving your opinion:**

- I think...
- I believe...
- In my opinion...
- This suggests...

**Agreeing:**

- I agree because....
- To add to what was said, I think ...
- Great idea, I think so too and .....

**Disagreeing politely:**

- I don't really agree with that...
- I see what you mean, however, ...
- On the other hand...

**Making a suggestion:**

- Maybe...
- It could be...
- Perhaps it means that...
- Possibly...

## PTA update



We have a several new events coming up over the next few weeks...

**Easter Egg Hunt:** This is a **free event on 17th April** from 3.15pm-4.15pm. Come along to find the letters and make the word to get a chocolate egg.

**Fishbowl Coin Drop: from 6th to 22nd May** at drop off and pick up, try your luck to get the coin into the cup in the fishbowl and win 50 house points!

**Colour Run: 5th June**, after school. Whether you're a seasoned runner, a casual walker, or simply someone who loves a burst of colour, this event is all about celebrating movement, community, and pure fun. Expect bright powders, big smiles, and a route designed for all ages and abilities. We will be sending more details and a sponsorship form home next week.

## Young Engineers club

Places are available for the Summer term. More information on this club and how to book can be found attached to this newsletter.



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## Year group updates

**Foundation Stage** have been continuing their Spring topic this week. The children have been busy continuing their learning through their continuous provision time. The children have been learning the story *Little Bear's Spring* in drawing club and have been thinking about different signs of Spring. In maths, the children have been continuing to look at number bonds, addition and subtraction. The children have also been practising their writing for a purpose by making vocabulary signs to decorate the outside area. Well done, Foundation Stage! Have a lovely weekend!

**Year 1** had a great time at Marwell, we really enjoyed seeing the different animals and finding out the answers to the questions we have been writing. We have also had a visit from Open the Book and been looking at Speak Out Stay Safe from the NSPCC. Next Monday is our class photos, please ensure pupils are wearing full school uniform. Topic homework can be shared on Wednesday 25th March. On Thursday 26th March, parents are invited in for our Year 1 showcase at 2.30pm.

**Year 2** have had a brilliant week of learning! They have worked super hard on their maths assessments whilst practicing Brazilian Samba drumming and building vehicles! The two classes have been going head-to-head to win the TT Rockstars trophy and it's a huge congratulations to Madrid for securing it this time around. The children have learnt how to speak out and stay safe in this week's NSPCC assembly and will continue to learn about this in a workshop next week. A small reminder that we are inviting parents into school to see this term's work. This will be on Tuesday 24th March at 2.40pm. Please do come and share your child's hard work with them!

**Year 3** have been working incredibly hard on their assessments this week, showing great focus and determination. Alongside this, the children have begun exploring poetry in English, reading lovely poems about flowers and springtime. The theme has tied in beautifully with the wonderful weather we've enjoyed, helping to bring their learning to life. We're very proud of their efforts and enthusiasm!

**Year 4** have had a super week, working hard on their standard task and completing their spring testing. They enjoyed learning about how materials can change state by watching chocolate melt over hot water. Next week, on **Wednesday 25th March**, we invite you to come and watch your child's dance/gymnastics routine in the hall. **Canberra will perform at 2.40pm and New Delhi will perform at 2.50pm.** You can then collect your child as normal from the playground afterwards at 3.15pm. Finally, please return the QMC trip letters if you haven't done it already ready for next week.





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May we please remind parents of **Year 5** pupils that Monday is our parent showcase day and they are invited to join us at 2.30pm to find out what their child has done in school this term. This week has been very busy. We have continued to learn about what to do in different emergency situations. We have also been on a school visit to the science centre at Winchester. We had a great day watching the planetarium show, investigating infra-red light and experimenting on all the available equipment. Our last school visit of the year will be on 15th May and a letter will be issued once we return after the holidays.

**Year 6** have had a fantastic week, and we were incredibly proud of them for being such excellent role models to their FS buddies during our Spring Walk around the War Memorial Park. Your child will have brought home a letter today regarding SATs Breakfast. This offers all Year 6 pupils the option of coming into school early during SATs week (w/c 11th May) to enjoy breakfast together. Miss Watkins and Mr Thorpe will collect the children from the usual place on the playground at 8:30am each morning during SATs week. We find that this helps the children start the day calmly, feel settled, and have plenty of energy ready for their tests, which start promptly at 9:00am. SATs Breakfast can be ordered through Arbor at a cost of £1.90 per day. Orders are open until Friday 1st May and cannot be placed after this date. If your child does not wish to order a breakfast option, they are still very welcome to come in early with a healthy snack, such as a piece of fruit.



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Dates for your diary	
<b>NEW!</b> Monday 23rd March	Class photos
Monday 23rd March	Year 5 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
Tuesday 24th March	Year 2 Parent Showcase, 2.40pm
<b>NEW!</b> Wednesday 25th March	Year 4 Parent Showcase, 2.40pm
Thursday 26th March	Year 1 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
Thursday 26th March	Year 4 science trip to QMC (Canberra in the morning, New Delhi in the afternoon)
Thursday 26th March	Last day of term
Friday 27th March	Inset day (school closed)
Monday 13th April	Start of the Summer term
Friday 17th April	PTA Easter Egg Hunt, 3.15pm-4.15pm
Friday 1st May	Reports issued (years 1 to 6)
Thursday 7th May	FS trip to Finkley Down Farm
Monday 11th May -15th May	Safeguarding week (PANTS)
Monday 18th May - 22nd May	Walk to School week
Monday 25th May – 29th May	Half-term (school closed)
<b>NEW!</b> Friday 5th June	PTA colour run (after school)
Monday 1st June	Inset day (school closed)
Friday 10th July	PTA Summer Fair



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## Start and finish times are as follows:

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

## PE days for the Spring term:

- 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)

## 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 or email [admin@fairfields.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fairfields.hants.sch.uk) to inform us of the time and date of your child's appointment.

### Illness

If 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**.



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