



# Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a lovely first full week back at school. The children have been amazing at getting stuck back into their work, setting themselves goals for the new school year and making new friends in the classroom. We are very proud of them for coming back so settled, and thank you for your support with this.

We hope that now we are back into our first full week, we can get our attendance back up above national levels. It is so important for children to be in school to ensure that they don't miss any learning, and to keep them in touch with their peers. Being off school can make children very anxious and returning to school after a period of absence can then be daunting. We understand that when children are too poorly to come to school, this is unavoidable, but please do come and speak to us about attendance if you need to- we do want to help.

Finally, please can I kindly remind parents and carers to come and see us about any issues in school, rather than approaching other parents or children directly on the playground which can be intimidating and can cause conflict.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and many thanks for your support.  
Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school  
attendance:  
92.1%

National  
average:  
95.4%

Our target:  
96%

## Attention year 6 parents! Applications for year 7 places now open

As you may be aware, applications for children transferring to secondary school in September 2026 are now open. Applications can be submitted [online](#) or parents can request a form by emailing [admissions.team@hants.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.team@hants.gov.uk). **The deadline for applications is Friday 31st October 2025.** Here are some key points to consider:

- Name three schools on your application to maximise your chances of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.
- Submit your application on-time, before the 31 October deadline.
- Use the County Council's [school catchment area finder](#) to check the catchment school for your address
- Read the school's admission policies to find out how many places are available and what criteria will be used to allocate places if the school is oversubscribed.
- Think about how your child will get to school. See [travel to school](#) to help plan your journey and find out if you are eligible for help with transport. You must name your catchment school(s) if you have one, as a preference if you wish to apply for travel assistance.

Year 6 pupils brought home a letter earlier in the week providing all the information you need, but if you have any questions about the process, please contact our Admissions Manager, Anne Lancashire, in the School Office.



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### **You said, we did**

Following our Parent Survey in July 2025, we would like to keep you updated with points raised by parents to support school improvement. Over the autumn term, we will keep you updated on some of the suggestions you raised, and what we are doing about them.

### ***Can a lift be added to the school to improve accessibility?***

This is something we have looked at several times before and something we would love to do. Unfortunately, due to the cost, our limited budget, and our restrictions with our building, this has always been a challenge. We have and will continue to raise this with Hampshire County Council however.

### ***I would like more feedback about how my child is getting on.***

We offer termly formal updates in the form of reports, parent's evenings or open evenings, or a combination of these. We also encourage parents to come to school each term to see their child's work in our year group 'showcase', and we will be having more regular parent workshops this year. In addition to this, we encourage parents and carers to come and speak to us at any time to get further updates if they would like, as some parents would like more information and some do not. We try and make ourselves available at the end of every day on the playground so please come and speak to us, or call or email the office, if you would like any additional meetings to find out more about your child's progress- we very much welcome this. Please do let us know if a different type of feedback is helpful and we can certainly look at this too.

### ***Can the school provide bilingual assistants for children who do not have English as their first language?***

We are lucky enough to have some bilingual staff in school, but we utilise the Hampshire Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) for further support if children require this. If this is something you think your child might benefit from and school have not already accessed this support, please do come and speak to us about it. We are also very happy to work with parents to help you with how to support your child at home.

### ***The limited availability of the wraparound care provision has been challenging this year (2024-25).***

Yes, we recognise this has been difficult for parents and we are truly sorry that this has been the case as we understand the frustration when you need this service to be able to go to work. We quickly identified that this was an issue and put things in place to seek a new provider, which then takes time, but we were happy to see them start last week. The



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new provider is very aware of the previous issues and is committed to ensuring that moving forward, this is not a problem for our parents.

***It would be good to have a member of the leadership team on the bottom gate at the start and end of the day (not just on the top gate).***

Thank you for this feedback. On seeing this comment in the summer, we tried to start mixing between the two gates and will continue to do so to ensure our presence is at both ends of the playground.

Thank you again for your feedback, including the many positive comments about the school which we are so grateful to receive. We will update you again on further suggestions which were made in the coming weeks.

## **Reminder: Jewellery in School**

We'd like to remind parents that children should not wear jewellery to school. This is primarily a health and safety concern, as items such as earrings, bracelets, necklaces, and rings can pose a risk of injury during physical activities or if they become caught during the school day.

The exception to this rule is a pair of **simple, plain stud earrings**, which may be worn on non-PE days. On days when your child has PE, stud earrings **must be removed** or **covered with micropore tape**. If your child arrives wearing stud earrings on a PE day, they will be asked to either remove them or cover them appropriately.



We wanted to share this beautiful photo which was taken last week and shows Year 4 enjoying kite-flying on the field. We thought it really captured the spirit of excitement as the children and staff embark on a new school year!



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## PTA update

### PTA Event feedback survey

Thank you so much to everyone who already completed the survey! We will be presenting a summary in the AGM. If you have not completed this please complete a short 10 question survey [here](#). We are keen to make our events better for everyone and really appreciate your feedback.

### AGM: 6th October 7pm

As a reminder, all parents, carers and teachers are invited to join our AGM on 6th October 7-8pm. This is your chance to vote for our committee, hear about funds raised by the PTA and how funds are supporting our children's time at the school. We will also talk about future events including the Christmas Fair and we would be keen to hear your ideas for new events. Dial into Teams using Meeting ID: 348 327 398 859 6 and Passcode: qx7y3JY6.

**We are also looking for new trustees to join the PTA.** Trustees ensure that the PTA acts lawfully and is managed properly. This also give you a chance to bring in new ideas and vote on any funding opportunities and events. So, if you would like to find out more about the PTA and/or roles please do get in touch for an informal chat via email [fairfieldspta@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldspta@gmail.com).

### Karate club

This club will run weekly after school on Fridays starting 19th September. Further information is attached.

### Yoga with Sarah and Steve

This club will run weekly after school on Mondays starting from 3rd November. Further information is attached.

## Year group updates

Well done **Foundation Stage** on a fantastic first week at Fairfields! This week, the children have been busy settling in and learning new rules and routines. They have been busy making self-portraits in the art area. They have been making new friends and playing with their new classmates too. We are very proud of all of the children for how well they have settled. Well done, Foundation Stage. Have a lovely weekend!



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Welcome back **Year 1** and well done for a brilliant first week. We are very proud of how well everyone has settled into our new routines. This week, we kicked off our autumn term's topic of *Belonging* by taking part in a treasure hunt around the school to find Woody and Buzz from Toy Story who belong in our year 1 classrooms. In assembly, we have been talking about setting goals for the year and we have set the goal of reading 100 books as a class! We have our trip to Milestones on 30th September, please make sure you have returned the medical and consent form by 19th September. Please ask if you need a new form. Our PE day is Tuesday (outdoor), please make sure your child comes to school in PE kit and trainers. Homework will be set on a Friday each week and is due the following Wednesday. Our library day is Wednesday. In year 1, we line up under the canopy before and after school. Please make sure your child is lined up ready for 8.40am.

Well done children on your first week settling into **Year 2**! We are very proud of how you have taken new routines into your stride. Just a reminder, our PE days are Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure children come to school in the correct PE kit. The bell goes at 8:40 every day so please could grown-ups make sure children are in the line ready before 8:40. Have a lovely weekend.

Welcome back to school and we hope your **Year 3** child has enjoyed our start to the term. We are learning all about the Stone Age and have read stories within our very own 'cave', drawn our own cave paintings and learnt about some of the amazing animals living in Britain at that time. Pupils have responded brilliantly and they are impressing us with their knowledge of the school's core values. We will email out to you our Year 3 newsletter and map which will show you more about what we will be teaching this term. Thank you for remembering that Mondays and Tuesdays are our PE days.

**Year 4** have had an egg-citing start to the term! An unidentified creature (probably a dragon) broke into our classroom and laid eggs in a nest! Linked to this, we have learnt about air resistance to see how dragons can fly and flew kites on the field in the afternoon. Please take a look at our website page for some photos. We also started to read our class novel, *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell. We have sent a letter home about our upcoming trip to Butser Ancient Farm this week, which will take place on Tuesday 7th October. Please return the reply slip and medical form as soon as possible. Please note, if you have already filled in and returned the medical form for the Ufton Court residential trip, you do not need to send that back again.

**Year 5** have had a great start to the year! We introduced our geography work on rivers by making a river on the playground which caused some excitement. We have also introduced the story *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne. The children were pleased to receive their Mathletics log ins this week and we are impressed that some children have already started work on this at home! Friday is outdoor P.E. day for us this half term. Please could all forms be returned for our river trip on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Before the holidays, the children



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brought the letter home with the permission slip and the medical forms have now been sent home too. If you want school to provide lunch, we need the forms back by Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September to give the kitchen enough notice.

**Year 6** children have had a brilliant first full week! We have been so impressed with how well they have settled in and the positive attitude they have shown so far. A reminder that Mr Thorpe and Miss Watkins will be hosting a Zoom meeting on Monday 15th September at 4:30pm. This will provide an introduction to the year ahead, followed by key information about the upcoming residential trip. There are still some outstanding payments for the trip. Please ensure that full payment is made by the end of next week.

Dates for your diary	
Monday 22nd September – Wednesday 24th September	Year 6 residential trip to Runways End
<b>NEW!</b> Monday 22nd September	Year 4 Ufton Court residential parent information meeting (Zoom), 5pm
Friday 3rd October	Year 5 Gilbert White trip
<b>NEW!</b> Monday 6th October	PTA Annual General Meeting, 7pm-8pm (online)
<b>NEW!</b> Tuesday 7th October	Year 4 trip to Butser Ancient Farm
Monday 27th October – Monday 3rd November	Half term (school closed)
<b>NEW!</b> Friday 31st October	Deadline for applications for Y7 (secondary school) places (year 6 only)
Thursday 6th November	Individual photos with Fraser Portraits
Monday 10th November	Parent's evening, 3.40pm-6pm
Wednesday 19th November	Parent's evening, 3.40pm-6pm
Friday 19th December	Last day of term
Monday 5th January	Inset day – school closed
Tuesday 6th January	First day of Spring term
Wednesday 4th February – Friday 6th February	Year 4 residential to Ufton Court





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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 autumn term are as follows:**

FS: No PE this term  
Year 1: Tuesday (outdoor)  
Year 2: Wednesday (indoor) and Thursday (outdoor)  
Year 3: Monday (indoor) and Tuesday (outdoor)  
Year 4: Monday (outdoor)  
Year 5: Friday (outdoor)  
Year 6: Wednesday (outdoor) and Thursday (indoor)