



# Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas holidays and a restful break, and thank you once again for all the cards, gifts and well wishes to our staff during the festive period. We are very grateful for all your support.

It was lovely for the children to see snow this week- they were so excited to go out in it at playtime as it was falling on their faces! Thankfully the snow did not disrupt the running of the school, but please can we remind you to send children in with warm clothing for going outdoors as we will try and get them fresh air during the school day where possible.

We have enjoyed a week of 'hook starts' to our new topics across the school and the children have been excited about their new learning. We have also been talking about mindfulness in assemblies and how to keep our bodies calm. We have practiced a number of mindful and breathing techniques which I am sure your children will enjoy sharing with you and practicing.

Wishing you a lovely weekend. Take care in the adverse weather and we will see you on Monday.

Best wishes

Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school  
attendance:  
95.1%

National  
average:  
94.5%

Our target:  
96%

## Starting school in September 2026 - Foundation Stage (Year R) admissions deadline

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, they will start school in September 2026. Even if you already have a child at Fairfields, you must still apply for a place for any younger siblings.

**Applications must be submitted to Hampshire County Council by Thursday 15th January 2026.**

For more information and to apply go to [www.hants.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hants.gov.uk/admissions)



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## School Dinner Taster Day

On Thursday 15th January we will be having a 'School Dinner Taster Day' for children in FS, year 1 and year 2. As always for children in these year groups, there will be no charge for this.

Our school's funding is based on the number of EYFS and KS1 children who have a school dinner on Thursday 15th January.

The menu for the day will be classic cheese and tomato pizza with wedges or chicken with golden rice or a Jacket potato with a choice of fillings followed by a brownie. There will also be freshly baked bread, a selection of salad and fresh fruit and yoghurt.

If you are concerned your child will not like any of the options on Thursday, please send them in with a packed lunch. However, you can still order them a meal so that your child can have the opportunity to sample the options we have on offer all year round. You can order in advance on Arbor or let your child's class teacher know before or after school on the week beginning 12th January.

## Trip overpayments

We have had a number of parents enquire about whether they can make overpayments to trip costs to help fund places for other pupils who may struggle financially to pay the full amount. We hugely appreciate it if this is something parents are able and willing to do when school budgets are very tight as we want all children to access trips to enhance their education. On Arbor, there is now a feature available for this. When paying for your own child's place on a school trip, if you would like to make an overpayment, by rounding up the cost, you can amend the amount you pay when making the payment.

Many thanks and thank you for this suggestion which parents have made. We are always grateful for your support to work together and help our whole community.





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## PTA update

Happy New Year! We are very excited to kick off the year with a '[Break the Rules Day](#)' on Friday 30th January. Students can choose to 'break' the following 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

towards supporting our children's learning experience.

The *School Disco* will be on 12th February 2026 and you can purchase tickets [here](#). With your feedback in mind, we have split this into three sessions this time:

- FS, Year 1 and Year 2: 3.15-4pm (straight from class to disco)
- Year 3 & Year 4: 4.15-5pm (arrive 10 minutes before to register)
- Year 5 & Year 6: 5.15-6pm (arrive 10 minutes before to register)

As always, we will rely on volunteers to run this event. Please have a look if you can help and sign up [here](#).

Planning for the Summer Fair on 10th July has started and we are hoping to put on a Music Festival this year! If you are part of a band, or know someone that may be interested in performing, please email us on [fairfieldspta@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldspta@gmail.com). We are also looking for a few volunteers that will lead the planning and organisation for parts of the fair. If you think you can help, please come and find us on the playground or email us on [fairfieldspta@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldspta@gmail.com). Below are the areas that we are looking for help for. You don't have to carry these alone — they can be shared and we will be there to support you all the way!

- Performances: speak to performers and come up with a performances schedule
- Food & Drinks: organise food and drinks
- Games: come up with a few new ideas or utilise any that we have already in store.
- Activities (arts/craft, facepainting): come up with a few new ideas or utilise any that we have already in store.

Also, please remember that we have now switched to our [new PTA page](#) for tickets and volunteer sign up. Please put [support@peoplesfundraising.com](mailto:support@peoplesfundraising.com) in your safe sender list. See [here](#) more detail on what to do.





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### Free school meals – are you eligible?

[Free school meals](#) are available to pupils whose parents/carers are in receipt of certain means-tested benefits, such as Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or Universal Credit with a household income of under £7,400 a year after tax. Eligibility also extends to those receiving Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit) with a gross annual income of no more than £16,190.

To check if you are eligible, please call into the Office where we will be able to give you a form to complete and return. We will then be able to let you know if you meet the criteria.

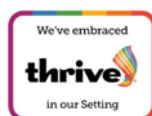
All children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 are automatically entitled to free school meals, but by registering for free meals **we can also raise an extra £1,320 per child from central government for your child's primary school, to fund valuable support and resources in the classroom.**

### Year group updates

Happy New Year! **Foundation Stage** have had a super first week back at school after the holidays. They have been learning more about signs of winter and were very excited to watch the snow fall this week. In Drawing Club, they have been learning the story *Stick Man* by Julia Donaldson and have been drawing the main character from the story. Well done for a super first week back FS! Just a reminder that our PE day is Monday next week, so could the children come to school in their PE kits. Have a lovely weekend!

Well done **Year 1** for a brilliant first week of spring term. We have started our topic of Bravery by looking at objects from Florence Nightingale's suitcase and asking lots of questions about them. We have also started our next unit in maths – time - looking at months of the year and beginning to tell the time on a clock. 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. Tuesday 13th is our QMC trip - Warsaw in the morning and Rome in the afternoon. We still need additional parent volunteers; please let us know ASAP if you are able to help. Thank you!

Welcome back! **Year 2** have had a great first week with our hook afternoon about the Great Fire of London. On Tuesday, we embraced the cold snow and created our own Pudding Lane. Disaster struck and it caught on fire! We saw how quickly the fire spread and have been continuing to learn all about The Great Fire of London this week. We look forward to continuing the learning with the children next week.





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Friday 9th January 2026

**Year 3** have had a fantastic start back at school for 2026! They have been experimenting with magnets in science, exploring landmarks and maps of Basingstoke and creating some beautiful artwork featuring Fairfields School. Next week, we have our re-scheduled visit from the Mayor of Basingstoke on Tuesday and we will be walking pupils around the town on a local trip on Thursday. Please return all forms and permissions to your class teacher by Monday. We will be contacting parents who volunteered to help on the trip shortly.

We've had a fantastic first week back in **Year 4**. The children thoroughly enjoyed our Hook Day, where they trained as circus performers and learned about the history of the circus in modern times. Over the next few weeks, as part of our DT project, we will be making musical instruments using junk modelling. If you have any clean junk modelling materials at home that we can use, please send them in with your child. Thank you. Finally, next Monday, 12th January, we will be holding a Zoom meeting about our upcoming Ufton Court residential trip. A separate email with the login details was sent out before Christmas. Have a lovely weekend!

**Year 5** have had a busy start to the term. On Wednesday, we visited Tutankhamun's tomb! Cairo classroom had a complete face lift and had changed into his tomb, complete with mummy and the famous mask. We also learnt lots about ancient Egypt and deciphered hieroglyphs. We have set up a science enquiry to find out how different growing materials affect how well cress grows, linking with our study of the River Nile and how fertile the soil is around it.

**Year 6** have had a brilliant start to the new term and have thrown themselves into our new topic on Evolution. They have enjoyed exploring the theory of evolution and learning about key scientists linked to it. One of the highlights of the week was our hook day, where the children created their own fossils out of clay! A quick reminder that **Bikeability** is coming up soon and will take place on: **Friday 23rd January, Monday 26th January, and Tuesday 27th January.**

The Bikeability sessions are fully led and delivered by the Bikeability team. However, we do need parent volunteers to help us maintain the correct adult-to-child ratios, just as we would on a school trip. If you are available to support on any of these days, either 9am–12pm or 1pm–3pm, please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you.



**EAL Award  
Gold**  
Hampshire EMAS 2025



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Dates for your diary	
Monday 12th January	Year 4 Ufton Court Zoom meeting for parents, 5pm
Tuesday 13th January	Year 1 trip to QMC (Warsaw in the morning, Rome in the afternoon)
Thursday 15th January	Applications close for Year R admissions for September 2026
<b>NEW!</b> Thursday 15th January	School Dinner Day
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
<b>NEW!</b> 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
<b>NEW!</b> Tuesday 24th March	Year 2 Parent Showcase, 2.40pm
<b>NEW!</b> 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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Friday 9th January 2026

## 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**.

