



Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a busy week in school, with trips in many year groups too! The children gain so much from these experiences, and we are particularly grateful to the parent volunteers who help us to make these trips happen- thank you!

We are excited to set up the school hall next Thursday as our 'Polling Station' for School Council and House Captain elections. The children across the school will be learning about democracy and voting, using the voting booths, ballot slips and ballots boxes from the local council to vote for this year's representatives. Well done to all the children who have put themselves forward for these roles- it will be very hard for the children to choose!

Thank you for all your support with our Harvest Festival collection for the Foodbank. We are delighted to be able to support this organisation who help so many of our families. Supporting our community is so important to us, and we will soon be having our annual coat swap too. If you have any old coats which are in good condition and can be used by someone else, we will start collecting them for our school coat swap which will be held on Thursday 23rd October. Please bring any coats you can donate to the school office by Wednesday 22nd October.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a super weekend and see you on Monday.
Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school
attendance:
93.8%

National
average:
95.5%

Our target:
96%

Attendance in school: URGENT update

It is disappointing to share that we are currently in the bottom 0-10% of schools nationally for attendance so far this academic year, with our attendance being well below national levels. We were particularly impacted by extended leave which many families took in the first week or two when returning back to school in September. Attendance in the school is a factor which is used as a measure by Ofsted with regards to school improvement.

As we strive as a school for excellent outcomes for all our children, please can we ask for your full support in having your children in school, on time, at every opportunity. We understand that sickness is uncontrollable, but any other leave should be taken in school holidays and will be unauthorised unless in exceptional circumstances, as agreed by the Headteacher under the guidance of the government and local authority.

Please note, your child's absence does not just affect your child's academic achievements. It affects their social development and affects the development of other pupils in the classroom when teacher time is taken up reintegrating children back into school who have been away.

Many thanks for your support.



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Friday 3rd October 2025

Additional volunteer required for Remembrance Service – 9th November 2025

We have one child kindly volunteer to represent the school in laying our wreath at the Remembrance Service. It would be great if we could have a second volunteer. The service is to be held in the War Memorial Park on Sunday 9th November 2025. Each child will need to be accompanied by a parent to the service. School representatives need to arrive at the park at 10am before the service starts, but further details confirming the timing will follow. If your child would like to represent the school in this way, please email admin@fairfields.hants.sch.uk. The place will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please also bear in mind that it is a public event and photographs may be taken on the day, including by the local press. Please only put your child forward if you are happy with this.

Smartphone Free Schools

In our drive to try and move towards becoming a Smartphone Free School, we have been really pleased to see fewer smartphones coming into school generally in years 5 and 6 since September. Thank you to parents who are considering different options for your child. I have had lots of positive responses from parents who want to help champion this, and who want to work together to help empower each other, and other parents, to navigate the issues around smartphones which parents are facing.

As we work towards these aims, **can I ask that if your child in years 5 or 6 is bringing a smartphone into school, that you speak to them about it not being used in the playground before school.** Some children have been arriving early and sharing their screens with other pupils before teachers come to the playground to lock phones away. In addition, there is no need for them to bring a device if they are dropped off and picked up from school. Can I also remind you that **children in year 4 or below should not be bringing any devices of any type to the school playground-** there is no need as all these children are being dropped to school and picked up by a responsible adult.

Many thanks for your support.

Starting school in September 2026

If you have a child who was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, they can start school in September 2026. Applications open on Saturday 1 November 2025 and close on Thursday 15 January 2026. For more information go to www.hants.gov.uk/admissions



Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

Walktober 2025



school and in their leisure time.

We are taking part in Walktober 2025! As we head into autumn, it's important that we all keep active and where possible, get outdoors. To encourage this, the My Journey Team at Hampshire County Council has invited schools to celebrate International Walk to School Month by taking part in Walktober.

This event is designed to inspire pupils, families and staff to travel actively and sustainably throughout October.

We are hoping as many of our pupils, families and staff as possible travel actively throughout October by walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, using Park and Stride or public transport to and from

PTA update

Pumpkin Competition 22nd October

Use your creativity and bring your carved or embellished pumpkin to school. Pupils will vote on best pumpkin and best pumpkin in each Key Stage wins a Bowling voucher for 4! Entry is just £1!

Please make sure you have an adult with you, when you are carving or decorating!

Amazon Wishlist – to go live ready for Amazon Prime Big Deal Days 7-8th October

We want every child at Fairfields to walk into a classroom that sparks curiosity and creativity. From paintbrushes to safety goggles, it's the little things that make learning come alive. School budgets are tight and we only have 2 pairs of safety goggles, so only a few children can join experiments at a time. We have set up an Amazon wishlist [here](#). Items will be shipped automatically to Fairfields. If you are able to help, we much appreciate it.

AGM 6th October 7pm

As a reminder, we would like to invite all parents, carers and teachers are invited to our 2025/2026 'Kick Off' meeting (AGM) 6th October 7-8pm. Join to hear more about how you helped the school community, what we raised, what events are coming up, how look to include your feedback and to give us new ideas and feedback.

Dial into Teams using Meeting ID: 348 327 398 859 6 and Passcode: qx7y3JY6.



Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

SCL name change

We're delighted to share some exciting news with you... after more than 25 years as **SCL Active**, we're changing our name!

👉 From **2nd October**, you'll know us as **ACE Kids** 🎉.

Our new name, **ACE Kids**, sums up what we're all about: helping children be **Active, Creative, and Engaged** every single day.

What does this mean for you and your school?

- ✅ No changes to the teams you know and work with
- ✅ No changes to the services and support we provide
- ✅ No changes to the high standards of care and delivery you expect

Just a fresh new brand and name that better reflects who we are today – launching officially on **2nd October**.

Our website, emails, and materials will be updated from **2nd October**, and we'll ensure the transition is smooth. You'll still be able to contact us in all the usual ways.

Half-term cricket club

GT Sports will be running a half-term cricket club in October. More information can be found at <https://www.gtssportsacademy.co.uk/holiday-camps>

A flyer is attached for your information.

ACE Kids Active Discovery Camp – October half-term

Our wraparound care provider, ACE Kids, will be running a holiday camp over the half term holiday at Castle Hill Primary School and Great Binfields Primary school.

Information on bookings and the activities programme can be found at [active-discovery-oct-ht-programme-2025.pdf](#)

The discount code **EWHols10** will give you 10% off bookings.



Fairfields Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

Year group updates

Foundation Stage have had a great week learning their new story *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* and have been drawing the main character in Drawing Club. We have welcomed Autumn by starting some Autumn tree artwork. In maths, the children have been looking at numbers to three and four and practising their 1:1 correspondence. Well done, Foundation Stage! Have a lovely weekend!

Year 1 had a great time at Milestones on Tuesday. In the morning, we explored the museum, and after lunch, we took part in toys and games workshops. We played with lots of old toys, compared different types, and had a go at putting them on a timeline. Well done Year 1 for a brilliant day! We will be creating our own classroom toy museums and would like to invite parents to visit on **Tuesday 14th October at 2.15pm**. Our PE day is Tuesday (outdoor), so children should come to school in their PE kit and trainers. Homework is set every Friday and is due the following Wednesday. You can find links to fun maths games on our year group page to support learning at home. Our library day is Wednesday.

Well done **Year 2** on a brilliant week in school and thank you to the parents who helped us on our walk to town! This was a valuable experience for the children that will support their geography learning. This week in maths we have been using our known facts within 10 to solve 2-digit addition and subtraction questions. We have noticed that a lot of children are still using their fingers to work out one digit addition and subtraction (e.g. $2 + 3$ or $9 - 4$). The children should know these facts fluently, please practice with them at home. A good resource for this is Hit the Button which can be accessed here: [Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#). In writing, we have introduced a new text type: non-chronological reports. This week we have been fact detectives to build up our knowledge of penguins. From next week, we will begin writing our own non-chronological reports about penguins. Have a lovely weekend!

Thank you to those **Year 3** parents who came after school to hear more about what we teach and what events we have coming up, it was lovely to meet you all. Pupils are very excited to show you their learning before half term linked to our Stone Age topic and we would like to invite parents in on **Tuesday 21st October at 2:30pm-3pm**. We have been busy this week reading the non-fiction book *Pebble in my Pocket* and pupils are really keen to know more about rocks, volcanoes and fossils. Our maths has been challenging and linked to solving problems involving money. Please do work with your child to discuss real life buying and selling scenarios using real coins.

Year 4 have had a fantastic week! They've loved starting their final dragon-themed art pieces using watercolour and sketching and were fascinated by our investigation of animal teeth to learn about different diets. We're also buzzing with excitement for our trip to Butser Ancient Farm next Tuesday, please check your inbox for a separate email with all the details.

Year 5 are looking forward to our river trip tomorrow (at the time of writing)! We have enjoyed experimenting with separating materials as our clumsy teachers mixed sand, sugar, multilink, pasta, pencils and paperclips and then asked us to separate them all!



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Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

Year 6 have had a fantastic week! We are so proud of the children for the focus and determination they showed during their practice SATs – they really gave their best effort. They were also brilliant role models when meeting their Foundation Stage buddies, showing such kindness and encouragement.

We have also started our new class book, *Holes* by Louis Sachar, and the children are really enjoying getting to know the characters and diving into the story. Thank you to all the pupils who applied to be house captain this year. We had some wonderful applications from all four teams! The year 6 teachers and Miss Cox will now shortlist candidates down to four for each house (a very tough task!) and on Tuesday next week, pupils will find out if they have made it. We will ask candidates to then make a short video explaining why they would be a great captain, so that the whole school can watch and vote on Thursday. Please re-assure your child that we are very proud of them for putting themselves forward, even if they do not get elected.

Dates for your diary	
Monday 6th October	PTA Annual General Meeting, 7pm-8pm (online)
Tuesday 7th October	Year 4 trip to Butser Ancient Farm
NEW! Monday 13 th October-Friday 17 th October	Cycle to School week
NEW! Tuesday 14th October	Year 1 Parent Showcase, 2.15pm
NEW! Tuesday 21st October	Year 3 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
NEW! Wednesday 22nd October	Closing date for PTA Pumpkin Decoration Contest
Monday 27th October – Monday 3rd November	Half term (school closed)
Friday 31st October	Deadline for applications for Y7 (secondary school) places (year 6 only)
NEW! Saturday 1st November	Applications open for Year R admissions for September 2026
Thursday 6th November	Individual photos with Fraser Portraits
Monday 10th November	Parent's evening, 3.40pm-6pm
Monday 17th November	Nasal flu immunisations (all years)



Fairfields Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

Wednesday 19th November	Parent's evening, 3.40pm-6pm
NEW! Thursday 11th December	Year 4 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
NEW! Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Fair
NEW! Tuesday 16th December	Year 2 Parent Showcase, 2.40pm
Friday 19th December	Last day of term
Monday 5th January	Inset day – school closed
Tuesday 6th January	First day of Spring term
NEW! Thursday 15th January	Applications close for Year R admissions for September 2026
Wednesday 4th February – Friday 6th February	Year 4 residential to Ufton Court

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)