



Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 30th January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

We have had an enjoyable week in school with the children, and the weather did not stop us from enjoying more trips and opportunities to learn outside, including year 6 with their Bikeability. Well done year 6 for your hard work and sensible attitude. We were very impressed with your riding in school and on the roads!

'Break the Rules Day' today has been lots of fun. It has been lovely to see the children being excited to show us their crazy hair, colourful trainers, tattoos and nail art. Thank you for your support with this as all the funds raised go towards the school buying new resources for the children to use.

Please bear with us as we move into next week. You might have noticed some building works starting today as we have the drainage repaired under the playground to prevent any more flooding in the school boiler room. This work is urgent but most of it will be completed over the weekend to avoid disruption to the playground space under the canopy. We may need to make arrangements on Monday however for children entering and exiting the building under the canopy, and we will communicate any changes to you if there are any.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope the weekend brings us all some milder weather!

Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school
attendance
(year to date):
95.2%

National
average (year
to date): 94.6%

Our target:
96%

'Tech-free Tuesday'

As part of Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 10th February, we are holding a "Tech-Free Tuesday" with other schools in the area who are also supporting the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' initiative. We'd love you to join families across Basingstoke for the day by not using technology at home! The aim is to replace tablets, tvs and phones for board games, park-trips, reading, arts and crafts, construction, sports, bike rides, music, writing, nature and more - whatever your children and family enjoy that isn't tech-based! We appreciate that tech will be needed for school, work and communication, so it's not a total tech ban, but rather taking the opportunity to deliberately be away from tech in leisure time. Please do let us know how you get on!





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Visit from Luke Murphy, MP

Last Friday, we were pleased to welcome Luke Murphy MP to Fairfields. He enjoyed a walk around the school meeting the staff and children and being questioned by the School Council on his role as an MP. He was very complementary about the children in the school, praising their confidence in speaking about Fairfields. I was proud to hear them talk about our strong sense of 'belonging' at school, and in sharing the core values with him and why they are important to us. The School Council found it interesting to learn about his job, how he became an MP and what he does each day. They could see the similarities in his role to their own as School Councillors.



Mental Health, Smartphones and Tech - What is the balance? - Free Webinars

In June 2026, the [Basingstoke-wide "Smartphone Free"](#) initiative was launched. 33 schools are taking part, including Fairfields, 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 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!



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Chinese New Year – volunteers needed!

We will soon be celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year which this year begins on 17th February and continues until 3rd March. 2026 will be the Year of the Horse. We are always keen to offer a chance to celebrate with the children so if you are interested and able to help us support some Chinese New Year-themed activities one day after school (after half-term) to celebrate, please leave your name with the School Office. Thank you!



PTA update

Break the Rules Day

It was lovely to see such joy at today's Break the Rules Day! We will let you know how much this has raised next week.

School Disco

You can still book your School Disco tickets [here](#) for Thursday 12th February. We are also still [looking for volunteers](#) to run this event. Especially for the 4-5pm and 5-6pm slots. 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. If your child is going to ACE after school club, please let the staff know and they will ensure they bring them to the disco and pick them up after.

Year group updates

Foundation Stage have been enjoying another week of their Superheroes/People Who Help Us topic. They had a brilliant superhero dress up day, and we loved seeing all of their brilliant costumes! It was brilliant to hear the children talk about the characters/people they have come as and how they help us in society! The children have been watching 'Fireman Sam' as part of their Drawing Club work this week too and have been drawing the characters and inventing a new way to retrieve the kite from the roof. Well done, Foundation Stage! Have a super weekend!

Well done **Year 1** for a great week. This week in science, we looked closely at our senses of hearing and sight. We used rice to demonstrate sound wave vibrations and tried to identify close up pictures of everyday items. In our writing, we have started our new book *Jabari Jumps*. We talked about the different feelings Jabari has while overcoming his worry of jumping into the swimming pool. Well done to Rome Class for winning the Bubble Monster



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last week. FOREST SCHOOL - next Friday (6th February), we will be having a Forest School morning. Please ensure your child comes to school with wellies to change into and a warm/waterproof coat. We will still be going if it is raining. We still need some parent volunteers for our trip to Marwell Zoo - please let us know if you are able to help.

Last week, **Year 2** really enjoyed tasting different types of bread, and this week they have put some fantastic effort into making their own bread roll. The children are busy creating and singing their own compositions to perform to our music lead and we are very proud of their work. The classes are also now competing against each other in a TT Rockstar competition that will end on Friday 6th February. The class with the biggest score will keep the trophy until next time! Good luck year 2!

Year 3 have really been enjoying the story of *The Iron Man* and thanks to your junk modelling donations, we have built some amazing models of him. The next step will be to write a letter to our Iron Men! We have also been learning our three times table in maths lessons and any additional support you can offer at home, for example with TT Rockstars will really help build on this.

This week, **Year 4** have been working incredibly hard on their writing. They wrote their biographies about *Wild Boy* and used many of the new techniques they have been learning. In DT, they completed their musical instruments — we hope they were able to play them for you! Next week is our trip to Ufton Court. Please look out for an email containing reminders about the key information. You can also check the school website for the Ufton PowerPoint, which includes the kit list and the itinerary. The children who are staying will have lots to look forward to next week too. They will be taught by Mrs Robak and Mrs Dawson for the three days. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Year 5 have continued working on our court case drama and are producing some super writing! This week, Cairo accused Hussein Abdul and Nairobi accused Theodore Davis of the 'murder' of Lord Carnarvon! This led to tense courtroom drama! We have also started making our canopic jars out of clay and are learning how to mummify. Don't worry - our models are tomatoes!

Year 6 have had a fantastic week! We were incredibly proud of how sensible, safe and focused the children were during their Bikeability sessions. The instructors were full of praise for their attitude and effort, and the children represented the school brilliantly.

You should have received a letter around two weeks ago regarding ordering SATs revision guides via Arbor. If you would still like to order these, they will remain available on Arbor until 16th February. For those who have already placed an order, we will be submitting the first batch shortly so that the guides can arrive as soon as possible.

If you need another copy of the letter or have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.



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Dates for your diary	
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
Monday 13th April	Start of the Summer term





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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.

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**.

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.

