



Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 6th February 2026

Dear parents and carers,

We have had an exciting week in school as we approach the end of the half term. The children continue to work hard and I have been particularly impressed with the handwriting I have seen across the school this week! Well done everyone!

'Belonging' is a strong ethos which underpins the work we do in the school and we strive to develop for our pupils, staff and parents. This is embedded within our core values of love, respect, honesty and celebration. We talk about 'belonging' often to the children, and as a staff, and work hard to ensure that our whole school community feels that they belong at Fairfields. Belonging is a fundamental human need, and it deeply impacts our health and wellbeing. I am really pleased that this important part of our school values is the theme of Children's Mental Health Week next week. We are looking forward to doing more work about this with the children, and please do get involved in our after-school activities on the playground next week if you can too.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to our wonderful staff who took the year 4 children this week on their residential trip. The children had great fun and an amazing experience. The dedication of our staff team in making trips and experiences like this possible is fantastic- we are very lucky to have such a brilliant team. Thank you!

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all back on Monday.
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!

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!





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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:

- 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!

Lost property – coats and jackets

We have noticed that there are a large number of coats in lost property this week which are not named. Please ensure coats/jackets are labelled with a permanent marker as this means we can then quickly return the coat to your child.

Newspapers, etc needed – can you help?

Miss Gallagher, our Pastoral Manager, is looking for any donations of old newspapers, magazine, catalogues etc to use as part of a Thrive activity where the children will create collages using print materials. Any donations will be gratefully received and can be dropped into the School Office. Thank you!





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Children's Mental Health Week: 'This is my Place'

The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week is 'This is my Place'. During Children's Mental Health Week, we'll be talking about how we can help everyone feel like they belong. We will share 'This is my Place' so we can learn from each other what makes us feel happy. We'll learn how to be kind, include others, and make sure no one

feels left out.

Attached is an art activity you can do at home together which focuses on belonging. We would love to see any creations made by the children at home and it would be nice to be able to display some of them in school. We also encourage you to walk to and from school as much as you can during this week as this is a fantastic opportunity to take the time to talk to your child and enjoy the fresh air. Walking and talking is great for our mental health.

Why does belonging matter for mental health?

Our mental health flourishes when we feel connected and valued. When children and young people have a strong sense of belonging, they:

- Feel more confident to be themselves and try new things.
- Develop resilience to cope with challenges and setbacks.
- Build stronger relationships and communication skills.
- Experience less anxiety and loneliness.
- Have better self-esteem and understand their own worth.
- Feel motivated to contribute positively to their communities.

After school activities on the playground:

- Tuesday 10th February - we will be filling each other's buckets by writing kind messages to one another. Children and parents are encouraged to write a nice note to someone they care for. Resources provided by school.
- Wednesday 11th February - mindful colouring
- Friday 13th February - dancing to music. Parents and children are invited to do a Friday dance workout on the playground.



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PTA update

School Disco NEXT WEEK Thursday 12th February!

Don't miss out! Up until 10th February you can still book your School Disco tickets [here](#). With your feedback in mind, we have split this into three sessions:

- FS, Year 1 and Year 2: 3.15-4.00pm
- Year 3 & Year 4: 4.15-5.00pm
- Year 5 & Year 6: 5.15-6.00pm

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 you bring them to the disco and pick them up after. We are also still [looking for volunteers](#) to run this event. Especially for the 4-5pm slot. Please have a look if you can help and sign up [here](#).

Break the Rules Day

Thank you so much for your donations at last weeks' Break the Rules Day. We broke 900 rules and raised £450!

Year group updates

Foundation Stage have been enjoying celebrating Chinese New Year this week. They have been learning about the celebration and have been learning the story *Ruby's Chinese New Year*. They drew an animal from the current zodiac and even chose a new animal if they could introduce one. In Maths, the children have been continuing to work with numbers to 15. We will be working more on one more/one less next week. Well done, Foundation Stage! Have a lovely weekend!

In **Year 1** this week, we had a fantastic time making our own fruit pizzas, exploring different fruits and practising our cutting and arranging skills. In maths, we worked on recognising tens and ones, using practical resources to help us understand how numbers are made. We also did some lovely writing linked to the book *Jabari Tries*, thinking about the characters'





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feelings and the challenges they faced. The children worked hard and should be very proud of themselves. Just a reminder topic homework can be brought in on Wednesday 11th February.

Well done **Year 2** on another good week in school. We are looking forward to next week, when the children can bring their topic homework in on Wednesday 11th February. Please note we will be sharing it on this day so please ensure it comes in on Wednesday, if your child wants to share! Budapest have earned all their ticks in their class reward chart and so next Friday 13th February, the children will have an extended golden time at Forest School. Please ensure Budapest class have coats and a change of shoes on this day. Have a nice weekend.

Year 3 have been rehearsing their Iron Man dance to show parents next Tuesday from 2:30pm. Parents are welcome to come and visit Year 3 to see our Basingstoke reports and all our wonderful topic work. We have also been building up our maths skills in multiplication; do continue to allow your child time on TTRockstars each week.

Year 4 have had a fantastic week! The Ufton Court children thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities – especially the climbing wall and the catapults! Their perseverance and communication skills really grew, and it was a pleasure to take them away. Please make sure you check out their photos on the school website. The children who were in school had a fun time too. They made 3D shapes and created their own inventions inspired by the book *Until I Met Dudley*. Have a very restful weekend, and we will see you on Monday.

Year 5 have had great fun this week mummifying soft toys! We removed their brains through their noses and wrapped them up using toilet rolls! This has helped the children to learn about mummification processes from Ancient Egypt. We are also monitoring our tomatoes which have been filled with salt and bicarbonate of soda to copy the mummification process.

Year 6 have had a fantastic week! We've begun our new unit on spooky story writing, inspired by a short film called *Francis*, and the children have already shown great imagination and creativity. We're very much looking forward to reading their own spooky narratives next week. In Maths, the children have been working hard on area and perimeter, applying their knowledge to increasingly challenging problems and showing brilliant perseverance. Finally, just a reminder that SATs revision guides are available to order on Arbor until Monday 16th February if you would like to purchase them for your child.



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Dates for your diary	
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.

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**.



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