



Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 21st November 2025

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a lovely week in school with the children, and the snow flurry on Wednesday caused much excitement which was lovely to see. It was wonderful to see so many parents again this week for parents evening, and to share with you your children's successes so far this year. They are all doing so well and we are very proud of them all.

We are approaching a busy point in the year with lots of trips, visitors, and parent events in school, and we look forward to enjoying these with you and your children in the coming weeks. Please can I encourage you, if you have any time, to sign up to help at the Christmas Fair this year. Our wonderful PTA are organising this event for all our families to enjoy, but they can only run it if we have the volunteers needed to help. We rely so much on funds raised by the PTA to make sure our children have the resources needed in school, so any help is gratefully received.

Enjoy the weekend ahead and keep warm in this wintery weather which has now appeared!

Kind regards
Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school
attendance:
95.2%

National
average:
95.2%

Our target:
96%

Absence procedures

We have included a guide to the procedures that *must* be followed by parents/carers when your child will be absent from school, whether that is due to illness, medical/dental appointments or a planned leave of absence. This can be found on the final page of this newsletter. We hope you find this useful.

Cold/wet weather reminders



Now that the temperature has dropped, please ensure that your child has a warm, named coat to wear outside at break, lunch and for any other outdoor activities.

Clubs update

Rugby and Athletics clubs – no sessions on Thursday 27th November, final sessions on 4th December. Clubs will resume in the New Year.

Netball club (year 5/6)- last session on Monday 1st December. Netball club (year 3 and 4)- last session on Tuesday 2nd December. The club will resume in the New Year.

Dance club and knitting/crochet club have now finished.

Football club - our last event of the term is on Thursday 27th November, so there is no training on Tuesday. Well done to all the children who played so well against St John's on Tuesday and thank you to all the parents who offered support.



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Second-hand or new toys needed: can you help?

We have a number of children who benefit from play-based interventions in school to support their language skills and social and emotional development. Our supply of suitable toys is running low, so if you're planning a clear-out—or have recently had one—we'd be incredibly grateful for any donations.

Items need to be solid, undamaged, clean, and washable. Plastic and wooden toys work best and as we do not have a large space to store them, they need to be small playset size. The type of items we need are:

- Plastic Duplo figures
- Small figures (men, women and children)
- Small items of furniture (doll house size)
- Farm set accessories: buildings, fences, gates, and trees (small set size)
- Small animals (farm, zoo and pets) especially parent and young
- Small dolls and clothes
- Small dolls bath set (bath, brush, cloth)
- Pretend food and drink
- Play plates, cups, and cutlery

Here are some images of the types of items we need:



If you can donate any of these items they can dropped into the School Office. Thank you.

Free speech and language resource for parents

The [Speech and Language Parent Portal](#) is a great resource which anyone can access for free ideas, advice and information to develop your child's understanding, talking and listening in a way that works for all of your family. The portal also suggests activities you can do with your child at home and has a range of fun games designed for children aged from one to 14 years.





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PTA update

Christmas Fair: 11th December 4.30-7pm

Volunteers needed! Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered! If you have not yet signed up, please have a look [here](#).

Why volunteer at PTA events?

- 🤝 **Meet other parents and staff** – Build friendships and feel more connected.
- 🧒 **Be part of your child's world** – Kids love seeing their parents involved.
- 🎪 **Make events happen** – Your help ensures fun, safe, and successful experiences.
- ⌚ **Flexible commitment** – two timeslots (4.30-5.45pm & 5.45-7.00pm), so you can still enjoy time at the fair with your family.

Whether you can help set up, run an activity or game, serve refreshments or food, or clean up, we'd love to have you join us. It's a fun, easy way to support our school and make lasting memories. If you have any questions please come and see us or email fairfieldspta@gmail.com.

Early Bird! Get 10% OFF on every [10 Christmas Fairs 2025 Tokens](#) until 30 November for games, activities, food and drink. You can also book for [Meet the Santa tickets](#). Note these are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. We will be holding token and Meet Santa Ticket sales Fridays at drop-off and pick-up over the coming weeks.

NEW! [Online Christmas Raffle](#)! The prize list is growing! New this week: Beechdown One Day Pass for 2, Grosvenors Pub & Inns £100 Gift Card, JG Dance half term scholarship x2, Soap and Glory hamper worth £60, Parthian Climbing Southampton Taster session for 6, Arc Hairdressing £50 voucher, Happy Days Hamper, Vue Cinema tickets for 4, Nutmeg 3 -Tier Steamer, Atmosphere Jump for 4, Chennai Express £20 voucher x2, Oakwood Climbing 1:1 Taster Session, El Bigote Meal £20 voucher x2, Skoolkit £20 voucher, Sports Centre Softplay x4 and Holland and Barrett gift bag.

Non-uniform day 5th December for tombola donations

If you are able to, please bring in tombola donations on 5th December (FS, Year 1, 2, 3: wrapped chocolates (no nuts), biscuits (no nuts), wrapped sweets, dairy-free (no nut) and Year 4, 5, 6: alcoholic and non-alcoholic bottles).

We are looking for good quality second hand toy donations. These can be brought in from 1st December.





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Year group updates

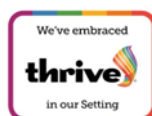
Foundation Stage have enjoyed beginning their Nursery Rhymes focus this week. They have been learning the story of *The Gingerbread Man* in Drawing Club and have been crafting their own Gingerbread Men and Incy Wincy Spiders in Continuous Provision. In maths, they have been starting to look at numbers within 10 more closely using a tens frame. They have been busy practising their Nativity performance too and have been focussing on learning the songs this week. If your child has lines for the Nativity, please support them by practising with them as much as possible, especially if they are a narrator as they have a lot of words to remember. Thank you. Well done, Foundation Stage! Have a super weekend!

Year 1 had a lovely walk on Tuesday: we walked around our local area and identified lots of different things on the way! In our writing this week, we designed a new house for the smallest little pig and have been writing to describe it. We have also started our new unit on addition and subtraction within 20 in maths. In our science lesson, we sorted lots of different materials and talked about their properties. Dates: Parents showcases - Thursday 26th March and Wednesday 20th May from 2pm (timings to be confirmed nearer the time).

Thank you **year 2** children, for another brilliant week in school. We had a very cold PE lesson this week, but you all showed great resilience and perseverance despite having cold hands. Thank you, adults, for sending your children in with warm coats, hats, scarves, and gloves, this meant we could continue with our PE learning despite the cold! In writing, we have written our own endings to our story, Polar the Titanic Bear. We have also written short adventures for Polar and Douglas (characters from the story). We will put some examples of this on the website for adults to read. In maths, we have introduced arrays for dividing and multiplying. The children can now identify if a division is a grouping or sharing problem. They are starting to notice the links between division and multiplication. Thank you to all the adults who engaged with parents evening this week, it was another positive evening of sharing your child's successes. Have a lovely weekend!

Our **Year 3** children have absolutely loved learning about volcanoes this week! They were fascinated by how these incredible natural wonders form and erupt and enjoyed exploring the science behind them. Next week, we'll be diving into a gripping fiction story set in Pompeii during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius—an exciting way to bring history and imagination together!

Year 4 have worked incredibly hard this week! They've been writing descriptive narratives about the epic battle between Beowulf and Grendel, and in DT they've been practising the blanket stitch and running stitch to create their Viking pouches. We have also been learning about the digestive system in science and exploring the Vikings in our creative curriculum. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be completing our autumn term assessments, so





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please ensure your child is well-rested and ready for these. As the weather is getting much colder, please make sure your child comes to school with a warm coat.

This week, **Year 5** have been busy learning more about Australian animals, including creating 3D art representing animals' life cycles! We have also been programming Microbits to say our names in scrolling LED lights. Parents should have received a letter informing them of two trips coming up before Christmas. The first is next Wednesday so please could permission forms be returned as soon as possible. We have been sending out reminders to some parents to fill in the permissions section of Arbor so we may take your child on local trips. We are still seeking any random pebbles lying around at home for our Aboriginal art project. Thank you for such great attendance at our two recent parent evenings. We had a number of conversations about striving for 8/8 in spellings. The children bring homework books in on Wednesday and the test isn't until Friday. Please could you ask your child to copy down the week's spellings so they can still work on learning them until the test on Friday? Finally, our parent showcase is at 9am on Friday 12th December.

Year 6 have had a fantastic week! We were thoroughly impressed by their creativity and focus. The children have begun practicing their sketching and portrait skills in preparation for their final piece—a portrait of one of the characters from our whole-class book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, inspired by the style of author and illustrator Brian Selznick. On Friday, the classes enjoyed their DT day, where they designed, crafted, and evaluated their own toy shop window displays, taking inspiration from the toy booth featured in the book. Looking ahead to next week, Year 6 will complete another round of practice SATs papers from Monday to Thursday. Please reassure your child that these are nothing to worry about - they are simply a tool for teachers to assess retention of taught topics and identify areas for support.

Dates for your diary	
NEW! Wednesday 26th November	Year 5 trip to Costello
NEW! Thursday 4th December	FS Nativity – performance to parents of children in London class, 2pm
NEW! Friday 5th December	FS Nativity – performance to parents of children in Paris class, 2pm
Friday 5th December	Year 6 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
NEW! Friday 5th December	Non-uniform day and tombola donations
NEW! Wednesday 10th December m	Year 5 cinema trip





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Thursday 11th December	Year 4 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
Thursday 11th December	PTA Christmas Fair, 4.30pm-7pm
Thursday 11th December	Year 2 trip to Sea City Museum
Friday 12th December	Year 5 Parent Showcase, 9am
Tuesday 16th December	Year 2 Parent Showcase, 2.40pm
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Dinner Day/Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 18th December	PTA reindeer visit
Friday 19th December	Last day of term
Monday 5th January	Inset day – school closed
Tuesday 6th January	First day of Spring term
Tuesday 13th January	Year 1 trip to QMC
Thursday 15th January	Applications close for Year R admissions for September 2026
Wednesday 4th February – Friday 6th February	Year 4 residential to Ufton Court
Friday 20th March	Year 1 trip to Marwell Zoo

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: Thursday (outdoor)
 Year 3: Monday (indoor) and Tuesday (outdoor)
 Year 4: Monday (outdoor)
 Year 5: Friday (outdoor)
 Year 6: Wednesday (outdoor) and Thursday



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Absence guidance and procedures

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.

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 unauthorised 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**.

