



Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 8th May 2026

Dear parents and carers,

It has been another super week in school, topped off with our David Attenborough Day today to celebrate this inspirational man. I think the four-day week has confused us all however about what day of the week it is!

We appreciate that school uniform can be expensive but please can we ask that children come to school in full uniform (either school uniform or PE uniform) each day. This helps to support our core values of respect and belonging, and makes the children look and feel smart, and equal. We have noticed trainers and jogging bottoms on non-PE days, hoodies and cargo style shorts/ trousers creeping in. If you need any help with uniform, we can often help you source some from our supply at school.

We are so proud of the year 6 children with the work they have completed as we approach next week's SATs tests. They have worked so hard and I am so proud of them all. Try your best year 6- that is all we can ask of you. I know you will smash it and I can't wait to see you next week showing off all your skills and learning. I encourage them to have a rest from revision this weekend, to relax and to get some good sleep. Well done year 6- I am proud of you, and will be quietly cheering you on through each test next week!

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.
Kind regards
Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school attendance (year to date): 95.3%

National average (year to date): 94.7%

Our target: 96%

Census Day- School Dinner Taster Day

On **Thursday 21st May** 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 21st May.

The menu for the day will be Chef Shilpa's Mild Chicken Korma with Rice, or All Day Vegetarian Breakfast, or Jacket potato with a choice of fillings.

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 18th May.



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0% Battery 📵 🚫, 100% childhood 🎨 🇺🇸 🌳

Have you noticed it's harder than it used to be to get your child to focus on something that isn't flashing, buzzing or scrolling? Or found bedtime turns into "just five more minutes" of screen time that somehow becomes forty?

Smartphone Free Childhood is a growing movement of families standing together to delay smartphones and social media, so children get more time to play, more space to grow, and more freedom to just be children. We're a small group of Fairfields parents/carers who want to raise awareness of the benefits of a smartphone-free childhood and share simple, realistic ways to reduce smartphone use at home—without the guilt. Our vibe is gentle: less pressure, more support (and absolutely no judgement or lecturing—every family is doing their best!).

On 22nd May we will have a stand in the school playground at drop-off with information—please stop by for a coffee and a chat about how smartphones show up in your family, any concerns you have, and ideas that might help make tech boundaries a little easier.

For more information, check out the attached leaflet!

Oracy corner

Here's this week's oracy activity to enjoy at home. Remember, you can find lots more ideas and guidance on our website in the Oracy Workshop presentation. These small, simple conversations make a big difference in helping children build confidence, vocabulary, and clear communication.

I see, I think, I wonder



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Menu change

Due to a supply issue, Caterlink have informed us that vegan meatballs will now be replaced with vegan bolognese. This affects the menu on Tuesday of week 2, which first falls on Tuesday 12th May. It will be changed until further notice.

Parkrun Primary

The children had an exciting visit from the run directors at Basingstoke Junior Parkrun this week! Lots of children showed excitement and said they wanted to take part in our Fairfields Takeover next Sunday 17th May.

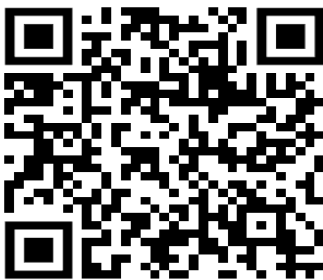
We are encouraging all children, teachers and families connected to Fairfields Primary School to **come along together to Basingstoke Junior Parkrun at Stratton Park on Sunday 17th May**. We would like to encourage children to walk, jog or run parkrun and are looking for adults in the school community to volunteer at the event. It will be an amazing experience for Fairfields to takeover Basingstoke Junior Parkrun!

All volunteers and run/walk/joggers must register for parkrun beforehand.

You can register for parkrun for free here: www.parkrun.org.uk/register/ or scan the QR code below:

If you are able to **join the Fairfields volunteer team on Sunday 17th May at Stratton Park at 9am** please sign up below and **let Miss Bradley know via the school office**.

- Address: Stratton Park
- Sunday 17th May, at 9am (arrive at 8:45am for the fun warm up!)
- Website: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/basingstoke-juniors/>





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PTA update

 [Colour Run](#) - 5th June – **Sign-ups close Friday 23rd May!** 

You can sponsor your child **online** [here](#) or **hand cash into the office** (make sure you add your child's name and year group). Please sign up as soon as possible so we can plan numbers and make the event as fun as possible for everyone. We have had a few questions on how it works. Once your child raises £5, they can take part in the run wearing their own white/light t-shirt and get covered in colour powder. Raise more and extras are included:

- £10: Includes a Colour Run t-shirt (given out the week of the event)
- £20: Includes t-shirt + colour powder packet to throw at teachers at the finale
- £30: Includes all of the above + sunglasses
- £50: Includes all of the above + a splash blaster (water gun)

You do not need to pay it all in one payment. If you are unsure how much your child has raised so far, you can ask the school office or email pta@fairfields.hants.sch.uk. All funds will go towards the playground and SEN equipment at school.

Who can beat Year 6 and win a non-uniform day and ice cream party? Ask your family and friends for support! You can [download a sponsorship form here](#) to share with family and friends or send them [this link](#)



[Fishbowl Coin Drop](#): Well done to the lucky ones today!

A few children got the coin in the glass and won 50 house points today! There is still time to try your luck! We will be at the top and bottom gate with our fishbowl next Monday and Friday. See more detail [here](#) and watch a video of how the game works [here](#). All funds will go towards the playground and SEN equipment at school.



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Year group updates

Foundation Stage have had a super week looking at transport and growing. The children had a super visit to Finkley Down Farm on Thursday. They found feeding the alpacas, sheep and goats very exciting! The animals were very hungry! They learnt how to brush a miniature pony and made friends with two rabbits, Betty and Bella too. The children represented our school brilliantly. At Forest School this week, we continued our planting mission and planted carrots, sunflowers and dwarf sunflowers. We are looking forward to looking after them and watching them grow. Well done, Foundation Stage!

In **Year 1** this week, we had a go at using green screens to record our own weather reports. We learned about the different types of weather in different seasons and recorded forecasts for them. We have also been writing about the story *Look Up* and adding the prefix 'un'. This month, we are trialing Numbots - an online game to develop maths fluency. Each child has been given a log in and instruction sheet to get onto the game at home. Our next parent showcase is 20th May at 2.30pm - parents are invited into classrooms to see our learning. Our War Memorial Park visit is on Tuesday 23rd June (AM) parent volunteers are needed - please let us know if you can come. Our PE day is Thursday (outdoor) and children need to come to school in PE kit. They will need a coat if it is rainy/ cold and a sunhat if it is sunny.

This week **Year 2** have enjoyed becoming budding photographers, scientific thinkers and rock stars. They also had a fantastic time celebrating Sir David Attenborough's birthday with a class party. All within four days! We have some exciting learning coming up next week with fruit tasting and an animal aid workshop. They will not want to miss a second! Keep up the amazing work year 2!

Year 3 have been learning all about different types of angles within shapes as well as what perpendicular and parallel lines are. Please do quiz them about the differences if you can! In writing, pupils have been explaining how to be a good friend and we are pleased at how many expanded noun phrases they are using. We would like to remind parents about returning the swimming letters and teachers will be in touch very soon about booking in any volunteer parents; as well as further information about our upcoming school trip.

Year 4 have had a fantastic week. This week, they thoroughly enjoyed their geographical walk around the local area. They were surprised to notice just how much litter there is around the school and the town, which led to some thoughtful discussions about caring for our environment. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us. In DT, the children are very excited and are really enjoying making their head torches. Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation towards this project. If you are able to contribute, please remember to log on to Arbor to make a donation—every little helps. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a wonderful weekend.





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Year 5 have had another busy week! The children have been learning about gears and levers using our Lego kits to help us, and discovering how they make our lives easier. We are also planning our own revolutions. The children are composing letters to send to people of influence to try to change something they feel strongly about. The subjects range from university fees to shoplifting. They know that we are actually going to send a few from each class to the chosen adults! Please remember to pay on Arbor or in the office for our Hampton Court trip on Friday 15th May. Lunches are now ordered for those who have requested one. Finally, our parent showcase is Thursday 21st May at 2.30pm. We hope to see you then!

Year 6 have had a fantastic week. The children have been working incredibly hard in their revision and showing real determination as we approach SATs. They have also begun writing some brilliant narrative pieces, retelling the Sorting Hat ceremony from Harry Potter. In art, they have produced beautiful pieces inspired by Ancient Greek architecture, demonstrating both creativity and attention to detail.

Looking ahead, a reminder that next week is SATs week. All Year 6 children are invited to come into school from 8:30am Monday to Thursday to allow for a calm and settled start before exams begin promptly at 9am. Please ensure your child arrives on time so they can begin the day feeling prepared and confident.

On Friday 15th, children will be picked up from the playground by their class teachers at the normal start time of 8:45am, as there are no tests scheduled on this day. We hope the children enjoy a restful and well-deserved weekend.



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Dates for your diary	
8th May – 22nd May	PTA fishbowl coin drop (Wednesdays and Fridays during drop off and pick-up)
Monday 11th May -15th May	Safeguarding week (PANTS)
Friday 15th May	Year 5 trip to Hampton Court Palace
Monday 18th May - 22nd May	Walk to School week
Tuesday 19th May	Year 6 cinema trip
Wednesday 20th May	Year 1 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
NEW! Thursday 21st May	School Dinner Day
Thursday 21st May	Year 5 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm
Monday 25th May – 29th May	Half-term (school closed)
Friday 5th June	PTA colour run (after school)
Monday 1st June	Inset day (school closed)
Wednesday 17th June	Sports Day
Thursday 18th June	Back-up Sports Day (in case of bad weather on 17th)
NEW! Tuesday 23rd June	Year 3 Parent Showcase, 2.40pm
Friday 26th June	Year 2 trip to Living Rainforest
Tuesday 7th July	Year 2 Parent Showcase, 2.40pm
Friday 10th July	PTA Summer Fair (please note there will be no ACE (after school) club on this day)
Monday 20th July	Open evening
Monday 20th July – Wednesday 22nd July	Transition mornings (FS to year 5)
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of Summer term



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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 Summer term:

FS: Monday

Year 1: Thursday (outdoor)

Year 2: Monday (outdoor)

Year 3: Tuesday (outdoor) and Thursday (indoor)

Year 4: Monday (outdoor)

Year 5: Friday (indoor)

Year 6: Wednesday (indoor) and Thursday (outdoor)

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 or email admin@fairfields.hants.sch.uk to inform us of the time and date of your child's appointment.

Illness

If 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 Deemer, 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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