



# Fairfields Primary School Newsletter

Friday 17th October 2025

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you have had a good week. We have been very busy in school as always, and have been excited to celebrate in our assembly this week our new House Captains and School Council. Well done and thank you to all the children in school who applied for jobs- we can't wait to start working with you in all your roles, and we will update you as the year progresses on how the new teams are getting on.

In staffing news, we are sad to inform you that Miss Powers will be leaving us at the end of the half term. Miss Powers loves working at Fairfields and she is so sad to leave us, but she needs time at the moment to settle her son into his new school. We hope that she will be back with us again in the future and wish her all the best. We will miss her positive energy and I know the children will be sad to see her leave. Canberra parents have been contacted separately about staffing arrangements going forward.

We hope you have a great weekend, and thank you once again for your support.

Mrs Vicky Hopkins



Whole school  
attendance:  
94.9%

National  
average:  
95.5%

Our target:  
96%

## Fidget toys

We have noticed an increase in children bringing fidget toys into school which are then becoming a distraction in class. Class teachers are aware of which children have access to the use of fidget toys, for specific needs, and we have reminded children that these are provided to help them focus. No fidget toys should be bought in from home as Miss Moore will provide these to the children. We also do not want these to get lost. Please can you speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions about this. The reminders we share with the children are

- I can make good choices with my fidget.
- A fidget is a tool, not a toy.
- I will use my fidget quietly.
- I will keep my fidget on my lap or on my desk.
- I will stay focused while using my fidget.
- I will not distract other children with my fidget.

Thank you for your support.

## Topic homework

Our topic home work sharing day for this half-term is Wednesday 22nd October. Children are encouraged to bring in any completed pieces of topic homework on this day to share with their class.



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## School Council 2025/2026

We are delighted to announce our school councillors for 2025-26. All the children who applied were amazing and it was very close when we counted up the ballot slips on our school voting day. Thank you to the council offices for letting us borrow the voting booths and ballot boxes to make this a real experience for our children. School councillors voted in this year are:

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Rome      | Thenuki    |
| Warsaw    | Yazhini    |
| Madrid    | Joshua     |
| Budapest  | Ritisha    |
| Ankara    | Cynthia    |
| Kathmandu | Christian  |
| Canberra  | Aubrey     |
| New Delhi | Scarlett   |
| Cairo     | Thaarika   |
| Nairobi   | Harry      |
| Ottawa    | Lydia      |
| Lima      | Isabella B |

## House captains

We are also excited to announce our House Captains and Vice Captains for this year, who were voted in by the children across the school!



- **Griffins:** Elizabeth and Bence
- **Unicorns:** Renee and Alex
- **Phoenixes:** Izzy W and Rome
- **Dragons:** Adelyn and Umair

Well done to all the children who put themselves forward for this role, we are all very proud of you.





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## You Said, We Did...

Following our Parent Survey in July 2025, we would like to keep you updated with points raised by parents to support school improvement. Over the autumn term, we will keep you updated on some of the suggestions you raised, and what we are doing about them.

### ***“Can students be given more attention in reading and writing and more time for reading for pleasure?”***

We have made one of our school development priorities this year a focus on the combined reading, writing and maths outcomes for pupils. As part of this, we want to review our teaching and interventions for pupils in these subjects and engage with parents more effectively on how they can support at home. We identified that reading for pleasure was a big part of this, and we will be working at putting things in place to promote reading for pleasure too.

### ***“Can it be clear on how funds from the PTA are being spent?”***

The PTA would like to work on this and they have been reviewing what they spend money on, so that the impact of their spending can be seen more quickly for our families (sometimes spending is not quick as we are saving money for something large!) The PTA will be sharing this more regularly as a result! Please do follow them on Facebook for more updates, and on the PTA school website page.

### ***“Can there be more parent workshops to help us support children at home?”***

We are planning a parent workshop each term this year, focusing on reading, writing and maths. We try not to plan in too many as we understand that taking time off work to attend these can be tricky for some parents, so we try to get a balance. If you would like any specific support with something to help your child at home, please do ask our teachers as we are very happy to meet you and show you any strategies which might help.

### ***“Can there be more emphasis on walking and cycling to school?”***

After the success of the Bike Bus last year, which is continuing, we want to build on this and we are working closely with parents and the local authority to support this in the school. We have our 'Walktober' event on currently, and we will be looking at other ways to promote healthy lifestyles where we can too. Please do let us know if you would like to get involved in this!

Thank you again for your feedback, including the many positive comments about the school which we are so grateful to receive. We will update you again on further suggestions which were made in the coming weeks.





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## 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

## Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Madrid Class for being the class with the most children completing the Summer Reading Challenge! Even more exciting, our whole school came second out of all the schools in Basingstoke, which is a fantastic result and something we can all be proud of. As a reward, Madrid class will receive £50 to spend on their reading corner, which can go towards new books, comfy cushions, and other items to make their reading more enjoyable. We encourage all parents to get involved and support their children in joining next summer's challenge — it's a wonderful way to build a love of reading and celebrate learning together!







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## PTA update

Please see attached the newsletter and little more information on the reindeer visit.

## Pumpkin Competition 22<sup>nd</sup> October

We are very excited to see the creativity of our children on **22nd October**. Please bring the pumpkins to school at **drop off** to the top playground with **£1 Entry** for their chance to win a Bowling voucher for 4 (one for each Key Stage, plus prizes for runner ups). Any children that go to breakfast club (SCL/ ACE), can bring them to the club in the morning and we will make sure they are entered in the contest. Make sure you write their name and class at the back of the pumpkin. Here a few links for ideas for pumpkin [decoration](#) or [carving](#).

## [Amazon Wishlist](#) – THANK YOU!

This week has been busy at the office with now a total of 292 items gifted worth over £2,700! It's fantastic to see so much support! An extra special thank you to [Ashby Trade Sign Supplies](#) for donating footballs, world maps and weighted blanket over £100!

## Christmas Fair 11<sup>th</sup> December 4.30-7pm

We are busy making preparations for the Christmas fair. We do **rely on volunteers** to have a large variety of activities and games. Please have a look [here](#) to see how you can help with set-up, during or after the event. There are 2 timeslots (4.30-5.45pm & 5.45-7.00pm), so you can still enjoy time at the fair with your family.

## PTA feedback survey

Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey. Over the coming weeks we will reply to some of the improvements suggested.

- **Prize at stall instead of collecting stamps:** We had chosen stamps as it allows the children to get a bigger prize at the end. If they only play one or two games they can still get a smaller prize.
- **Costs/chances of winning:** We are conscious that everyone is feeling the pinch right now, so will adjust as much as possible. Even with costs going up we have not changed most of our prizes e.g. we have charged the same for drinks and food over the last 3 years. We have seen some confusion on costs and would like to clarify that 1 token = 50 pence and 2 tokens = £1.
- **Not keen on the token system:** As we are relying on volunteers of all ages, the token system is the easiest and most secure way.





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### Year group updates

**Foundation Stage** have been learning the story of *The Leaf Thief* in Drawing Club this week. They drew the Leaf Thief and drew what they think a real leaf thief would look like. They have begun making leaf crowns at Forest School using the natural autumn leaves that have fallen. In Maths, they have started looking at addition as two parts making a whole amount. Well done, Foundation Stage! Have a lovely weekend!

This week in **Year 1**, we had a brilliant time creating our toy museum on Tuesday—it was wonderful to welcome visitors to see the robots we made in DT, along with our sketching and writing. In maths, we've been learning about 2D and 3D shapes, so why not go on a shape hunt next time you're out and about? After half term, we'll be having a Forest School session on Friday 7th November; children should wear joggers, bring wellies in a separate bag, and come with a coat and water bottle as usual—please note, we'll still go even if it's raining! We've also had several unnamed jumpers and water bottles left in classrooms, so please make sure all items are clearly labelled. Finally, don't forget our topic homework showcase in class on Wednesday 22nd October—please bring any topic homework in on that day.

Once again, it's been another wonderful week in **Year 2**! This week, we have introduced bar models during maths lessons. Bar models help the children to identify what they know and what they need to find out when solving word problems. This week's maths homework consolidates this learning. In writing, we have been very impressed at the children's first attempt at paired writing. The children have worked in pairs or small groups to write factual sentences about penguins. It has been particularly lovely to hear children reminding each other of their punctuation and challenging themselves to include adjectives and conjunctions in their writing. In computing, we discussed e-safety and agreed five key rules for children to follow at home and at school when using IT. Please ask the children about this and encourage them to use the rules to keep themselves safe when online. Key dates for next week:

Monday 20th October: we will be visiting Forest School in the afternoon to consolidate our science learning. Please send children to school with a change of shoes (wellies/walking boots) and a warm, waterproof coat. Tuesday 21st October: As per the email sent, please also remember children need to bring in an item or photo that reminds them of someone/something special. Wednesday 22nd October: topic homework day - please send topic homework in on this day for children to share in the afternoon.

**Year 3** pupils have really been enjoying the Stone Age topic and this week sculpted clay to make bowls and they have painted them beautifully. We would love to show all parents our new skills and the work we are proud of next Tuesday at 2:30pm-3pm. Please enter via the school office.



**EAL Award  
Gold**  
Hampshire EMAS 2025



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It's been a fantastic week of learning and creativity in **Year 4**! The children have proudly completed their final art pieces, showcasing an impressive blend of watercolour and sketching techniques. In science, we've launched an exciting investigation by placing eggs in various liquids to observe the effects on their shells, cleverly linking this to our study of teeth and enamel. We're also thrilled to announce our newly elected school councillors—congratulations to Scarlett and Aubrey! A huge well done to all the candidates who put themselves forward; your courage and enthusiasm were truly inspiring. Finally, this is a gentle reminder that the next installment for our Ufton Court residential trip of £50 is coming up on 20th October. Please make payments through Arbor. Thank you.

This week, **Year 5** have been working hard on our maths by trying to get on the national leaderboard for Mathletics. Both classes have managed to get on the leaderboard in the competition that ends on Sunday evening. The question is how high will they get? We have also completed our letters of persuasion linked with the story Around the World In 80 Days which we have almost finished.

**Year 6** have had a fantastic week! We've been incredibly proud of their efforts, particularly in writing. The children have produced some brilliant informal diary entries from the perspective of the main character in our class book - *Holes*. We've also been thoroughly impressed by their focus and determination in maths, especially with long multiplication and long division. It's been great to see their confidence growing in these areas. If your child brings a phone into school, please have another chat with them to ensure they are turning it off before entering through the school gates in the morning. Phones must remain off while waiting in the playground to be collected by the class teacher and can only be turned back on once your child has been dismissed and is leaving school grounds.

Lastly, please return any outstanding reply slips for our upcoming Autumn Walk trip, which will take place on the Tuesday of the first week back after half-term. If you've indicated that you're happy to support on the trip, your child's teacher will be in touch soon with details of where to meet us before we set off.

| Dates for your diary                      |                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 21st October                      | Year 3 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm                                                                 |
| Wednesday 22nd October                    | Closing date for PTA Pumpkin Decoration Contest – pumpkins to be brought in on this date only. |
| Monday 27th October – Monday 3rd November | Half term (school closed)                                                                      |





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|                                              |                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 31st October                          | Deadline for applications for Y7 (secondary school) places (year 6 only) |
| 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)                                      |
| Wednesday 19th November                      | Parent's evening, 3.40pm-6pm                                             |
| <b>NEW!</b> Friday 5th December              | Year 6 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm                                           |
| Thursday 11th December                       | Year 4 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm                                           |
| Thursday 11th December                       | PTA Christmas Fair                                                       |
| <b>NEW!</b> Thursday 11th December           | Year 2 trip to Sea City Museum                                           |
| <b>NEW!</b> Friday 12th December             | Year 5 Parent Showcase, 2.30pm                                           |
| Tuesday 16th December                        | Year 2 Parent Showcase, 2.40pm                                           |
| 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                                                 |
| Thursday 15th January                        | Applications close for Year R admissions for September 2026              |
| Wednesday 4th February – Friday 6th February | Year 4 residential to Ufton Court                                        |



**EAL Award  
Gold**  
Hampshire EMATAS 2025



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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 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)

