

FERNDALE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



December 2, 2020

VALUE: LOVE



'Tis the season to be jolly' and we're starting the countdown to Christmas with a virtual online performance already in production. All the classes have filmed their parts for the '12 Days of Christmas' and we are now putting together the video, which will be shared later this month on YouTube. It's been a lot of fun making it and it has been great to do something together. We will keep you posted about when our epic performance will be released. You will have received a booklet with details of all things Christmassy that will be happening at Ferndale, so even though, it's not the same as usual, we're putting on lots of events and experiences to get us feeling festive. A very merry Christmas and happy holidays from all the staff at Ferndale.

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS



This week saw the launch of the new Key stage 2 Times Table Rockstars league. Over the next few weeks, classes will compete in an exciting series of mini battles. Points are awarded for each game won and the overall winner of the league will receive a special prize! Fancy certificates will also be given out weekly to the top 3 most improved players and top 3 fastest rock stars. Rockstar game points can be earned any time between 8am and 6pm daily by logging into the Times table Rockstars website. Keep your eyes peeled for more TT Rockstars news to follow!

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to all the parents, staff and children who helped to support the Children in Need fundraising activities on Friday 13th November. It certainly was lucky for us as we made £377 online through ParentPay, which all goes to this fantastic cause.





SPELLING BEE

In December, we will be holding the first of our spelling bee competitions this year. Your child should have received their spellings bee words at the beginning of the autumn term. These words are either the common exception words or are words containing the appropriate spelling patterns for that year group. In December, the children will be tested on these words in class and then the top 5 spellers from each class will compete across the year group to spell additional age appropriate words, to identify a spelling bee winner. Thank you for all your support to help your child learn the spelling words sent home.



WELCOME

Welcome to Jo Bellman, the new addition to our office staff. Mrs Bellman started last week and has hit the ground running, sorting out class lists for flu-jabs, work packs for year group bubbles and all the many other jobs that our amazing office staff deal with every day of the week. Mrs Bellman has replaced Gemma Elliott, who we wish all the best to in her new role working for the Blue Kite Academy, so not far away.

READING

This year, as a school we are working extremely hard to find ways to help the children develop their reading and comprehension skills as well as a love of reading. We are currently in the process of purchasing an exciting e-book library which the children will be able to access at home. We have been very lucky to have received donations of new books which have been added to individual class libraries and 'Book Swap' boxes. We are continuing to send your child/children home with a 'Book Swap' reading book as well as a 'coloured' or free reading book for them to enjoy and read at home with you.

In addition, we have revamped the 300 reads system and moved towards rewards that provide a reading based experience, such as storytime in the forest, rather than always a physical prize. Each child now has a progress chart (different for each key stage) in the front or back of their reading record so that they can see their progress towards achieving 300 reads across the year. Please continue to listen to your child read, preferably five or more times a week, as each day they read with an adult at home contributes to their 30 reads count (See below for the types of questions that you need to ask when reading with your child.) Thank you for your continued support.



How do you
feel about ?

Do you agree
with..?

What do you
think will hap-
pen next?

In your opin-

Can your
child find
evidence
directly and
indirectly
from the
story?

What did..... do?
How many..... were/are
there?
Where did it happen?
Who was there?
Who are.....?
How does he describe it?
How do you make/do.....?
What happened when.....
did.....?
What happened to.....?
How is the character feeling?
How do you know?

Can your child
answer
questions
without
referring to
the story?

How is the character feeling?
How do you know?
Have you ever....?
If you could....?
If you were going to....?
describe it?
How do you make/do.....?
What happened when.....
did.....?
What happened to.....?



KIND DONATION

Thank you to Rachel from WHSmiths for very kindly donating some brilliant books to Ferndale. There were enough for one per class and the children were very excited to receive them.



KEVIN HAS COME TO FERNDALE!

Barbara from All Saints Church sent over a gift of Kevin the Carrot for us to look after at Ferndale. During December, Kevin is our very own elf and he will be popping up, somewhere different, every day. We've asked the children to keep their eyes peeled to see if they can spot him. Thank you Barbara for this lovely gift.

DIGITAL SAFETY

We have been talking to our children about how to keep SMART online. This poster shows the messages that we are sharing with the children.



Be smart on the internet

Childnet International
www.childnet.com

S SAFE Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password. **ZIP IT**

M MEETING Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time. **MEET**

A ACCEPTING Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems - they may contain viruses or nasty messages! **BLOCK IT**

R RELIABLE Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows. **QUESTION**

T TELL Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online. You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk **THINK U KNOW**

www.kidsmart.org.uk

KidSMART Visit Childnet's Kidsmart website to play interactive games and test your online safety knowledge. You can also share your favourite websites and online safety tips by Joining Hands with people all around the world. **PLAY IT**

Term 2 & 3 dates



**TD DAYS
2020-
2021**

**Monday 4th
January**

**Monday 7th
June**

DECEMBER		
Monday	7 th	Christmas dinner FS and Year 1 Santa letters, cards & tree toppers into school please
Tuesday	8 th	Christmas dinner Year 2 and Year 3
Wednesday	9 th	Christmas dinner Year 4
Thursday	10 th	Christmas dinner Year 5 & 6
Friday	11 th	Movie night ticket deadline
Tuesday	15 th	Space day (different yr groups learning about space)
Wednesday	16 th	Christmas movie night
Thursday	17 th	Christmas party day – non school uniform Santa letters going home
Friday	18 th	Christmas jumper day – non school uniform LAST DAY OF TERM

END OF TERM 2 HOLIDAYS – Monday 21ST December – Tuesday 5th January 2021

Holiday club – Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd December

JANUARY		
Monday	4 th	TD day (no children in)
Tuesday	5 th	FS-Y6 Children back into school today Nursery Children TD Day



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Ferndale Primary and Nursery School is part of The Blue Kite
Academy Trust

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