

FERNDALE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

September 9, | 2020 VALUE: RESPONSIBILITY



*"Education is not
preparation for life;
education is life itself."*

John Dewey

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU

We are so pleased to welcome back all our school community to the new year at Ferndale and hope that you have had a good break and feel ready to embrace the challenges that the new year holds. We want to start the year by saying a huge thank you to all our staff, our parents and our children for the resilience, the support and for embracing the teaching and learning that was delivered since we went into lockdown, back in March. We are so proud of our community and how well everyone managed to adapt to learning online at home or in bubbles at school. It was great to see the work that children did and the creative approach that was taken to learning as illustrated through lockdown newsletters. We also are so proud of our staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that learning was available, either through letters and videos and who continued to come into school throughout the lockdown period. Over the lockdown period there were over 250 Youtube videos produced by Ferndale Staff to support learning so we're now just waiting for the Oscar nomination.

WAVE GOODBYE AND SAY HELLO

All our children had the opportunity to come back into school during the last two weeks of the summer term, to say goodbye to last year's teacher and hello to their new teacher. It was great to see so many children come in and the visits were full of smiles and laughter as many had the chance to catch up with friends and teachers who they had not seen in a while. We said goodbye to our fabulous year 6 children, many of whom were in since the beginning of June and wish them all the best in their new schools.

We also welcomed our new Foundation children in for induction days in July. They will be starting Ferndale over the next couple of weeks and will be in full time from Monday 14th September.

It is always sad when we say goodbye to members of staff and this year was no exception. We said goodbye to Mrs Chamberlain who has decided the time is right to work alongside her husband, running a tutoring company. In addition, we said congratulations and goodbye to Miss Millar and Mrs Marsden who have completed their Aspire course this year and have qualified as teachers. They have both secured teaching positions in Swindon schools and we wish them all the best for the future. Mrs Richmond has also decided that it is time for a change and we wish her the best of luck going forward.

We welcome back Miss Moxham as class teacher for Eiffel, having successfully completed her Aspire course. Mrs Cole has changed her role and will be teaching alongside Mrs Curtis and we welcome Miss Lester who will be teaching with Mrs Rouse as they embark on the Aspire teaching course. Miss Critchley has joined us as the teacher in Kalahari on Thursdays and Fridays. Miss Francis has joined us as the teaching assistant for Amazon, working with Mrs Storey. Miss Evans will be teaching full time in Colosseum and Miss Challoner will be taking over the role of SENDCo. Finally, we welcome back Mrs David from her maternity leave.



THE NEW NORMAL

With all our children returning or starting Ferndale there are a few changes that have been put in place. Fundamentally, each year group is a bubble who will work, eat and play together. There are changes to lunch and play times with each year group having a zone to play in. These zones will change each couple of weeks, so over time the children will have the opportunity to play in all the zones. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom (apart from for our Foundation children and year 1, who will sit in the hall) and hot dinners will be transported from the kitchen to the children in class. Online assemblies will take place on Monday and Friday and will focus on our values and on celebrating success. The children will be sitting in rows in class all facing the front and will be having their own pack of school equipment which can be kept in their drawer. Over the holidays, staff have worked hard to ensure their class is still the welcoming, stimulating and positive environment where your child will enjoy learning and will continue to thrive. You will have received an email with further details of how we have introduced measures to keep children and adults safe within the school and hopefully any questions, concerns or fears will have been addressed. This letter is also available on the school website under the 'School Return' tab. If you do have anything that you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact us; we do understand that there are many different thoughts and feelings about the return to school and will do all we can to support and make the path as smooth as possible.

ATTENDANCE

At Ferndale we value every minute of the school day and we actively encourage regular attendance. School attendance is the most powerful way you can prepare your child for success, both in school and in life.

Our Friends of Ferndale provide £30 prize to the class with the best attendance each term, to spend on a treat of their choice.

GOODBYE WARM AND FUZZY

After four years of pompoms and warm and fuzzy rewards, it's time to put them to into hibernation and say hello to our brand new behaviour reward system.

HELLO CLASS DOJO

We are really excited to introduce Class Dojo to Ferndale. Each class will have an online Dojo character which will collect points for good behaviour in and out of the classroom. Like the warm and fuzzy rewards, children will be given a Dojo point each time they show behaviour that reflects our values e.g. responsibility, kindness, respect etc. All staff can give out Dojos and the children will be able to see their class total grow online each day. At the beginning of each week, during the Monday assembly, the winning class of the week will be awarded our behaviour trophy. The class that wins the termly award will have a treat of their choice to celebrate their fabulous behaviour. We'll keep you up to date on Dojo progress through our newsletters.





5 STAR PERFORMANCE

During the lockdown, Mandy Blewett, our catering manager completed assessments about our catering facilities and provision within the school day and for breakfast and afterschool clubs. We are pleased to announce that we have kept our 5 star rating from the Food Standards Agency, which is the highest rating that can be achieved. Well done to Mandy and the catering team for all their hard work maintaining excellent standard



PARKING

As we start the new year, we are asking parents to be considerate when driving to the school and parking to pick up and drop off their children. We have seen for ourselves, the parking congestion at dropping off and picking up time and do appreciate that it can be frustrating finding a space. Can we please remind parents that you cannot park in the Ferndale staff or Poppies car park as this is dangerous for our children who are walking into school? There are some spaces available in the Fernbrook car park and you can use All Saints Church or The Southbrook Inn car park before or after school.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Just a reminder that we do have children at Ferndale who have a severe food allergy to peanuts/nuts and kiwi fruit. It is important that there is a strict avoidance to this food in order to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction. To reduce the chance of this occurring, we are asking that you do not send any kiwi, peanut or nut containing products to school with your child, including Nutella. We appreciate your continued support.

NEW ARRIVALS

On Tuesday, before all the children returned to school we had a delivery, brought into school by Barbara from All Saints Church. Barbara and her team of helpers from the church have knitted a bear for each class, for the office and for the staffroom as a gift to welcome everyone back to Ferndale. This is such a kind gesture and reinforces the strong relationship that we have with All Saints Church. Every year we go to visit the church and we have worked together on many projects. Sadly, in the current climate, we are unable to go over but we have Zoom assemblies planned for the term. Thank you so much to Barbara and all at All Saints for our amazing new knitted friends.

PUPIL VOICE

This is the time of year when we would be holding elections for new school and eco council representatives and the year 6 would be writing their letters of application to become a prefect. Due to the current restrictions and need for children to stay in their bubbles, we have decided to postpone the introduction of these groups until there is a change in guidance. We will, of course, continue to actively involve children in decision making and seek their views and ideas about school initiatives, and we will do this through class discussions which are fed back through the teacher.





NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

We hope you like the new look newsletter which will bring you up to date on all things Ferndale. In addition, we are in the final stages of development of a brand new, improved website. We are very excited about the new format and can't wait to share it with you as soon as it is ready to go. Once again, it's great to be back and we're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead.

Term 1 dates

	SEPTEMBER		
	Wednesday	3 rd	Children return to school
	Wednesday	3 rd – 5 th	Virtual home visits (Zoom meetings) for all new children starting in Avebury and Uffington.
	Friday		
	Friday	5 th	No clubs today
	Monday	7 th	Uffington and Avebury start (10 from each class until 12:45)
	Tuesday	8 th	Uffington and Avebury start (10 from each class until 12:45)
TD DAYS 2020-2021	Wednesday	9 th	Uffington and Avebury start (10 from each class until 12:45)
	Thursday	10 th	All Foundation Stage 2 children staying until 12:45 pm
	Friday	11 th	All Foundation Stage 2 children staying until 12:45 pm
	Monday	14 th	Foundation Stage 2 children start full time
Tuesday 1 st September	Wednesday	23 rd	International Fitness day – all children will do a fitness activity
Monday 19 th October	OCTOBER		
Tuesday 20 th October	Wednesday	7 th	National Walk to School Day
Wednesday 21 st October	Tuesday	13 th	Parent Consultation Evening – To be arranged
	Wednesday	14 th	Parent Consultation Evening – To be arranged
Monday 4 th January	Thursday	15 th	Parent Consultation Evening – To be arranged
Monday 7 th June	Friday	16 th	Last day of Term 1
	Half term break – Monday 19th October – Monday 2nd November Holiday Club TBC)		



Headteacher – Miss Liz
Horrobin
Telephone: 01793 332425
Email:
admin@ferndale.swindon.sch.uk
h.uk

Website www.ferndaleprimaryschool.co.uk
Twitter: @primaryferndale

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


The Blue Kite
Academy Trust