



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Head of school: Mrs Beccy Nolan
Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

November 2023 Newsletter

A message from the leadership team

Our second term began with our teacher training day where all staff receiving excellent training on understanding and supporting the mental well-being of pupils. We are passionate about improving learning, mental health and quality of life for our pupils and are working towards becoming a 'trauma informed' school.

We are very excited for all our planned community events this term including Diwali and Christmas so make sure you get the dates below in your diary!

Upcoming Dates

- 13th November** – Odd Sock Day (Start of Anti-Bullying Week)
- 13th November** – Diwali celebration (3.30-5 KS2 hall – All welcome)
- 13th November** – Phonics Parent Meeting, 2.30pm, KS1 hall
- 14th November** – School photo day – Individual and siblings
- 15th November** – Year 3 Community lunch
- 16th November** – Year 3 Oxenwood Trip (changed date)
- 17th November** – Children in Need (Suggested £1 donation in support)
- 28th November** – Book fair
- 30th November** – FOF School disco
- 5th December** – FS Nativity: A Wriggly Nativity
(2 performances 9.30am and 2.30pm – ticket 2 per family)
- 6th December** – Christmas Dinner Day
- 7th December** – Carols by Candlelight event (Tickets available soon!)
- 12th December** – Year 1 and 2 Nativity: Hey Ewe!
(2 performances 9.30am and 2.30pm –ticket 2 per family)
- 13th December** – Houses Day: Ferndale's Got Talent!
- 18th December** – Christmas holiday begins
- 3rd January** – Blue kite Teacher training day (School not open)
- 4th January** – Spring term begins and children return to school



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Foundation Stage Learning

We have been celebrating and learning about Diwali. Miss Modasia visited us and talked about how she celebrates Diwali. She told us the story of Rama and Sita and explained what happens on each day during this festival. We talked about the similarities and differences between Diwali and Christmas.

Year 2 Learning

We have been on a trip to the forest, where we collected lots of 'rubbish' to help us build a 100-decker rocket! We managed to build super rockets that were even taller than some of the children! We have also been learning about the gunpowder plot, coasts and Judaism, as well as continuing with our amazing writing and maths!

Year 4 Learning

Year 4 have been enjoying their cricket! We've been lucky enough to have our amazing coach teaching us the skills we need to play the sport and it's getting us all active too. Recently, we started learning about Roman chariots, invaders and their history. We can't wait for our 'Portals To The Past' visitors to learn even more about these intuitive, intelligent and sometimes brutal people!

Year 6 Learning

In Year 6, our Call of the Wild topic continues, and we have been finding out all about cheetahs. We have been discovering their special adaptations and are working towards creating our own double-page spread all about these fascinating felines. Next week, we can't wait to use plaster gauze to create 3D cheetah masks which we will paint and make look as realistic as possible. In the coming weeks, we will be diving further into the world of science when we study the topic of evolution and inheritance. We can't wait to carry out our 'best beak' investigation and read the fantastic book 'Moth' to help us understand this tricky area.

Nursery Learning

We started the new term with a fantastic bonfire in the forest to celebrate Bonfire night, making smores with Mrs Mann and exploring the woodland and trees. We have a very busy few weeks ahead of us, starting with us celebrating Diwali next week.

Year 1 Learning

Wow! What an exciting start to the term we have had. This week we went on an adventure to explore a mysterious space crash. Beegu the alien has come to visit this term and we can't wait to write her story and help her return home!

Year 3 Learning

Surprisingly, Year 3 had a visit from a cheeky, and very messy woolly mammoth. The classrooms were covered in mud and leaves and the mammoth was dirty too. As a result of this, we are learning to write instructions for how to wash a woolly mammoth!

Year 5 Learning

In Year 5, we have been continuing with our Intergalactic Invaders topic by exploring our new class reader, 'The Space We're In' and using 'How to be an Astronaut' as a stem for our descriptive diary writing, as we imagine ourselves on the International Space Station (ISS). We have also enjoyed taking home the 'Let's Do Science' telescopes to explore the night sky and stargaze.



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Anti-bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2023 will take place from Monday 13th - Friday 17th November and the theme is 'Make A Noise About Bullying'. If children wish to wear 'odd socks' to school on **Monday 13th November**, they may do so to celebrate what makes us all unique. If you would like to find out more about anti-bullying week, odd socks day and activities you can do at home, please use the link <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>.

Children in Need

On **Friday 17th November**, we will be raising money for Children in Need whilst learning about this charity through some fun activities in assembly!

On this day, for a suggested donation of at least £1.00, (which can also be paid on ParentPay soon) children can come to school wearing non-school uniform, can look 'spot-tacular' or could even dress up like Pudsey!



Fireworks night

What a fabulous fireworks display! Thank you to all the families, friends and local residents who joined us. As always, it was a brilliant display and a great community event! The Friends of Ferndale raised a massive £1070.!! Many thanks to all that helped.





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Harvest

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Harvest collection. The front of the church was full with a variety of food product and toiletries. All your donations have been forwarded on to the food bank to be distributed where needed.



Coats

As the weather is now changing and the days are getting colder, could we please remind all parents/carers to make sure that your child or children bring a named coat into school for them to wear at break and lunchtime. We do always try to make sure that the children play outside as much as possible so having a warm coat is essential on cold days.



House points

Well done to **STEAM** who have attained the most house points in term 1, a massive 937 points. They had a non-uniform day on **Friday 10th November** to celebrate their achievement.

We will be running our next houses event on **13th December** and ask for pupils to come wearing their houses t-shirt on this date. Prior to the event, any pupils wishing to compete will practise their talents prior to the day ready to perform to their year group. If selected by their year group for their house, on the day they will perform in our 'Ferndale's Got Talent! House competition'.

We now have some great designs for our house shields following on from our last house day. Mrs Drury will be working with different children to create these shields over the coming weeks.



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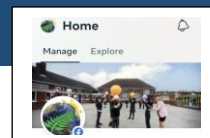
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Fond Farewell

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Chase who will be leaving us this term. She has worked at Ferndale for over 20 years and has supported a large number of pupils and their families over this period. We wish her all the best for the future.

Ferndale Facebook



We now have our own Facebook page called 'Ferndale Primary School and Nursery' which we will be using to share with you things that our pupils do in school and other relevant information.

However, please may we ask that you communicate with us in the usual way either via an email or class teacher (rather than posting messages on Facebook). Thank you.

Tuck Shop

This term we have started running our tuck shop. Currently, year 3 and 4 can purchase tuck on a Thursday and year 5 and 6 can purchase tuck on a Tuesday. Each item costs 50p and pupils will exchange this money for a token with their class teacher at the beginning of the school day.

Phonics workshop

We will be running a phonics workshop for parents new to phonics on Monday 13th November at 2.30pm in the KS1 hall.

We will explain phonics and demonstrate how to pronounce phonemes correctly as well as provide information regarding the phonics screener check. If this would be useful to you, please come and join us.

Book fair

We are very excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to Ferndale at the end of November! There will be three exciting bookcases bursting full of wonderful books for you to buy. Amazing things happen when a child can choose their own book to read, and with fantastic **discounts and prices from just £2.99 on over 200 of the newest and best books**, there is something for everyone. Not only are the books great value, but every book sold helps to earn **FREE BOOKS** for our school. Last year, we were able to raise over £400 in free books for our children to enjoy. Payments will be by phone (preferred) or cash.

WHEN: Wednesday 29th November 3:30-4:15pm, Thursday 30th November 3:30-4:15pm and Monday 4th December 3:30-4:15pm (by the small hall)



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SCHOLASTIC **TRAVELLING BOOKS**

COME TO the BOOK FAIR!

FREE BOOKS FOR YOUR SCHOOL WHEN YOU BUY AT THE BOOK FAIR!

A POP-UP BOOK-STORE WITH HUNDREDS OF BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99

NEW **TOM GATES** **FIVE STAR STORIES** **Hardback only £7.99** **£12.99 £7.99**

NEW **SUPERTATO** **£7.99**

NEW **ROSIE FROST** **£7.99**

NEW **CAT KID COMIC CLUB** **£8.99** **Cat Kid 5 coming 28th November**

NEW EDITION **PERCIE JACKSON** **GREAT DEAL only £2.99** **£7.99 £2.99**

NEW **The Baddies** **£7.99**

NEW **Bluey BARKY BOATS** **£6.99**

LOOK!

LAST YEAR YOUR SUPPORT HELPED DONATE £5.3M IN FREE BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE



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Are you a parent carer?

Come to our event on Friday November 24th

10am to 1.30pm
Swindon Town Football Club,
County Road, Swindon SN1 2ED
Parking free for those attending.

Information, advice and updates
for parent carers providing care to
a child, aged under 18, with
Special Educational Needs and/or
Disabilities (SEND).

To include presentations,
our Q&A panel and a marketplace with stallholders.



Scan here for
information or email
[communications@
swindoncarers.org.uk](mailto:communications@swindoncarers.org.uk)



Registered Charity No: 1061116 | Registered Company No: 3305621

Are you a parent carer looking after a child under 18 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND?)

Swindon Carers Centre is inviting parent carers to attend an event to mark Carers Rights Day on Friday November 24th at Swindon Town Football Club, County Road, Swindon, SN1 2ED from 10am to 1.30pm.

Parents supporting a child with SEND don't always recognise themselves as carers – they are first and foremost parents. This year, for Carers Rights Day, Swindon Carers Centre is sharing the message that identifying and registering as a carer can open up opportunities for further support.

All parent carers are welcome to attend the event for advice, information and updates on support available for parent carers in Swindon.

Parking is free for those attending the event. Parents are welcome to attend with the child they care for and there will be a small quiet area at the event. There will be no creche provision and parents are responsible for any children attending. For more information you can email communications@swindoncarers.org.uk or call (01793) 531133.



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Friend of Ferndale

Firstly, thank you to Friends of Ferndale (FOF) for all their hard work at the firework display providing hot food and drinks, sweets and glow products. It was great to see lots of new volunteers supporting this event, we really do appreciate it. Thank you so much.

FOF events planned on the run up to Christmas are as follows:

30th November – FOF School disco

1st December – Christmas tree topper competition

7th December – Carols by Candlelight (More information to follow)

8th December – Santa event (More information to follow)

14th December – Christmas wrap



FOF Instead of having a Christmas fayre, this year there will be various events happening across the month of December for our pupils to enjoy. This will be started off with our Christmas tree topper competition. Your child can design and make a topper for our school Christmas tree in the main hall. Entries must be submitted by 1st December and the winner will get a prize as well as having their design placed on the tree during our first Friday assembly in December.

Our Christmas raffle prizes will be announced at the end of our 'Carols by Candlelight' event which will take place on the 7th December. During the event, our 'Christmas choir' will perform a number of Christmas songs as well as an opportunity for us to sing some Carols together. We will also run a children's bingo at the event. Details on how to purchase tickets for this event will follow.

Our main Christmas activities will take place on Friday 8th December when we have invited Santa to visit us. We have invited him to have breakfast with the nursery children and will be running a Santa experience from 1-2pm. If you would like your child to meet Santa, you can either purchase a ticket for the nursery breakfast (nursery only), Santa experience (limited tickets) or photo with Santa. Further information on how to purchase these will follow.

Our Christmas Wrap event will take place on 14th December and we are looking for donations of any unused items that you no longer want that the children can buy as a present. If we get enough donations, for a contribution of 50p, each child will be able to purchase and wrap **one** present for someone in their family. Please send any donations to the school office by this date.





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FITNESS FRIDAY!

Come and join us on the KS1
Playground every Friday at 8:20am

Everyone welcome for some
Fri-YAY Fun!!





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Ferndale Primary School Open Afternoon for 2024 Admissions



Drop-In Session on
Tuesday 14th November from
3:30 - 5pm in the FS Classrooms

The perfect opportunity to meet our teaching staff,
have a tour of our school and ask any questions to
help with your school decision process.

For any further information about the event please
contact the school office on 01793 332425



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**Ferndale Nursery open
afternoon for new starters**



Drop-In Session on Tuesday 14th November
for parents of children due to start Nursery in
January 2024

Please join us between **3:30-4:30pm**
in the Nursery Building

Meet the team, see the facilities and understand
more about how our nursery operates.