



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

## September 2023 Newsletter

### *A message from the leadership team*

It is with great excitement that we start our new school year and what a good start it has been! The children have settled quickly into their new classes and look refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

This week, we have started our link corridor project celebrating cultures both in our school and around the world. Each year group has completed designs and will be decorating a section of the link corridor window. We look forward to seeing the pupils' work and ideas on display.

### *Upcoming Dates*

The community at Ferndale are excited to be able to bring you a variety of events and enrichment for your children in the Autumn Term.

- 12<sup>th</sup> September** - Year 5 parents' meeting 2.45pm, KS1 hall
- 12<sup>th</sup> September** – Year 3 Colosseum Class start Swimming lessons
- 13<sup>th</sup> September** - Year 1 parents' meeting 2.45pm, KS1 hall
- 13<sup>th</sup> September** - Year 6 parents' meeting 3:30pm Uluru classroom
- 14<sup>th</sup> September** - Year 4 parents' meeting 2.45pm KS1 hall
- 19<sup>th</sup> September** - Year 5 fire safety workshops (in school)
- 19<sup>th</sup> September**- Year 2 parents' meeting 2.45pm, KS1 hall
- 20<sup>th</sup> September** – Year 6 Survival Day in the forest
- 20<sup>th</sup> September** - FS parents' meeting 2.45pm KS1 hall
- 21<sup>st</sup> September**- Year 5 visit 'Life exhibition' (Gorse Hill - Mission Hall)
- 21<sup>st</sup> September**- Year 3 parents' meeting 2.45pm KS1 hall
- 3<sup>rd</sup> October** – Rags 2 Riches Collection
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October** – Half Term
- 30<sup>th</sup> October** – TD Day No school for school and nursery children
- 1<sup>st</sup> November** – Flu Immunisations
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Fireworks Event



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## *Nursery Learning*

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year at nursery. Exploring all our new resources has definitely been number one on everyone's list! The children have also enjoyed outside play, especially with the big sandpit and water tray! We are looking forward to all the activities planned for this term especially the forest visits and bug hunts!

## *Foundation Stage Learning*

The FS children have had a great start to the year! They have made lots of new friends and have particularly enjoyed exploring and playing outside. The children are learning the class rules and routines and are looking forward to the exciting activities planned for this term.

## *Year 2 Learning*

WOW! What an incredible start to year 2 the children have had so far. We have been learning all about the continent of Australia this week and creating some aboriginal art which you will be able to see for yourself in the coming weeks. Just take a walk along the link corridor. We have also discovered a magical time machine in our forest... only time will tell what adventures we will be going on!

## *Year 4 Learning*

In year 4 we have been looking forward in our lives and preparing for the future. We shared ideas about things we would like to do in the future and what we aspire to be. As we move forward into year 4 we are very excited to start learning about Romans and about the Earth and the creatures within it. Everyone in year 4 has also been contributing ideas to our link corridor window which is all about Antarctica!

## *Year 6 Learning*

Year 6 have kicked off the new term with 'A Race to the Sea: A Turtle's Tale': narrating the story of a plucky hatchling's perilous journey to the sanctuary of the sea and using watercolours to illustrate. We have also been creating Aboriginal art as part of understanding where Uluru and Barrier Reef classes fit geographically.

## *Year 1 Learning*

Year 1 have had an absolutely amazing start to the year and we are super proud of them. We have begun the term finding out about Europe to help us design a Year 1 window feature for the glass corridor. We are getting really excited about beginning our Great Fire of London work and will be having some exciting visitors next week to launch our topic.

## *Year 3 Learning*

Year 3 have been researching where our class names, Eiffel and Colosseum are from. For a whole school art display our year group has been learning about Asia. We have found that Asia is an enormous continent with a wide range of countries. Languages, culture, animals, food are just a few of the areas we have explored. This term we are excited to immerse ourselves in our topic 'Yaba Daba Doo', which is all about the Stone Age to Iron Age.

## *Year 5 Learning*

We have had a great start in year 5! This week has been very special for us as we have been celebrating all the cultures within our school. We have been learning all about south & central America. The children have been producing some wonderful self-portraits inspired by the famous, Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. We can't wait to launch into our 'Intergalactic invaders' topic next week!

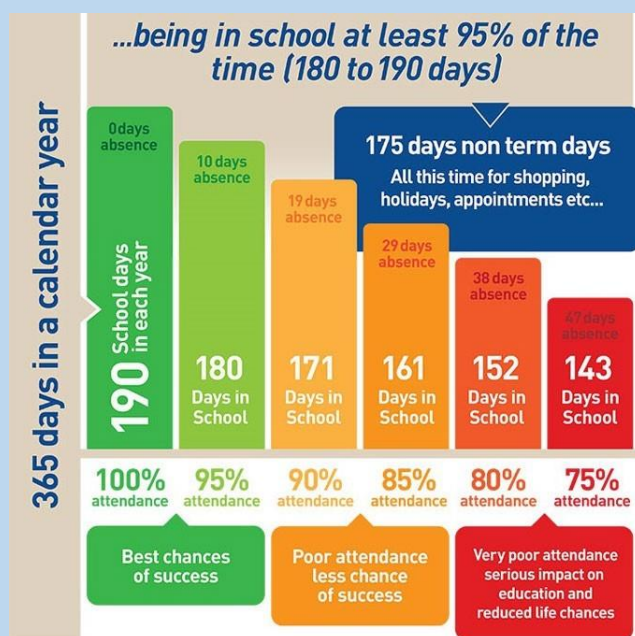


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## ***Absence Matters and You Can Help***

Please make sure as families you encourage your children to be in school and on time even if your child seems reluctant at times. There is a direct link between good attendance and good grades.



## ***Absences***

Avoid missing school unless your child is really poorly. You must keep your child off school if they have been sick or had diarrhoea for 48 hours from the last bout.  
Check with school office if you are unsure if you should keep your child off.

Call in any absence by 8:30 am

**01793 332425**





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## ***Staffing Updates***

As we start our new term, we are very excited to have 4 new members of staff. We would like to welcome to Mr Liam Hicks who will be our new sports coach, Miss Flynn who is one of our year 5 teachers, Miss Bird who is one of our year 2 teachers and Mr Habbits who is a trainee teacher based in Colosseum class with Mrs Storey.

Over the summer holidays, we are pleased to announce that Miss Dawson has got married and will now be known as Mrs O'Brien. We would like to congratulate her and wish her and her husband all the best for their future lives together.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs Moxham on the safe arrival of her gorgeous daughter. Enjoy every minute of your maternity leave.

## ***Healthy School***

In KS1, every day pupils are provided with a piece of fruit for their morning snack. In KS2, pupils are asked to bring in their own healthy snack.

Please can you make sure that the morning snack is a **healthy** snack. This could be a piece of fruit, a healthy cereal bar or similar.

We are a **nut-free** school so please consider this when choosing snacks and preparing lunch boxes. Pupils should not be bringing in chocolate bars or packets of sweets. Thank you for your support.



## ***Mobile Phones/Smart Air tags***

Pupils should not have their mobile phones, smart watches or using air tags in school. If your child needs to bring in a mobile phone due to safety reasons, it should be handed in to the class teacher who will lock it away securely and hand it back out at the end of the school day.





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## ***PE T-shirts – House Colours***

This year, we are asking all children to wear their house colour t-shirts for their PE Lessons. Our uniform provider should have a stock of coloured t-shirts. You can order these in the same way as you order the rest of the uniform, and they will cost £3.25 each and come in the colours of red, yellow, green and blue so please ensure you order the correct one for your child's house.

You can order direct from the supplier here – [www.ferndale.re-schooluniform.co.uk](http://www.ferndale.re-schooluniform.co.uk)

## ***Blue Kite Project***

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Gruffalo author Julia Donaldson turns 75 and we will be celebrating her birthday alongside all Blue Kite schools. Together, we will be writing the next best seller... 'What the Gruffalo Did Next'! The oldest classes in each of the Blue Kite schools will be contributing their very own part of the story and here at Ferndale we can't wait to write our part of the story. The story will be posted across the Blue Kite's Twitter page towards the end of September, tweet by tweet, make sure you're following @bluekitetrust so you don't miss our fantastic contribution.



## ***Pupil Achievements***

We love hearing about your success stories and what your child has worked hard at outside of school. Please email any updates to [admin@ferndale.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ferndale.swindon.sch.uk)  
Year 3 students, Peyton and Alessio, had an exciting start to their football season...

The boys play for different teams however playing against your friend must have made them play with extra enthusiasm resulting in them both scoring a hat-trick and being awarded Man of the match! Amazing news, well done!!

