



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

December 2023 Newsletter

A message from the leadership team

The Christmas term is one of the most enjoyable in school and it is great to see so many Christmas activities taking place. The KS1 children have been practising their nativity 'Hey Ewe!' and will soon be performing it to parents. The FS nativity, 'A wriggly nativity' was excellent and it was brilliant to see children confidently singing, dancing and remembering their lines.

Friends of Ferndale have been busying organising lots of Christmas events for us to enjoy including our Santa experience, breakfast with Santa and Santa photos. We are very excited as Christmas draws nearer and we can't wait for Santa to come and visit us!

Upcoming Dates

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

19th January – RE day: Light

15th January – Exploradome: Nursery, FS and Year 1

22nd January – Exploradome: Year 2 and 3

29th January – Exploradome: Year 4, 5 and 6

30th January – Parents' evening

31st January – Parents' evening



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Foundation Stage Learning

This term FS2 have been learning all about How People Live around the World. We have explored different place like India, Africa and Palestine and different celebrations such as Diwali, Fireworks and Christmas. Thank you to Noor's mum for coming into school and teaching the children all about Palestine.

Year 2 Learning

Year 2 have had a very busy month! We have been practicing for the KS1 Nativity and are really excited to be putting on a performance that our parents will be proud of. We have also been zooming off into space, receiving letters from the dog aliens and writing fact files all about them. They are an interesting read!

Year 4 Learning

This term we had an amazing visit from Portals to the Past, where we learnt all about the Romans and their incredible history. It was exciting to dress up and immerse ourselves in Roman life. Now we are nearing our holiday break, we have been enjoying making our own decorations and using sewing techniques.

Year 6 Learning

In Year 6, we have been to 'Christmas unwrapped' at Gorse Hill Baptist church which was great fun! We have been learning about evolution in science and writing non-chronological reports about cheetahs in English. The children had some great ideas for 'teacher pleasers' and wrote detailed descriptions about these.

Nursery Learning

Little Ferns are very excited for Christmas! We have decorated our Christmas trees, made decorations and made a Santa's grotto! Diwali celebrations were fantastic. Some of our Mummy's came in and we celebrated through dance and delicious food.

Year 1 Learning

We have been exploring the United Kingdom and the seasonal changes that we have. It has been a fantastic time of the year to see the Autumn colours being replaced by the frosty Winter weather. This week we have begun learning about Stickman and the adventures he has through the year.

Year 3 Learning

In year 3, we have been super writers! We read a book in English called Rhythm of the Rain and then wrote descriptions about some of the settings in the story. Colosseum were very excited to have had their first recorder lesson recently, Eiffel have been enjoying their dance sessions and we have all enjoyed learning cricket skills this term.

Year 5 Learning

Year 5 are fully immersed in their journey to an intergalactic world and have learnt all about the solar system, how the earth orbits the sun and the phases of the moon. The children are now learning about forces and have enjoyed investigating air resistance through a fair test using paper spinners! We have really enjoyed exploring 'Planet unknown' where Space Rovers were sent out to find potential inhabitable planets.



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Exploradome

We are very excited to announce that we will be welcoming the Explorer Dome back to Ferndale in the New Year! Last year, all children had the opportunity to see a Space themed 'show' during Space Week. It was an enjoyable experience for all children who attended the sessions.

In January, each class, and Little Ferns in the Nursery, will be offered the opportunity to attend a show with a different theme this time. These will all take place at Ferndale during the school day. Please ask your child's teacher if you need more information or if you do not want them to take part in the session. Please see the schedule below to know what day and show your child/ren will be taking part in.

Monday 15th January:

Nursery (Little Ferns), Foundation, Year 1 - Light themed show

Monday 22nd January:

Year 2 and Year 3- Light themed show

Monday 29th January:

Year 4, 5 and 6- Sound themed show



Poppy Appeal

We would like to thank you for your support with the Poppy Appeal. Thanks to your generosity, together we raised £354.56. This money supports the armed forces community past and present.



Community Fridge

There is a community fridge available on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 11am to 2pm, at Gorse Hill Baptist Church.

The aim of the fridge is to reduce food waste and to prevent good food from being thrown into landfill. Food is donated by local supermarkets and is **free to everyone!**

Perishable food, such as fruit, vegetables and bread are always available. Occasionally there are also some store cupboard items. Everyone is welcome at Swindon's Community Fridge.



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Safeguarding

It can be hard knowing how to support your child with their use of technology. The links below can provide further advice and support.

Parenting in the Digital World – Resource pack.

https://thestaysafeinitiative.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2021/02/Parents_Online_Safety_Advice_Sheet.pdf

Parenting in the Digital World – Getting help Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXfjT_CTYul

Reminders about School Closure

Occasionally, it is necessary to close the school. This could be due to lack of heating, lack of water or severe weather which makes it impossible to make the site safe. In such a case, a text message will be sent out at the earliest possible time. We will also add information to our school website and Facebook so please keep checking this for further advice.

Please make sure children are sent to school in appropriate outdoor clothing during wintry weather. We do send the children out to play and a warm coat, gloves and a hat are advisable. Remember to make sure all items are labelled with your child's name so that they can be returned if lost.





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Attendance

Each school day has two sessions, which is why registers are taken twice a day. Ninety percent school attendance is equal to half a day of absence per week – over a year that adds up to four weeks of absence in an academic year. Over the course of a child's education, ninety percent attendance means they would be absent for one whole year of their education. Children who regularly miss school may fall behind in their work which can have an impact on their grades. They will also miss out on fun opportunities to learn new things and spend time with friends. Parents can also be assured that when children are in school, they are safe. Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring their children attend school.

Punctuality is also important as small amounts of time missed can add up and impacts pupils learning.

Term 1 whole-school attendance was 95.4%.

Remember: Good Punctuality Matters!

If a child misses 10 minutes per day, they will miss out on the following learning:

50 minutes per week

200 minutes per month (3 hours and 20 minutes)

650 minutes per term (10 hours 50 minutes)

1950 minutes per year (32 hours 30 minutes)

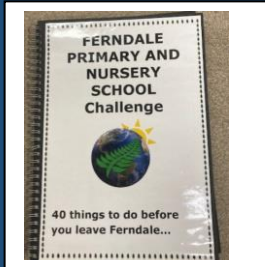


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40 things challenge

This term, we have introduced our 40 things to do before you leave Ferndale challenge. These challenges include flying a kite, making a den and growing your own food. Can you child complete all 40 challenges?



Ferndale Facebook

Have you had an opportunity to look at our Ferndale Facebook account yet? As well as providing useful information, it also allows you to see some of the events and things that are happening in the school (such as Chief Elf joining our school) .

You will also find lots of information on our school website including policies, meet the staff and information about our school curriculum.

Chief Elf!

On 1st December, Chief elf joined Ferndale school and although he can be a little mischievous, he is quickly becoming part of the Ferndale family. He even has his own school uniform!

We are helping chief Elf learn to make the right choices and model our school values.





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SEND SUPPORT

SIAS drop in sessions

The SEND information, advice and support service have drop-in sessions every other week. Pop in to the Central Library if you have any questions about SEND, want to meet the team or just prefer to talk face to face!

1st November
15th November
29th November
13th December

Central Library
SN1 1QG
12.30-4.30PM

SIAS

SEND Information
Advice & Support



Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641.
Lines are open Monday to Thursday
8am-5pm and 8am-4:30pm on Friday.



Alternatively, you can email
SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk.



For more information, please visit the
Meet the SEND Service page on the Local
Offer.



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Pupil Premium Grant Funding

Did you know.....

Your child may be eligible for some support within school. Within Ferndale, this can be support with trips and residential along with wraparound care. This also supports reading and enriched experiences that can be funded by the school.

Please check if you may be eligible and visit <https://www.swindon.gov.uk/schoolmeals> to apply. Please apply if you meet any of the criteria even if you are already receiving school meals in reception, year 1 and 2. If you need support with this, please come to the office and we can help. Thank you.

Reading

Thank you for your continued support with your child's reading. Some of our children are close to achieving the bronze award and lots of children have already reached the 30 reads reward.

Reading at home really makes a difference to your child's learning and progress so we urge all parents to make this a priority. Thank you.

Tuck shop!



Monday & Wednesday break time: year 5&6

Tuesday & Thursday break time: year 3&4

50p for a snack



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ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE



Whenever you are around water:

STOP AND THINK

Take time to assess
your surroundings.
Look for the
dangers and
always research
local signs and advice.



STAY TOGETHER

When around water always go
with friends or family.
Swim at a lifeguarded venue.



In an emergency:

CALL 999

Ask for the Fire and
Rescue Service when
inland and the
Coastguard if at
the coast.
Don't enter
the water to
rescue.



FLOAT

Fall in or become
tired - stay calm, float
on your back and call
for help.
Throw something that
floats to somebody that
has fallen in.



Enjoy Water **Safely**

Learn basic lifesaving and CPR skills.
Visit www.rlss.org.uk