



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

## *January 2024 Newsletter*

### ***A message from the leadership team***

Happy New Year! It is with great excitement that we begin our spring term and we look forward to the variety of events planned. Events that have happened or are due to happen include our 'World Religion Day', the Explorer Dome, the visitor 'Skippy John' and our 'Young Voices' trip.

The term kicked off with the year 6 trip to Harry Potter Studio and both the pupils and teachers had an enjoyable experience. Don't forget to look at our school Facebook page where you will find photos and information about different things that are happening in our school.

### **Upcoming Dates**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January** – Young Voices Trip

**22<sup>nd</sup> January** – Explorer Dome Year: Year 2 and 3

**29<sup>th</sup> January** – Explorer Dome Year: Year 4, 5 and 6

**30<sup>th</sup> January** – Parents' Evening

**31<sup>st</sup> January** – Parents' Evening

**6<sup>th</sup> February** – Safer Internet Day

**12<sup>th</sup> February** – Half term

**19<sup>th</sup> February** – School closed (Teacher Training Day)

**20<sup>th</sup> February** – Pupils return to school

**27<sup>th</sup> February** – Swindon SEND Family coffee morning (details to follow)



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## **Foundation Stage Learning**

In FS2, the children are learning about past historical event of Ice Age and dinosaurs which links to our topic question this term 'Is the Past Key to Our Future?' We will be learning about what happened in the past and how this has changed in our lives now. So far, the children have learned about how humans survived during the ice age, what animals existed and why they became extinct. They have also investigated snow and ice and light and dark.

## **Year 2 Learning**

In Year 2 we have begun our new topic 'The Secret Garden' and have started the term by discovering a magical fairy garden! The fairies wrote us a very small letter explaining all about why they are here, which we found in a bottle full of fairy dust! We will be using the fairies and their magic to help us create some fantastic writing over the term. They even left us some bulbs and seeds, which we have used to start an investigation to see what a plant needs to stay healthy.

## **Year 4 Learning**

In year 4 we have started learning about the digestive system. It is so interesting to find out about what happens to our food after it goes into our mouths. Kalahari have started their dance sessions to do with the Anglo Saxons which is really fun. Also, the times table competitions are ramping up. Well done to Kalahari who won against Madagascar recently and Coate, the current house champions. The NSPCC Rocks competition on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February will hopefully get everyone into the spirit!

## **Year 6 Learning**

At the start of term, Year 6 had their visit to the Warner Bros Studios to experience all things Harry Potter, as a launch to their new topic, 'Myths and Magic'. This will be followed by lots of exciting writing, amazing art and will be rounded off with a Harry Potter day at the end of term where they will dress up, make wands, create owls and be 'sorted' into Hogwarts houses!

## **Nursery Learning**

Little Ferns are having lots of fun this term. The Gingerbread Man has run away, and we need to find him! We are reading Traditional Stories which is so much fun and results in lots of fabulous learning. Little Ferns have also made a space station and are looking forward to blasting off!

## **Year 1 Learning**

Year 1 started the term with high energy and enthusiasm, taking a thrilling plane journey around the world. Exploring hot and cold places, we embraced the immersive experience with curiosity and excitement. The vibrant atmosphere in our classrooms sets the stage for a fantastic term ahead, where Year 1 continues to learn, explore, and radiate boundless energy!

## **Year 3 Learning**

We have been historians again and used artefacts and evidence to understand what life was like for the Ancient Egyptians. We have also been super scientists and are enjoying investigating and learning all about light. Eiffel class also had a great first swimming session while Colosseum are enjoying learning the recorder.

## **Year 5 Learning**

Year 5 are very excited to embark on their new topic 'Terrific Tudors' where we will explore the monarchy at the time and how this period in history shaped the reformation of the Church of England and our lives today. We are looking forward to honing our debating skills around this topic and creating Tudor portraits. We will also be investigating materials and their properties in science- through a range of practical activities. We will be topping off our focus this term with a trip to Hampton Court Palace, more details to follow!



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## **Attendance**

We are pleased to announce Barrier Reef class had the best attendance across the autumn term and won the £30 cash prize. Barrier Reef class will now decide as a class what they will spend the money on, this may be books, resources to support their learning in class or even a game for the wet play box. Each term there is a class prize to be won which has been kindly donated by Friends of Ferndale.

In addition to this, every week, the class with the best attendance is announced in assembly and they win the prestigious attendance cup to be displayed in their class. As a school, we like to celebrate the pupils' attendance as it has a big impact on pupil progress. We continue to ask for your support with attendance including getting pupils to school on time so that they do not miss any of their learning and ensuring that holidays are taken out of term time. Thank you.

## **Ferndale's Got Talent**

At the end of last term, we ran our houses talent day. It was great to see a whole range of talents in our school including dancers, actors, musicians and singers. Our judges struggled to choose just one winner and a joint first place was announced. The winners were Sanvit in year 1 who performed a detailed dance routine and Abi in year 4 who sang beautifully. The winning houses were Lydiard and Steam. Thank you to all the children who practised and performed on the day.

Our houses shields' and have now been completed based on designs from pupils in those houses. These will now be displayed in the key stage 2 hall.







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## Safeguarding

We would like to make you all aware of an app called 'Talkie' that has been brought to our attention. We have been made aware that it contains inappropriate content and language. Please remember to regularly monitor your child's mobile phone, tablet and any other devices that they may use. The App looks like :

### App Store Preview

Open the Mac App Store to buy and download apps.



#### Talkie: Soulful Character AI 17+

AI-Powered Character Chat

SUBSUP PTE. LTD.

Designed for iPhone

#38 in Entertainment

★★★★★ 4.5 • 515K Ratings

Free • Offers In-App Purchases

## Skippy John

This week, all classes enjoyed a skipping lesson from 'Skippy John'. It was great to see the pupils enjoying skipping and learning lots of different skills. Skipping is a great way for the pupils to keep fit and healthy.

At the end of these sessions, there was a special assembly where selected pupils from different year groups could showcase the skills they had developed.





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**MY Future**

An event for young people aged 14 plus with additional needs, and their parent / carers.

*"Becoming an adult can be confusing!!!"*

Come along and find out what's available to help young people get ready for adult life.

For more information email: [myfutureevent@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:myfutureevent@swindon.gov.uk)  
or text / call 07989 387810

Thursday  
1st February  
2024  
10am to 4pm  
@ New College  
Swindon,  
North Star  
Campus

Swindon  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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](mailto:SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk).



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



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## ***Kindness Cafe***

This term sees the introduction of our kindness café. Each teacher will select two pupils from their class who have gone 'above and beyond' to show kindness to others to attend the kindness café. Not only will they get to enjoy a hot chocolate or squash and snacks but they will also be awarded a kindness certificate. The kindness café will take place once a term.



## ***Friends of Ferndale***

Over the Christmas period, Friends of Ferndale worked incredibly hard putting on events to help raise money for the school. They even arranged for Santa to visit! These events included Breakfast with Santa, letters from Santa, Santa experience and photos with Santa.

This raised an incredibly amount of money which is going to be put towards buying new iPads for the school. We would like to say a massive thank you to Friends of Ferndale who gave up a lot of their time over this busy period to make these events happen.







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## ***World Religion Day***

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, we celebrated World Religion Day in school. The day was based around the theme of light with each year group focusing on a different religion and celebration.

Across the day, pupils revisited previous learning and looked at how light plays an important part in different celebrations. They created pieces of art work, some of which will be put up on display in the school.

During the day, pupils were supported to develop their oracy skills through discussions around questions such as 'How do you feel when it is dark?', 'Why do you think light makes people feel better?' and 'Does the colour of the light effect how we feel?'.



It was brilliant to see the pupils developing and embedding their knowledge of different religions.



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## Inspire

Professional Development

GET INTO TEACHING

APPLY NOW FOR SEPT 2024

Get all the information you need to start your new career in teaching



Want to become a primary school teacher?

JOIN OUR ONLINE INFORMATION EVENT

TO BOOK:



WHEN:  
Monday 5th February  
6:00-7:00PM

 Ambition Institute  The Blue Kite Academy Trust





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## FERNDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL - SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2023-24

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 is a Blue Kite Training Day (Schools Closed)

**TD Days** & **red writing** are bank holidays



	Sep-23			
Monday	4	11	18	25
Tuesday	5	12	19	26
Wednesday	6	13	20	27
Thursday	7	14	21	28
Friday	1	8	15	22
Saturday	2	9	16	23
Sunday	3	10	17	24

	Oct-23			
	2	9	16	23
	3	10	17	24
	4	11	18	25
	5	12	19	26
	6	13	20	27
	7	14	21	28
	1	8	15	22

	Nov-23			
	6	13	20	27
	7	14	21	28
	1	8	15	22
	2	9	16	23
	3	10	17	24
	4	11	18	25
	5	12	19	26

	Dec-23			
Monday	4	11	18	25
Tuesday	5	12	19	26
Wednesday	6	13	20	27
Thursday	7	14	21	28
Friday	1	8	15	22
Saturday	2	9	16	23
Sunday	3	10	17	24

	Jan-24			
1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	31
4	11	18	25	
5	12	19	26	
6	13	20	27	
7	14	21	28	

	Feb-24			
	5	12	19	26
	6	13	20	27
	7	14	21	28
1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	
3	10	17	24	
4	11	18	25	

	Mar-24			
Monday	4	11	18	25
Tuesday	5	12	19	26
Wednesday	6	13	20	27
Thursday	7	14	21	28
Friday	1	8	15	22
Saturday	2	9	16	23
Sunday	3	10	17	24

	Apr-24			
1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	
4	11	18	25	
5	12	19	26	
6	13	20	27	
7	14	21	28	

	May-24			
	6	13	20	27
	7	14	21	28
1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	31
4	11	18	25	
5	12	19	26	

	Jun-24			
Monday	3	10	17	24
Tuesday	4	11	18	25
Wednesday	5	12	19	26
Thursday	6	13	20	27
Friday	7	14	21	28
Saturday	1	8	15	22
Sunday	2	9	16	23

	Jul-24			
1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	31
4	11	18	25	
5	12	19	26	
6	13	20	27	
7	14	21	28	

	Aug 24 / Sept 24			
	5	12	19	26
	6	13	20	27
	7	14	21	28
1	8	15	22	29
2	9	16	23	30
3	10	17	24	31
4	11	18	25	1

### Bank and Public Holidays 2023/24

Christmas Day Holiday	25th December 2023
Boxing Day Holiday	26th December 2023
New Year Holiday	1st January 2024
Good Friday	29th March 2024
Easter Monday	1st April 2024
May Day Holiday	6th May 2024
Spring Bank Holiday	27th May 2024
Summer Bank Holiday	26th August 2024



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### Term Dates 2024/25

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25		
Tues		3	10	17	24		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		5	12	19	26		
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27		
Thurs		5	12	19	26		Thurs	3	10	17	24	31	Thurs		7	14	21	28		
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29		
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30		
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24			

  

December 2024							January 2025							February 2025						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		3	10	17	24		
Tues		3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues		4	11	18	25		
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26		
Thurs		5	12	19	26		Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	Thurs		6	13	20	27		
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28		
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22			
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23			

  

March 2025							April 2025							May 2025						
Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		5	12	19	26		
Tues		4	11	18	25		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		6	13	20	27		
Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		7	14	21	28		
Thurs		6	13	20	27		Thurs	3	10	17	24		Thurs	1	8	15	22	29		
Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30		
Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	3	10	17	24	31		
Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	4	11	18	25			

  

June 2025							July 2025							August 2025						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25		
Tues		3	10	17	24		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		5	12	19	26		
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27		
Thurs		5	12	19	26		Thurs	3	10	17	24	31	Thurs		7	14	21	28		
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29		
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30		
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	31		

Key	
	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Teacher Development Day
	Term Time
	Blue Kite Trust Collaboration day