

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 our happening in our school.

Upcoming Dates

22nd January – Young Voices Trip

22nd January – Explorer Dome Year: Year 2 and 3

29th January – Explorer Dome Year: Year 4, 5 and 6

30th January - Parents' Evening

31st January – Parents' Evening

6th February – Safer Internet Day

12th February – Half term

19th February – School closed (Teacher Training Day)

20th **February** – Pupils return to school

27th February – Swindon SEND Family coffee morning (details to follow)







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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!

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 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 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 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 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 2nd of February will hopefully get everyone into the spirit!

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!

Vear 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!







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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 Al 177+ Al-Powered Character Chat

SUBSUP PTE, LTD.
Designed for iPhone

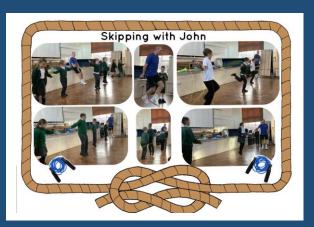
#38 in Entertainment

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.





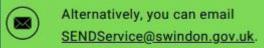




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For more information, please <u>visit the</u>

<u>Meet the SEND Service page</u> on the Local

Offer.



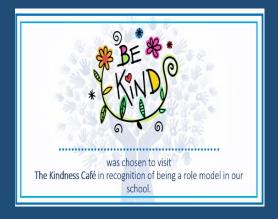




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Kindness Cafe

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 19th 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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Friday

Saturday

Sunday

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

3rd January 2024 is a Blue Kite Training Day (Schools Closed)



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Bank and Public Holidays 2023/24

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







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Ferndale Primary & Nursery School

Term Dates 2024/25

Term Dates 2024/25																	
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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



