



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

## *February 2024 Newsletter*

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

What an exciting term we have had! From making discoveries in the Explorer Dome to learning about light for World Religion Day, the children have learnt lots of new things while having fun! In the second half of the term, we will be celebrating World Book Day, Year 5 will be visiting Hampton Court and some of our year 4 pupils will be going on residential to the Wye Valley to name a few of the exciting things happening.

It was great to see so many of you at parents' evening. If you were unable to attend, please speak to your child's class teacher who can update you on your child/children's progress.

### ***Upcoming Dates***

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** – Last day of term

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February** – Half term break begins

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** – T.D. Day

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

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** – Yr 4 community lunch & Yr 4 Residential Meeting

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** – School Disco (Booking Deadline 20<sup>th</sup> February)

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** – FS Author visit: Neil Griffith & Rags 2 Riches Collection

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February** – Neil Griffith parent meeting

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Book Fair starts (other dates 28<sup>th</sup> Feb & 4<sup>th</sup> March)

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** – Junior Voice Festival

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – Red Nose Day

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 4 Residential (3 days)

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 5 trip to Hampton Court

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March** – FS Make a noise concert & Yr 2 Community Lunch

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** – Easter Egg hunt (Friends of Ferndale)

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March** – Easter holidays begin

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April** – Pupils return to school



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Head of school: Mrs Beccy Nolan

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue  
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX



## *Foundation Stage Learning*

This term, FS have been finding out about the past. They have had enjoyed learning about dinosaurs and the different types of food that they ate. They had great fun digging and finding rocks in the sand outside. Then using special tools, they discovered small dinosaurs in the rocks! The children then wrote about what they had found!

## *Year 2 Learning*

Year 2 have discovered tiny fairies and elves who have set up home in our school and class. They even created a secret garden and we made our very own leaf elves and fairies. We also enjoyed the last of our drumming lessons and the Explorer Dome finding out about light!

## *Year 4 Learning*

In year 4 we have been learning all about the digestive system. We did a brilliant activity which involved crackers, tights, some orange juice and a pair of scissors. It was a hands-on practical way of looking at and understanding what happens to our food as it moves through our bodies. The children absolutely loved it, even those who were apprehensive at the beginning. We're currently writing up our non-chronological report and these real-life experiences will enrich our writing.

## *Year 6 Learning*

We have had a magical term with our Harry Potter topic. We have been creating an evil Hogwart's teacher and have described Diagon alley. We have finished the term with our Harry Potter day where we have solved a maths potion challenge, made wands and been sorted into our houses.

## *Nursery Learning*

Little Ferns have had a great term. They have spent time in the forest going on a bear hunt! They didn't find the bear, but they did find the Three Little Bears hiding from Goldilocks! They have had lots of fun sizing teddy bears, big, medium and small. Little Ferns have had such a fun filled term learning about traditional stories!

## *Year 1 Learning*

We have been learning about meteorologists and how they study the weather. We had great fun when we went outside to investigate the wind and the rain! We have also been enjoying the story 'The Journey' and have been writing our own alternative learning!

## *Year 3 Learning*

We have had great fun learning about Ancient Egypt, we have learnt why the river Nile was so important. We became historians and looked at a range of artefacts to find out what we could learn the Egyptian people. In science, we explored which materials make the best shadows and developed our understanding of light.

## *Year 5 Learning*

It has been a busy few weeks for year 5, with visits from 'Skipping John' and the Explorer Dome, as well as immersing ourselves in our 'Terrific Tudor' topic. In science we have been working with different materials and carried out experiments to explore their properties. We are getting excited about our trip to Hampton Court next month and will come back with lots of news and experiences to share!



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Head of school: Mrs Beccy Nolan

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue  
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

## ***Safer Internet Day***

We celebrated Safer Internet Day 2024 by doing some brilliant activities across the whole school. All the way from the EYFS up to year 6, there were activities focused on being safe on the web.

The internet is such a huge part of our pupils' lives and we want them to know it is positive to talk about things they find tricky whilst exploring it. That's why we took time to highlight who the safe adults are at Ferndale and who they can go to with concerns.

Our KS2 assembly, ran by Mr P-B, explored the history of technology and what happens when things change. Our KS1 assembly used a story and song to help children know of some of situations that they might face and how they could deal with them.

It was great to go around and see some of the amazing activities happening in different year groups. Year 4 discussed influencers and the positive or negative impacts they can have on our lives. In year 1, the children learned what to do with unwanted messages and pop-ups. Year 5 were talking about developments in AI and year 6 created their own influencers!

Posters created by children in each year group will be displayed around the school to help educate and inform others about Internet safety. Guiding our learners to be safe on the internet is vital in today's world. Thanks for everyone who took part.







# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

## ***UK Safer Internet Centre – How to set up filters on you home internet***

How to set up filters on your home internet to help prevent age-inappropriate content being accessed on devices in your home.

The 4 big internet providers in the UK – BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media – provide their customers with free parental controls which can be activated at any time. They have come together to produce these helpful video guides to help you to download and set-up the controls offered by your provider. We know that children, particularly younger children, can be bothered by things they see online, and filters can be a helpful tool in reducing the chances of coming across something upsetting. For help and guidance with this, please visit <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parental-controls-offered-by-your-home-internet-provider>

How to set up the parental controls offered by BT: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/how-to-set-up-the-parental-controls-offered-by-bt>

How to set up the parental controls offered by Sky: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/how-to-setup-the-parental-controls-offered-by-sky>

How to set up the parental controls offered by TalkTalk: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/how-to-set-up-the-parental-controls-offered-by-talktalk>

How to set up the parental controls offered by Virgin Media: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/how-to-set-up-the-parental-controls-offered-by-virgin-media>

ChildNet has a useful guide for parents and carers about how to have conversations with children and young people. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/> It has a whole selection of blogs written specifically for parents and carers about online safety themes.

## ***Young Voices***

A massive well done to our Young Voices choir who sang beautifully when we attended the Young Voices concert in January. They performed alongside approximately 5,000 children making them one of the largest choirs in the world.



## ***Tuck shop!***



Key stage 2  
Monday-Thursday break times  
50p for a snack



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

## World Religion Day

To celebrate World Religion Day, we had a RE day around the theme of 'Light'. We thought about how light can make people feel better and that different colours of light can create different responses, feelings and thoughts. We thought about what light can mean to different religions and how it is used in religious celebrations.

FS learnt about how light is used to celebrate Chinese New Year and made Chinese lanterns.

Year 1 made paper Christingles and discussed what the different parts represent to Christians.

Year 2 worked in groups to make paper Menorahs and learnt about the Jewish festival of Hanukah.

Year 3 explored the importance of light and diya lamps to celebrate Diwali and their use in Hindu Shrines. They thought about light and how candles can be used to support prayer. After this, they created their own stained-glass windows with symbols of light in the middle of them.

Year 4 decorated and made candle holders to celebrate the winter solstice.

Year 5 learnt about different candles including Islamic candles and Baptist candles. Then they designed and decorated their own candles.

Year 6 identified positive words and emotions linked to light. They discussed Human Light celebration.







# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

## SEND



Are you a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities?

Please come along to meet the Swindon SEND Families Voice team to find out what we do!

Location: Ferndale Primary School  
Date: 27th February 2024  
Time: 9.00am - 10.00am



### Children's mental health week

This week is Children's Mental Health Week (5-11 February 2024). The theme this year is 'my voice matters'.

The theme of this week is about empowering young people by equipping them with tools to express themselves and look after their mental health and wellbeing.

Empowering children and young people with the tools and skills to share and use their voices can have a lifelong positive impact. [Place2Be's website](#) has fantastic resources for [primary-age](#) and [secondary-age](#) children and young people to help get them started.

The Local Offer has resources on mental health both locally and nationally that you can access here: <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/content/send-local-offer/landing-pages/health-landing-pages-and-content-pages/health-needs/mental-health-needs-pages/mental-health-information-and-advice-menu/>



## Continuum of Provision

The Continuum of Provision is a document that provides detailed information on all of the educational provisions within Swindon, and the advisory services available for children, young people and their families with SEND. Each page also provides contact details and web links, to ensure all the key information about a setting is in one place, with quick access to the school's website so you can find out more.

The Continuum of Provision is a great starting place if you're looking into what educational provision is available in Swindon for children and young people with SEND, or need to make the important decision of which school your child will attend.

This document can be found on the Local Offer by typing 'Continuum of Provision' into the search bar, or by following the link below: <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/content/send-local-offer/landing-pages/education/continuum-of-provision/>





# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Head of school: Mrs Beccy Nolan

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue

Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

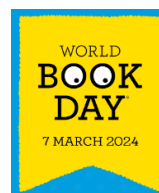
## World Book Day

It is World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March and we are looking forward to spending the day celebrating books and reading. We have lots of exciting activities planned across the day to continue to help the pupils to develop a love of reading. These include our 'Masked Reader' competition, our 'Book Doors' competition and our 'Bug Club' competition.

On the day, we would like your child to come into school wearing their pyjamas and bring with them their favourite book ready to share with the class. We will shortly be sending out the World Book Day vouchers and these can be used at our school book fair. The book fair will take place on the Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> March in the KS1 hall from 3.30 to 4.15 pm.

For further ideas for how to support your child to develop a love of reading

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/make-reading-fun-with-chase-bank/>



## Safeguarding

Please can we kindly ask parents to monitor your child/children's use of technology and in particular the apps that they are downloading and using on their devices. Snapchat, TikTok, Facebook, Fortnite and Roadblocks requires users to be age 13 or over. Thank you.







# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Head of school: Mrs Beccy Nolan

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue  
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX



## ***Project Gambia***

Last summer, we took part in a colour run to raise money for Project Gambia. This money was used to buy a new roof for Kulukochi school in The Gambia. We received the following message from them:

Hi! This is Neil writing from The Gambia!

Your fantastic fundraising has enabled us to put a whole new roof on one of our schools! The roof fell down during the rainy season. The children and staff of Kulukochi school would like to thank you from the bottom of their hearts! They can now continue their education in the dry!

Love from us all, and huge, thanks!







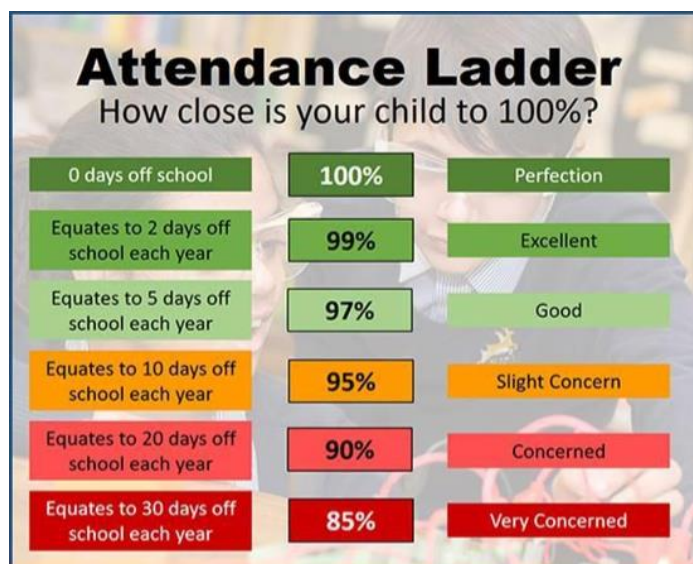
# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Head of school: Mrs Beccy Nolan

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue

Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

## Attendance



Term Time Absence Requests for children to be absent from school should be made in writing prior to the date of the proposed absence. Forms are available from the school foyer. It is helpful if parents are able to provide as much information as possible to support their application if they believe that there are exceptional circumstances. Please can I take this opportunity to clarify that family holidays or family celebrations cannot be classed as exceptional circumstances. Thank you.



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Head of school: Mrs Beccy Nolan

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue

Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

FRIENDS OF FERNDALE PRESENT



# SPRING TERM DISCO

THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

3:15 - 4PM - FS & YEAR 1  
4:15 - 5:30PM - YEARS 2, 3 & 4  
5:45 - 7PM - YEARS 5 & 6

BOOKINGS VIA PARENT PAY





# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Head of school: Mrs Beccy Nolan

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue

Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

## NSPCC

### Online gaming and keeping children safe

**Do you know your whispers  
from your skins? Your Fortnite  
from your EA Sports FC 24?**

As part of the NSPCC  
Game Safe Festival, we're  
encouraging parents,  
carers and those working  
with children and families  
to have conversations  
about online gaming.

**GamCare will be sharing expert  
advice, and you'll hear directly  
from young people.**

**Our webinar will help you:**

- understand how young people  
game online.
- learn about tools and resources  
that support safe play.
- gain the knowledge you need  
to keep children safe.



**GAME SAFE  
FESTIVAL**

**7 February 2024, 7pm-8pm, via  
Zoom. Book your place via this link:  
[nspcc.org.uk/gamesafe/tickets](https://nspcc.org.uk/gamesafe/tickets)**