



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

## March 2024 Newsletter

### *A message from the leadership team*

This term, we continue to have lots of exciting events taking place across the term. Some of our reception pupils will be performing at the 'Make a Noise' concert and some of our pupils from year 3 and 4 will be taking part in the 'Junior Voice Festival'. Year 1 and 5 pupils will be going on school trips and some year 4 pupils will be going on a residential to the Wye Valley. In addition, we look forward to our Easter events including our Friends of Ferndale Easter Egg trail and our bi-termly visit to the local church. It is an egg-citing term!

### *Upcoming Dates*

- 13<sup>th</sup> March** – Junior Voice Festival
- 15<sup>th</sup> March** – Red Nose Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 4 Residential (Wye Valley)
- 19<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 5 trip to Hampton Court
- 20<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 1 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park
- 20<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 2 Community Lunch with Parents
- 20<sup>th</sup> March** – FS 'Make a Noise' concert
- 21<sup>st</sup> March** – Houses Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> March** – Year 6 trip 'Easter Investigated'
- 21<sup>st</sup> March** – Debating competition
- 26<sup>th</sup> March** – 'Rock Steady' performance
- 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Parent assembly year 1
- 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Easter at the church
- 28<sup>th</sup> March** – PTA Easter Egg Trail
- 28<sup>th</sup> March** – Last day of term
- 15<sup>th</sup> April** – Pupils return to school (Term 5)



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## **Foundation Stage Learning**

FS2 are learning all about stories this term. The wolf has mixed up all the fairy stories and the children have been sorting the characters and events. They have also worked as a team to act out the fairy stories, practised being authors and sequenced and wrote stories. Next, the children are going to be learning to use their imagination to make up their own stories in their play.

## **Year 2 Learning**

Year 2 were super excited when they had a special delivery of chick eggs this week. All ten eggs have now hatched. We are looking forward to caring for the chicks and seeing all that they get up to over the next two weeks as we study the lifecycle of chicks.

## **Year 4 Learning**

In year 4 we have been starting to look at fractions. We have also been writing all about the myth of Beowulf and Grendel. Some of the writing we have seen is fantastic and will be sharing the final, completed pieces in a future newsletter because we know they are going to be brilliant. Seeing year 4's writing develop over the year has been amazing and we're so excited to move towards the final half of our year.

## **Year 6 Learning**

This month, we have been looking at Greece. In our writing we have been writing a text to persuade people to come to Greece and have been writing a balanced argument about which city-state is the greatest: Sparta or Athens. In Geography we have taken a closer look at Europe and Greece.

## **Nursery Learning**

Little Ferns have been extremely busy trying to save the veggies! The Evil Pea escaped from his prison and hid all the veggies in the garden! Little ferns found 1 tomato, 2 broccolis, 3 carrots, 4 mushrooms and thankfully, The Evil Pea! (Who was stuck in a tree!)  
Great counting and investigational skills Little Ferns!

## **Year 1 Learning**

Year 1 has embarked on an incredible journey! Exploring both hot places and polar regions, we have experienced the diversity of our world's landscapes. Through the captivating adventure in our book "Lost and Found," we have immersed ourselves in the story, discovered new perspectives and fostered a deeper appreciation for the wonders of our planet.

## **Year 3 Learning**

Year 3 have been learning how to measure length and how to convert measurements to different units e.g. cm to mm and m to cm. In Geography, they learnt about the water cycle, what a river is and where some of the longest rivers in the world are. In English, we have enjoyed reading and writing about a boy called Mo who wins a prize to have a sleepover in the British Museum. We are not sure if we would like to sleep in amongst the ancient coffins and artefacts!!

## **Year 5 Learning**

In Year 5 we have been continuing with our Terrific Tudors topic by exploring how different life was, for people at different levels of society living in Tudor Times. In Science, we have been using different materials to carry out an experiment to investigate which materials are dissolvable. Our writing topic saw us using persuasive language to persuade Miss Flynn and Mrs Billingham to visit Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.



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## ***Attendance***

Thank you very much for your continued support to promote high attendance for all children in our school. We value the positive conversations that we have received from the school community. This really helps with a shared understanding and offers of early help, to ensure that all children receive their right to an education. We are and will continue to follow the steps outlined in our Attendance policy and to follow local and national guidance regarding attendance. Please do get in touch if you have any concerns or require support with your child's attendance.

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

## ***Comic Relief***

Red Nose Day for Comic relief is on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March and we will be asking a child from each year group to tell a joke in assembly to celebrate. Teachers will select the best joke from their year group so start sharing appropriate jokes with your children. It will be a non-uniform day (but we would like your child to wear something red if possible) and we are asking for a voluntary donation of £1 to be paid on parent pay. The money donated will go to Comic Relief. Please use this link to donate

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=14970>

Comic Relief works hard to support some incredible projects making a change to people's lives across the UK and around the world.







# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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**SEND**



## Breakfast Catch-Up

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:** Kembrey Inn Brewers  
Fayre, Larch Close, Swindon, SN2 8YS  
**Date:** Friday 22nd March 2024  
**Time:** 9.30am onwards



## BRANCHES SUPPORT GROUP EVERYONE WELCOME

Tel: 07486 873405  
Email: [swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com](mailto:swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com)



BRANCHES is a support group open to all parents and carers of children and young people with any Special Educational Need or Disability, aged 0-25 years



- When?** Tuesday 19th March
- Where?** Punjabi Community Centre, Gorse Hill, Swindon, SN2 7BB
- Time?** 10AM-11.30AM
- Guest Speaker:** Paul Dabson - STEP, SIAS, Caroline McAleese - Public Health Specialist, Clare Baily - Home Education
- Working Together** Strengthening Support Reaching Out

Swindon SEND Families Voice

BRANCHES is a free support group, however voluntary donations for refreshments are welcomed

## Safeguarding

We have recently had a visit from the CEO and other Headteachers within the trust to monitor the effectiveness of our school and below are some of the highlights from Gary Evans our CEO of the Blue Kite Trust:

*'Ferndale school has a strong culture and ethos of safeguarding and staff with specific responsibilities for safeguarding, including the SENDCO, have a strong understanding of the challenges and risks facing Ferndale children. Safeguarding is an integral part of the school and everyday life. It is woven into everything and as a result of this, Ferndale School is a happy and safe place for children to be. Observations of children through learning walks confirm this.'*

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## World Book Day

We had an exciting day on World Book Day talking about books we love reading. The children really enjoyed working out who the masked readers were and the authors of the various books on display on the class doors. Can you identify the author for any of our door displays?



It's never too early to read stories with your child and spending just ten minutes every day enjoying books together can make a BIG difference to their development. Sharing stories boosts creativity and imagination, improves wellbeing, is a positive experience for parents, carers, guardians, grandparents – everyone! – and is great fun! Here is a link for stories that you can share together as a family: <https://www.worldbookday.com/share-a-story-corner/>

On the day, we were also very lucky to have the author Stuart Gould come and share his story 'Nuts' with our FS pupils and nursery pupils. This was lots of fun for our students, thank you Stuart.



Can you guess who some of our masked readers were?!



The children also had a lovely surprise at the end of the day, they all received a handmade knitted bookmark. A huge thank you to Barbara and the All Saints Church for their kindness.





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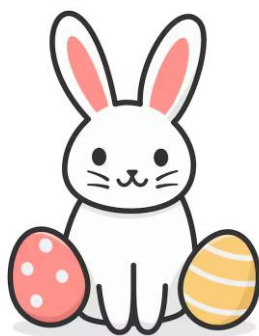
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## ***Friend of Ferndale - Easter Egg Hunt***

It is with great egg-citement that we look forward to the Easter egg trail at the end of term. It will take place at 3.30pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March in the main playground. You will need to collect your child from school and complete the Easter egg trail with them. If you would like your child to participate, you can purchase a ticket on parent pay. This will be added to Parent Pay this week. There will also be an Easter themed Raffle including Easter toys, Easter Eggs etc.



Finally, we would like to say a massive thank you to Friends of Ferndale (FoF) for running the school disco at the start of term. The children had a brilliant time and there was some great dancing to be seen! We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped too. FoF raised **an amazing £895** from this event. This money always goes back into the school and it will be spent on things that are needed to support the pupils' learning.

## ***Houses Event***

Our next houses event is due to take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. On this day, we will have an outdoor/healthy living focus (more details to follow). Eco council will judge which house has worked the hardest and a house winner will be named! Please ensure that your child wears their house t-shirt to school on this date.

Currently, the house with the most dojos is Wyvern but that could all change by the end of term. Keep up the great work and behaviour!





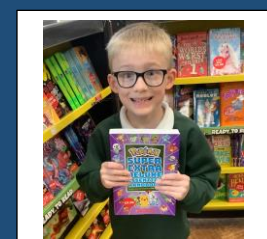
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## ***Reading Rewards***

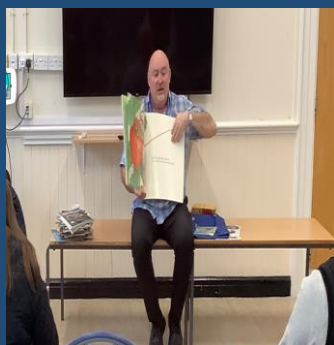
A massive well done for all the reading that is taking place across the school. At our reading assembly, the number of tickets in our reading raffle was huge with lots of tickets from both key stage 1 and key stage 2. Five pupils won book vouchers to spend at our book fair while the remaining pupils chose from the exciting new books displayed.

In addition, lots of children have been awarded the bronze reading certificate for reaching 90 reads and it is great to see that some pupils are starting to be awarded the silver award for 150 reads. Keep up the great work!



## ***Author visit***

A big thank you to Neil Griffiths for running a parent session on reading. During the session, Neil discussed why reading is so important and why some children are reading less. He suggested that in order to get children reading, it is important they see adults reading. He emphasised how important it is for parents to read with their children (both mum and dad) and that parents need to get tuned into what their children love reading. He modelled how to bring a story alive when reading with our children and reminded us not to put pressure on our children if they are finding it tricky. He described reading as 'dreaming with your eyes wide open'. It was a great event, thank you to all the parents that attended.



## ***Parking***

Please can we remind parents that there is parking available in Fernbrook car park should you require it. If you are parking in local streets, please ensure that you are parking safely and are being considerate to local residents. Please can we kindly ask you not park on double yellow lines or block driveways. Thank you for your continued support.