



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

April 2024 Newsletter

A message from the leadership team

Welcome back! We are looking forward to the warmer summer days and all the fun things we will be doing in school this term. First up, we are excited to welcome you to community lunches and year group assemblies.

During the Easter Holidays, we had our first 'Mossy Badgers Holiday Club' which was a great success. You can see how the forest is transforming by looking on our Ferndale Primary Facebook page.

Upcoming Dates

- 1st May** – Year 1 Community Lunch
- 2nd May** – Year 3 Assembly at 2:45pm
- 6th May** – Bank holiday: School is closed to all children
- 13th May** – Year 6 SATs week
- 22nd May** – Year 5 Community Lunch
- 23rd May** – Houses Day & Memorial Colour Run
- 24th May** – Last day of term 5
- 3rd June** – TD day: School is closed to all children
- 4th June** – Pupils return to school (Term 6)
- 11th June** – Nursery Open Day 3:30-4:30pm
- 13th June** – School Disco
- 15th June** – Community Day hosted by Ferndale
- 19th June** – Year 6 Coleshill Trip & Eid Celebration after school
- 20th June** – Year 5 Production of Midsummer Nights Dream at 9:15am
- 5th July** – Summer Fayre
- 9th July** – Year 4 Assembly at 2:45pm
- 11th July** – Sports Day
- 15th July** – Year 6 PGL Residential week
- 16th July** – FS Assembly at 2:45pm
- 17th July** – Open Parents Evening
- 24th July** – Year 6 Leavers Assembly & Last day of term
- 25th July** – TD day: School is closed to all children



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Foundation Stage Learning

This term Fs are learning all about protecting the planet and animals. At the beginning of term, we dressed up as Eco Warriors and promised to do little acts to protect the planet. We have already planted flowers and bulbs in our outdoor area and made a habitat for the mini beasts. Over the coming weeks we will learn about pollution, recycling, bees and animals

Year 2 Learning

Year 2 has come back eager and ready to have a fantastic term! We have started our new topic 'Explorers', where we will be comparing our local area to Zambia, learning about the explorer Ibn Battuta as well as looking forward to learning about Komodo Dragons.

Year 4 Learning

In Year 4 had an immense time on residential last term. From walking to archery, we got to experience so many different fun and interesting things. Seeing beautiful views across England was one of the highlights as so many of us had never seen anything like it. For lots of us it was our first time away from home so we were incredibly brave. Those who stayed at school still had lots of fun making pop-up books and decorations. All around we had such an exciting lead up to the Easter break. We're really looking forward to the Summer term, we've got lots planned around dragons, myths, legends and more!

Year 6 Learning

Year 6 are working hard in preparation for their reading, SPAG and maths SATs next month and are looking forward to those breakfasts! We have been practising our storytelling skills by retelling the Ancient Greek myth of 'Theseus and the Minotaur' and have enjoyed refreshments in the Spanish cafe (muy bien!) with Senora Salamanca - Ole!

Nursery Learning

Little Ferns are learning about New Life. From the Ugly Duckling, Jack and the Beanstalk to The Very Hungry Caterpillar! We will be planting seeds to watch their life cycle and we have tiny caterpillars to watch develop into beautiful butterflies! Fingers crossed we get sunny days to help our plants thrive!

Year 1 Learning

Exciting times ahead for our Year 1s as they dive into our new topic 'Ready, Steady, Grow!' 🌱 Get ready to watch their knowledge blossom as they explore the world of plants, nurturing green thumbs along the way! From delving into our school's history to lively drumming lessons, this term promises to be a vibrant blend of discovery and fun. Let the growth begin.

Year 3 Learning

Year 3 have enjoyed reading the start of Iron Man and are looking forward to writing their own opening to the story. We have also been thinking about our class assembly and are looking forward to sharing that with our grown-ups!

Year 5 Learning

Year 5 have dived into their new 'Jungle Fever' topic and are excited to be learning about rainforests, South America, animals & habitats as well as the ancient Maya. We have started a new writing project based on 'The lost thing' by Shaun Tan. This amazing picture book has inspired us to describe settings and use figurative language. We will be writing our own stories based on this text. In a couple of weeks, we will be visiting Swindon Academy, for their 'day in the life' experience. We have also started planning our year 5 production, more news on this to follow soon!



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Attendance

Pupils can struggle to attend school due feelings of anxiety or other mental health worries. Please use the links below to access information on how to talk about mental health and to learn more about the support available from the charity Mind:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/how-to-get-help-and-support/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/>

chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2022/02/cco-lets-talk-about-your-feelings-flyer-primary.pdf



Art Exhibition

Blue Kite schools are having another art exhibition following on from last year's success. This year the theme is called 'The journey of art in the curriculum'. Each year group has been busy completing a mood board based around an element of art in the curriculum. We look forward to seeing the final pieces.

Comic Relief

Thank you to everyone who donated money on March 15th in celebration of Comic Relief. The money raised will be used by Comic Relief to support people to live free from poverty, violence and discrimination.



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SEND Parents – The Local Offer

The Local Offer has now moved location. From the 2nd April 2024, the current Local Offer site will no longer exist and you will need to use the new Local Offer, a sister site on the Swindon Borough Council website. What this means is that we have a new link to get to the services and information that SBC believe are available for Swindon residents between 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, their families and the professionals that work with them. The link is <https://www.swindon.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer>

All the features are still there but they have improved navigation and have made the site responsive on mobile and tablet platforms, which means it adapts and adjusts to different screen sizes and devices. They've menu's for children and young people, parents and carers and professionals, along with an improved service directory so you can get to the information you want faster.

Mossy Badgers Holiday Club

The Mossy Badgers forest day was a huge success in the Easter holiday. The children had a fabulous time making bug houses, designing wooden medallions and making delicious recipes in the mud kitchen.



In the May half term, the Mossy Badgers club will be running on Wednesday 29th May and Friday 31st May and will cost £20 per child per day or £30 for both days. There is a discounted rate for additional siblings. Activities include woodland crafts, story time, den building, mini-beast investigations and pond dipping. If you would like your child/children to attend, bookings can be made through the school office.



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Friends of Ferndale (FoF)

Thank you to Friends of Ferndale for the effort they put into organising our school Easter Egg Hunt at the end of term. Disappointingly, due to bad weather this event was not able to go ahead but pupils received their chocolate treat.

FoF are now busy organising the summer fayre which is due to take place on **Friday 5th July** and the summer disco which will be held on **Thursday 13th June**. We appreciate the time and effort that these volunteers put into creating enjoyable experiences for our pupils while raising valuable funds for the school. Thank you.



Memorial Colour Run

We will be holding a colour run on **Thursday 23rd May** in the afternoon to raise money to develop an outdoor area in memory of Valiton, our year 6 boy. If you would like your child to participate, we are asking for a minimum donation of £10 (this covers the costs and allows for a £4.50 donation to the project) If you would like to donate more, then please enter the amount on parent pay. The deadline to sign up for this is Monday 6th May.

On the day, pupils participating will be supplied with a white t shirt and sunglasses and they will then be 'splatted' with different colour paints during their run on the field and will receive a medal once passing the finish line.





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Rock Steady Concert

At the end of last term, we had our own rock concert in the KS1 hall! Each of our Rock Steady Bands performed a song to their family and friends and the concert was enjoyed by all who attended. Our pupils have only been practising and performing together for a short while but the skills they have developed were clear to see and they all worked well together in their bands. We are already looking forward to the next concert!



All Saints Church Southbrook Street

UNIFORM SWAP

8:15am-9am every morning from Monday
22nd April until Friday 26th April 2024

Bring your used, unwanted school uniform and collect clean, good condition used school uniform for free. Also accepting PE kits, bags, coats and other school related items



Rev. Barbara Shepherd | 8 Southbrook Street SN2 1HF | 07785 267721



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Spanish Cafe

¡Bienvenidos a nuestro Spanish Café! This week, KS2 students immersed themselves in an authentic Spanish cultural experience right here at school. Our café was designed to ignite their passion for the Spanish language and culture in a lively and interactive setting.

A highlight of the Spanish Café was the chance for children to practice their Spanish skills by ordering food in the language. They savoured a traditional Spanish treat: chocolate caliente, zumo de naranja, pan con aceite y azucar and churros! This hands-on activity not only provided enjoyment but also reinforced their language learning in a practical way.

It was amazing to see the children having fun, wearing some Spanish outfits, and the Spanish music creating such a great atmosphere. Our goal was to cultivate a vibrant environment where students felt confident using Spanish while enjoying delicious treats and connecting with their peers.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this enriching experience. Let's continue to celebrate the Spanish language and culture together! ¡Vamos!"



Thank you, Mrs Salamanca,
for organising such an
exciting, educational event.



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Egyptian Day!

Year 3 had lots of fun last term learning about the Ancient Egyptians. We became historians and archaeologists to see what the evidence told us about how they lived- it was very different to us! We finished our topic with an Egyptian day where we could dress up. There were lots of ancient Egyptian artefacts which we had opportunity to look at closely and hold, completed a quiz and played Egyptian games. We finished the day by acting out a crowning ceremony for a new pharaoh! We had such an exciting day and it was a fun way to end our topic!

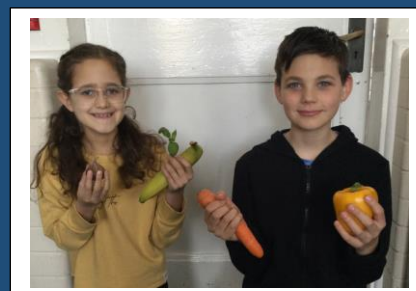
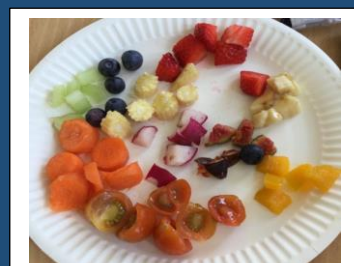
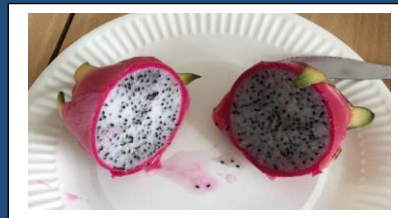




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Houses Day!

We had a fun houses day on Thursday 21st March with a healthy lifestyle theme where we worked on developing our outdoor areas for the children to enjoy. During the day, the children tasted healthy food and explored their preferences through a multi-sensory approach.

The children worked hard to dig out flower beds, clear areas and plant bushes. Each house designed signs for our new planters. The children made bug houses and bird feeders for the pond and forest areas.

It is great to see our outdoor areas developing further as they are used so much to support pupils learning.



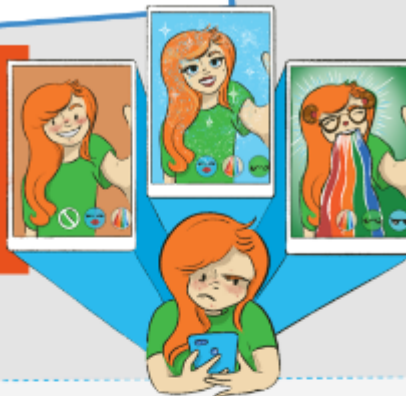
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Online Safety and Social Media



Social media is an online platform that allows users to connect with others online. Depending on what platform you use, social media can allow you to communicate and share information with others with the intention to update or engage a specific audience. This can often include sharing videos, images, status updates or posts with a group of followers that can sometimes cover a global scale.



A lot of the time, social media is a positive place where users support each other. Despite this, it can also house toxic and harmful behaviours, which can be directed towards specific individuals or groups with the intention to harass, or cause upset.

Benefits of Social Media

- 1 Available and accommodating to most audiences
- 2 Can promote positivity and healthy expression
- 3 An accessible platform to connect with others
- 4 An instant platform for news and global awareness



Considerations for Social Media

- 1 Harmful and offensive content may be seen across platforms
- 2 Can be used to promote misleading information
- 3 Can promote unhealthy expectations and pressure for young people
- 4 Can impact digital wellbeing if not managed correctly



Harm on Social Media

Many social media platforms have adapted to include reporting features in order to tackle certain types of online harm. Some of these harms to watch out for include:

- 1 Fake online profiles
- 2 Misinformation or fake ads
- 3 Scamming or fraud attempts
- 4 Radical online content



Socialising Online

Social media provides a lot of freedom in how to connect with other users as well as how information and content is made available. This has provided certain platforms with worldwide appeal, giving anyone an opportunity to connect and engage with others. To promote keeping safe on social media, ensure that young people know how to:

- 1 Report harmful content online
- 2 Block and report users who are being offensive or harmful
- 3 Manage privacy settings to limit exposure to known friends and family members
- 4 Speak to a trusted adult if they are concerned about something online



To find out more about Social Media visit the SWGFL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/social-media/

or scan the QR code



Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content:
reportharmfulcontent.com





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Thank you so much to Dhillon for the amazing mural that has been created. We absolutely love it! It really represents Ferndale. If you have not yet seen it, you will find it at the front of the school by our reception.





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Debating Team

On Thursday 21st March, our debating team, made up of Ishaan, Theo, Lenny and Skylar, took to the stage to present the idea that: Children should not have a mobile phone until they are 11 years old. The debate was held at Ruskin Junior school (to a large audience of parents, teachers and special guests). The team, which consisted of a chair person, questioner and two presenters, worked hard throughout the term to prepare brilliantly for the event.

Excitingly, our team won their debate and are through to the finals which is taking place at the end of May. Well done Ferndale debating team, we are proud of you!

Itchy Bear!

Thank you to Neil Griffiths for coming to read to Foundation Stage. He read his wonderful stories, **Itchy Bear** and Winnie Wagtail. The children loved immersing themselves in the story with Neil and watching their teachers get involved too! We love stories in FS and it was so lovely to meet one of our favourite authors.



Football!

The school football teams have played lots of games over the last term, the boys have 4 league games remaining. They always play with passion and determination and we are all very proud of them