



Ferndale Primary School and Nursery

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

October 2024 Newsletter

A message from the leadership team

What an exciting first term this has been! We have made great use of our amazing forest; year 1 spent an afternoon learning about fires and toasting marshmallows, year 2 found a time machine in the forest and year 6 spent a whole day in the forest learning to survive! Each year group have also had an opportunity to develop their martial arts skills and have been learning to play a musical instrument (either ukuleles, recorders or drums). We visited our local church to celebrate Harvest and we are finishing the term by having a visitor from 'Greenpeace' come to our school to talk about our planet and climate change.

Thank you to everyone who attended parents evening, it is by working together that we can support our pupils to reach their full potential and ensure the best outcomes.

Upcoming Dates

- 22nd October** – Last day of Term 1
- 23rd October** – T.T. Day (School closed to pupils)
- 4th November** – Term 2 begins (Pupils return to school)
- 5th November** – Rags 2 Riches collection at 9am
Diwali celebrations 3.30-4.30pm (KS2 hall)
- 8th November** – Fireworks night
- 7th November** – Year 3 trip to Oxenwood
- 11th November** – Year 5 trip to Steam
- 12th November** – Year 4 trip to Bristol Zoo
- 12th November** – Anti bullying week - Odd socks day
- 15th November** – Children in Need (events to be confirmed)
- 18th November** – FS Open Day for 2025 Starters 3:45pm
- 26th November** – School Photo Day (Individuals & siblings)
- 27th & 28th November** – Book Fair 3:30 – 4:15pm
- 2nd December** – Book Fair 3:30 – 4:15pm
- 6th December** – Santa Experience Day
- 18th December** – Christmas wrap



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Foundation Stage Learning

FS2 have had a lovely first term. We have learnt all about using our senses, made fruit kebabs, used our sense of smell and taste to work out the flavour of crisp and explored where food comes from. We have also learnt about our families and homes. We explored different types of homes and materials used linked to our story 'The Three Little Pigs'. We have really settled into our school routine now.

Year 2 Learning

Year 2 have been off in time and space this term learning all about Tilly and the Time Machine and Walter Tull for black history month. We have been off visiting the beach and designing a new birthday cake for Tilly. She even sent us a chocolate cake as a present! Yummy! Year 2's can't wait to explore more in the Time Machine.

Year 4 Learning

In year 4 we have been learning all about The Wild Robot. We had a brilliant trip to our forest to experience what it might have been like for Roz – our robot to wake up somewhere new. The writing that the children have produced is amazing. It is lovely to see our children engaging so nicely with our first book of the year. The Romans have been a hot topic too – we've explored Boudica's life and the difficulties of defending against the well-trained Romans!

Year 6 Learning

This week, we will be learning about how our bodies work and we will be dissecting hearts. We will be finding out more about the function and structure of the heart. We will also be doing an experiment involving exercising and seeing the impact of exercise on the heart, how our pulse rates are affected and the time it takes for our hearts to recover from exercise.

Nursery Learning

Little Ferns have had 3 visitors to nursery and we even made them their favourite food - porridge! There was lots of lovely messy play filling different sized bowls with oats and honey. Now that Autumn is here, we are looking forward to 'wellie walks' to collect the fallen leaves ready to create beautiful pictures.

Year 1 Learning

Year 1 are continuing to enjoy their new year group, especially with their exciting topic, 'To the Rescue'. History is quickly becoming one of our most loved subjects, and we've developed a great interest in the Great Fire of London, imagining how we would rebuild the city. Recently, we went to the forest and experienced a real fire! We collected sticks, explored fire safety, and even burned different materials to see how they reacted. The highlight was making s'mores, toasting our marshmallows all by ourselves.

Year 3 Learning

This term we are finding out about the Iron Age and have learnt why people built Hill Forts. In Spanish, we have been learning to tell others how we feel and in Science, we have been learning all about how fossils are created. We are having so much fun already!

Year 5 Learning

Year 5 have been exploring poetry as part of their Intergalactic Invaders topic! The children attended a virtual poetry workshop, to celebrate National Poetry day, where they wrote poems on remembrance before writing their own. As it's Black History month, the children have been understanding the impact that black History has on our lives today before celebrating the heritage, culture, achievements and contributions of black people in the United Kingdom and around the world.



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Safeguarding News

The theme for anti-bullying week this year is '**Choose Respect**' and takes place from 11th – 15th November. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. Odd Socks Day is taking place on Tuesday 12th November, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our School Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Miss Liz Horrobin** – DSL

Our Deputy DSLs are **Mrs Caroline Rouse** and **Miss Tracey Challoner**

If you ever have a concern about a child, you can call Contact Swindon direct on 01793 464646

Hot dinners

We are changing our hot dinner system in KS1 to match the system used currently in KS2. Rather than being given a coloured band, we are moving to the coloured dot system used in KS2 which has been working effectively for some time.

When the dinner register is taken in the morning, children will have a coloured dot put on their wrist which indicates their hot dinner colour for that day. Then in the dinner hall, KS1 staff will hand out the dinners appropriately. We have been trialling this system for the last few weeks and it has been working successfully, we will monitor and review it as the year continues.

Please support your child to select the meals that they enjoy each week. Thank you.



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Harvest

We would like to thank Rev. Barbara Sheppard for inviting us to the church for our harvest celebration. We learnt about harvest and where our harvest donations end up.

Thank you very much for the contributions that you have given, it has been greatly appreciated. Donations are going to the Swindon Food Bank.



P.E Update & Reminder

We would like to remind you that all children should wear P.E uniform on their designated P.E days. The uniform is a **plain House colour t-shirt** with **black shorts or jogging bottoms/leggings**. A plain House colour jumper or a school uniform jumper to be worn for colder weather. A reminder of the House colours are below, thank you for your understanding.

COATE

LYDIARD

STEAM

WYVERN

*Please also note a change of days for Year 3 & 4. After half term Year 3 will have their P.E day on a Monday and Year 4 will have theirs on a Tuesday.

Fireworks night

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a firework's night on the 8th November. Fireworks will start at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased via Parent Pay until Tuesday 5th November and after this date they can be bought from the school office or can be purchased on the night.

There will be music and refreshments too! So come along and bring all the family for a great night out!





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Friends of Ferndale PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

Thank you to all those who came and enjoyed tea and cake at our PTA annual general meeting (AGM). We are so lucky as a school to have such a pro-active PTA team and it was great to hear about all the fundraising events that took place last year and the amount of money raised.

At the AGM, committee members were voted in and we are pleased to announce our Friends of Ferndale PTA for 2024; Jane Holden remains as chair of the PTA, Julie Ayers as Vice chair, Jo Knowles as treasurer and Sue Emmitt as secretary.

Friends of Ferndale have already started planning refreshments and merchandise for fireworks night. **If you are able to help FOF at this event**, please email pta@ferndale.bluekitetrust.org or speak to the office. Anyone who helps on the night not only gets to enjoy the fireworks for free but will also receive an additional adult ticket for the fireworks.



Also a reminder that our **Rags 2 Riches** collection date is **Tuesday 5th November**. Please drop any bags outside the school office by 9am. The bags get weighed by **Rags 2 Riches** and the donation goes to our PTA funds so any donations are greatly appreciated!



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FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

With Lighthouse



A SIX WEEK COURSE
HELPING FAMILIES TO
CREATE A MORE
HARMONIOUS HOME

WHERE: OAKTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL, SN3 2HA

WHEN: THURSDAYS, 1PM-2.45PM-FROM 7TH NOV-12TH DEC

**WHAT: PRACTICAL IDEAS AND STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT
BEHAVIOUR, RELATIONSHIPS AND HAPPINESS AT HOME**

TO BOOK A SPACE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT [VDAUID@BLUEKITETRUST.ORG](mailto:vdauid@bluekitetrust.org) OR
[BBRADLEY@BLUEKITETRUST.ORG](mailto:bbradley@bluekitetrust.org)



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Attendance



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minifec>.

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SIAS Drop In Sessions

The SEND Information, advice and support service have weekly drop in sessions during school term time. Pop into the central library if you have any questions about SEND, want to meet the team or just prefer to speak face to face!

Central Library

SN1 1QG

Every Wednesday - Term Time Only

12:30 - 16:30

First and last SIAS

Drop-in of:

Term 1:
4 Sept - 23 Oct
Term 2:
6 Nov - 18 Dec
Term 3:
8 Jan - 12 Feb
Term 4:
26 Feb - 2 Apr
Term 5:
23 Apr - 21 May
Term 6:
4 Jun - 16 Jul



SCAN ME

If any of our drop in sessions need to be cancelled or dates changed this will be communicated on our Facebook Page

SIAS
SEND Information
Advice & Support





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Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

**WE ACCEPT CLEAN,
GOOD QUALITY, DRY,
REUSABLE CLOTHING**

- Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing
- Jewellery and Accessories
- Paired Shoes and Footwear
- Belts and Handbags

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website
www.raas2riches4schools.co.uk



WE DO NOT ACCEPT

**POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS
DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED
CLOTHES.
PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS,
BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM**

Please use the clothing bag provided.
You can also use any additional bag if required.

Collection Date:

By 9am Tuesday 5th November

Please remember - NO UNIFORM



Please Join Us For a

Diwali

GATHERING

KS2 HALL
-3.30PM - 4.30PM -

You are welcome to bring food/ drinks (no nuts please)

ON NOVEMBER 5TH



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FERNDALE FIREWORKS

2024

FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

GATES OPEN AT 6PM

BLAST OFF AT 7PM

£6 PER ADULT £5 PER CHILD (AGES 3-15YRS)

£20 FAMILY TICKET (2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN)

GLOW PRODUCTS | BBQ | RAFFAELE'S DESSERT VAN



TICKETS ON SALE VIA PARENT PAY OR VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE

FERNDALE PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL, WILTSHIRE AVENUE SN2 1NX 01793 332425

