



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Horrobin
Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

A message from the leadership team

Our second term began with our exciting Diwali celebration and our firework display! It was lovely to see so many families joining us for these events. Thank you to all the staff who contributed to organising and running these events including Miss O'Sullivan who organised our Diwali celebration and to Mr Birtles, Miss Persaud and the PTA for their hard work at the firework display!

We are very excited for all our planned events this term so make sure you get the dates below in your diary!

Upcoming Dates

- 15th November** – Children in Need – Non Uniform & donations via Parent Pay
- 26th November** – School photo day – Individual & Sibling Photos
- 27th 28th November & 2nd December** – School book fayre
- 2nd December** – Christmas tree topper entries
- 6th December** – Breakfast with Santa & Santa Experience Day (Booking via Parent Pay)
- 10th December** – Rock Steady performances 9.30 am (for those who attend lessons)
- 10th December** – FS Nativity to parents 2.30 pm
- 10th December** – Carols by Candlelight event (Tickets available now via Parent Pay)
- 11th December** – FS Nativity to parents 9.15 am
- 11th December** – Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumpers
- 17th December** – Year 1 and 2 Nativity: A Simple Nativity!
(2 performances 9.30am and 2.30pm –ticket 2 per family)
- 18th December** - Christmas movie night (Booking via Parent Pay)
- 19th December** – Christmas wrap – donations please!
- 19th December** – Nursery nativity
- 19th December** – Christmas party day
- 20th December** – Christmas jumper day and last day of term
- 6th January** – First day of the Spring term



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue

Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX



Nursery Learning

Nursery are having a term of celebrations! Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas! So many activities to complete! The children loved having a Diwali day of food tasting, traditional dress and dance! Next stop - the forest for smore making and then Christmas! Term 2 is such a lovely time to celebrate and have fun in nursery.

Year 1 Learning

We've had an exciting start to our term continuing with our "To the Rescue" topic! Beegu the alien crash-landed at our school, and we had a thrilling time investigating the crash site and exploring the broken spaceship. Alongside our space adventure, we've been learning about the seasons, months of the year and the four countries of the UK. Inspired by the artist L.S. Lowry, we're also preparing to create our own unique collages!

Year 3 Learning

Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Oxenwood. We learnt about hunting and survival in the Stone Age. We built dens in the woods, threw spears (foam javelins) at bison, looked in a round house and made Iron Age torcs (bracelets). The children's behaviour was excellent and they made the adults feel very proud.

Year 5 Learning

In Year 5, we have been continuing with our Intergalactic Invaders topic by exploring our new class reader, 'The Space We're In'. We have been using 'How to be an Astronaut' as a stem for our descriptive diary writing, as we imagine ourselves on the International Space Station (ISS). We have also enjoyed visiting the Steam Museum where we learnt lots of things about Great Western Railway.

Foundation Stage Learning

In FS2 we are learning all about 'How do people live around the world?' We had a fantastic hook day, coming to school in our traditional clothes and talking about our own culture. We also tried different foods from around the world, which were delicious! The places we are focussing on are India, Africa and Spain and we will make comparisons to the UK.

Year 2 Learning

After reading, 'The Hundred Decker Rocket' Year 2 had fun in the forest building their own rockets using the resources they had found in this area. They then really enjoyed writing their own version of the story. We also have started learning about Guy Fawkes in History and created a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day.

Year 4 Learning

Kalahari and Madagascar had a fantastic trip to Bristol Zoo Project this week. We learned so much about lots of rare animals. In one of the groups we found out that 8 of our children weighed about half of a large brown bear. The children came home with so much knowledge about animals and their habitats. Year 4 had so much fun meeting Tom the giraffe, seeing the zebras and the wolverines. It was so exciting to go on a coach all together.

Year 6 Learning

In year 6, we have been learning all about cheetahs and their adaptations ready to write a report about them. We will also be making Modroc cheetah masks. In maths we have been delving into the world of fractions.



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Horrobin
Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX



Anti-bullying Week



Anti-Bullying Week 2024 took place from Monday 11th - Friday 15th November and the theme was 'Choose Respect'. Children wore their 'odd socks' to school on **Tuesday 12th November** and in class discussed disagreeing respectfully and not resorting to bullying.

We all want our children to be happy and safe, and it is natural to worry about bullying - particularly if we have experienced bullying ourselves or think our child may be more vulnerable to bullying. The Anti-Bullying Alliance and its members work with children, families, and schools to help keep children safe. If you would like more support on this topic, please use the link <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2024-choose-respect/parents-and-carers>

Children in Need

On **Friday 15th November**, we challenged ourselves to make life lighter for children by completing sporting challenges with Mr Hicks at lunchtime and wearing non-uniform to raise money for Children in Need. Thank you for all your donations.



Attendance

Last term, we are pleased to announce that the class with the best attendance was **Northern Lights!** They will receive £10, kindly provided by Friends of Ferndale and will decide as a class how they would like to spend this money. Well done Northern Lights!



Fireworks night

What a fabulous fireworks display! Thank you to all the families, friends and local residents who joined us. As always, it was a brilliant display and a great community event! We would like to thank everyone who helped out.





Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Horrobin
Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

Bookfair

We are very excited that we will be having another bookfair at Ferndale Primary school on Wednesday 27th November, Thursday 28th November and Monday 2nd December.

Please come along to Kalahari class from 3.30pm to 4.15 pm. At the book fair, you will be able to make both cash and card payments.

There will be books suitable for all ages of children so come along and have a look!



Phonics workshop

We will be running a phonics workshop for parents new to phonics on Monday 25th November at 2.30pm in the KS1 hall. We would like to invite all FS and Year 1 parents.

We will explain phonics and demonstrate how to pronounce phonemes correctly as well as provide information regarding the phonics screener check. All parents are welcome, if this would be useful to you, please come and join us (even if your child is not in FS or Year 1).

Harvest

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Harvest collection. The front of the church was full with a variety of food product and toiletries. All your donations have been forwarded on to the food bank to be distributed where needed. Thank you, Barbara, for letting us celebrate Harvest at the church with you.





Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Horrobin
Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

Friend of Ferndale

FOF events planned on the run up to Christmas are as follows:

- 2nd December** – Christmas tree topper competition
- 10th December** – Carols by Candlelight (More information to follow)
- 6th December** – Santa event (More information to follow)
- 19th December** – Christmas wrap

Instead of having a Christmas fayre, carrying on from the success of last year there will be various events happening across the month of December for our pupils to enjoy. This will be started off with our Christmas tree topper competition. Your child can design and make a topper for our school Christmas tree in the main hall. Entries must be submitted by 2nd December and the winner will get a prize as well as having their design placed on the tree during our first Friday assembly in December.

We will continue to have our Christmas raffle but this year tickets can be purchased on parent pay. There will be 10 hampers up for grabs as well as some cash prizes! Our Christmas raffle prizes will be announced at the end of our 'Carols by Candlelight' event which will take place on the 10th December. During the event, our 'Christmas choir' will perform a number of Christmas songs and there will be a Christmas bingo at the event.

Our main Christmas activities will take place on Friday 6th December when we have invited Santa to visit us. If you would like your child to meet Santa, you can either purchase a ticket for the nursery breakfast (nursery only), Santa experience (limited tickets) or photo with Santa. Further information on how to purchase can be found on parentpay.

Our Christmas Wrap event will take place on 19th December and we are looking for donations of any unused items that you no longer want that the children can buy as a present. If we get enough donations, for a contribution of 50p, each child will be able to purchase and wrap **one** present for someone in their family. Please send any donations to the school office by this date. Thank you for your support.





Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue

Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

Diwali

This term's Diwali party at school was truly unforgettable! It was wonderful to have everyone come together again to celebrate. The event was filled with smiles, dancing, and a sense of community that made it all the more special. A huge thank you to everyone who attended, as well as helpers who contributed their time and creativity to set up activities and create beautiful decorations. We hope you enjoyed the festivities as much as we did, and we're already looking forward to celebrating together again next year!



Toys and Games

We are currently looking for second hand items to restock our After School club resources. When you next have a clear out, if you have any old toys that your children have grown out of and you no longer want, please could you donate them to the school.

We are particularly looking for building bricks, dolls (all shapes and sizes), pushchairs, board games, action figures, garages, cars and lego. However, we do not require puzzles. Thank you so much for your support.



Book Swap

We wanted to make everyone aware that we have a book swap station in reception (by the office). You can take these books home with you to enjoy and there is no time limit on when you have to return them. You are welcome to take more than one book at a time.

If you have any children's books that you no longer want, you can put them in the book swap station for others to enjoy.





Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Horrobin
Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

BRANCHES SUPPORT GROUP EVERYONE WELCOME

Tel: 07486 873405
Email: 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
November

Where?
St John's Church,
Cavendish Community Centre
Cavendish Square
Whitbourne Avenue,
SN3 2LG

Time?
10AM-11.30AM

Guest Speakers:
- Louise Tutt and Kerry Cope from the Transport Team
- Andrew Myrie from The local Offer
- Beth McCloskey and Beth Fisher - Assistant Educational Psychologists

Working Together
Strengthening Support
Reaching Out



Swindon SEND
Families Voice



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Horrobin
Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

Ferndale Primary School Stay & Play for 2025 Admissions



Monday 18th November
3:45 - 4:45pm.
Arrival at the red door entrance
via Ferndale Road.

The perfect opportunity for you and your child to meet our teaching staff and explore the indoor & outdoor learning areas. Ask any questions to help with your school decision process.

For any further information about the event please call the school office on 01793 332425.



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue

Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

SEND Sharing Service

A specialist lending library from Swindon SEND Families Voice

for families in the Swindon area with children and young people who have any kind of Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, whether they have a diagnosis or not

Browse the catalogue... **ONLY £3**

swindonsendsharingservice.lend-engine.com

A specialist lending library from Swindon SEND Families Voice

for families in the Swindon area with children and young people who have any kind of Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, whether they have a diagnosis or not

Browse the catalogue... **ONLY £3**

swindonsendsharingservice.lend-engine.com

Borrow items for up to 28 days*

You can browse the catalogue online or in person, reserve and collect your item...

swindonsendsharingservice.lend-engine.com

- 1 VISIT US ONLINE
- 2 READ
- 3 RESERVE
- 4 PICK UP
- 5 USE
- 6 RETURN
- 7 REQUEST
- 8 CHECK OUT
- 9 COLLECT

*Some special items may be loaned for a shorter period of time. All orders are subject to availability on the SEND Sharing Service website swindonsendsharingservice.lend-engine.com. All items are subject to change.

Swindon SEND Families Voice

Call us on 01793 332425 or email admin@ferndale.swindon.sch.uk