



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

January 2025 Newsletter

A message from the leadership team

Happy New Year! It is with great excitement that we begin our spring term and we look forward to starting our new topics and visiting the Explorer Dome. Don't forget to look at our school Facebook page where you will find photos and information about different things happening in our school. This term, we are pleased to welcome back Miss Hill who will be working as a TA in Galapagos class and Miss Bird who has taken over as class teacher in Olympus class.

Upcoming Dates

- 20th January** – Explorer Dome Year: Nursery, FS and Year 1
- 20th January** – Year 4 Residential Parents Meeting KS2 Hall
- 27th January** – Explorer Dome Year: Year 2 and 5
- 28th January** – Explorer Dome Year: Year 3, 4 and 6
- 4th February** – Fossil Dig workshop for FS students
- 10th February** – Rags 2 Riches collection
- 11th February** – Safer Internet Day
- 11th February** – Parents' Evening
- 12th February** -- Parents' Evening
- 17th February** – Half term
- 24th February** – School closed (Teacher Training Day)
- 25th February** – Pupils return to school
- 6th March** – PTA School Disco



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Foundation Stage Learning

This term we have started our new topic 'Is the past the key to the future?' We have started learning about dinosaurs and fossils, the children have created woolly mammoths and sabre-toothed tigers using paints and different materials. We have looked at snow and ice and how ice changes matter, the children enjoyed exploring with the ice outside.

Year 2 Learning

We started this term by making magical discoveries which included finding a mysterious letter from fairies and a beautiful secret garden hidden nearby. We will be writing letters back to our new fairy friends and even designing our own leaf fairies. This term, we'll also be learning about the fascinating growth of plants and exploring our local area.

Year 4 Learning

We have been learning all about the digestive system and started to find out about the Anglo Saxons and their impact on Britain. We are really looking forward to exploring earthquakes and how people can protect themselves against them. We started this term off with a bang with everyone taking part in an amazing science experiment, finding out about how food travels through our body and ends up... well, you know the rest!

Year 6 Learning

In year 6 we are starting to explore all things Harry Potter ahead of our trip to the studio tour. We started this with a walk down Diagon Alley. In science we are taking a closer look at evolution.

Nursery Learning

The Gingerbread Man is in Nursery this term as well some cheeky goats trying to cross the bridge! The children love traditional stories and look forward to what the Gingerbread Man has been up to whilst the children are at home! It is lovely to be back, and we are looking forward to having lots of fun learning through play this term.

Year 1 Learning

This term has taken off with a bang (and a few bumpy take-offs!) as Year 1 launched their exciting new topic, "*Journey Around the World.*" We started by making our very own passports, which we used to board an imaginary plane. Our first stop? A thrilling journey to both a hot and a cold destination! It's been an unforgettable start to the term, and we can't wait for all the adventures still to come! ✂️ 🌸 🌍

Year 3 Learning

In English, we are crawling into 'The Tunnel' and writing our own adventures. We are continuing multiplication and division in maths. In our new topic we are scrolling back in time to Ancient Egypt – we are really excited!

Year 5 Learning

Year 5 have gone back in time to the Tudor period as they have embarked on their new topic 'Terrific Tudors', where they are using balanced arguments to decide whether the Tudors were terrible or terrific. In Science, the children will be investigating materials and their properties, through a range of practical activities. The children are very excited be topping off the Tudor focus with a trip to Hampton Court Palace in March!



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Attendance

We are pleased to announce Northern Lights class had the best attendance last term and won the £30 cash prize. The class will now decide as a class what they will spend the money on, this may be books, resources to support their learning in class or even a game for the wet play box. Each term there is a class prize to be won which has been kindly donated by Friends of Ferndale.

In addition to this, every week, the class with the best attendance is announced in assembly and they win the prestigious attendance cup to be displayed in their class. As a school, we celebrate the pupils' attendance as it has a big impact on pupil progress. We continue to ask for your support with attendance including getting pupils to school on time so that they do not miss any of their learning and ensuring that holidays are taken out of term time. Thank you.

Remember: Good Punctuality Matters!

If a child misses 10 minutes per day, they will miss out on the following learning:

50 minutes per week

200 minutes per month (3 hours and 20 minutes)

650 minutes per term (10 hours 50 minutes)

1950 minutes per year (32 hours 30 minutes)

School Closure

It is sometimes necessary to close the school. This could be due to lack of heating, lack of water or severe weather which makes it impossible to make the site safe. In such a case, a text message and email will be sent out at the earliest possible time. We will also add information to our school website, so please keep checking this for further advice.

Please make sure children are sent to school in appropriate outdoor clothing during wintry weather. We send the children out to play in all weathers, and a warm coat, gloves and a hat are advisable. Please put names inside items of clothing so that we are able to reunite them with their owners when lost!



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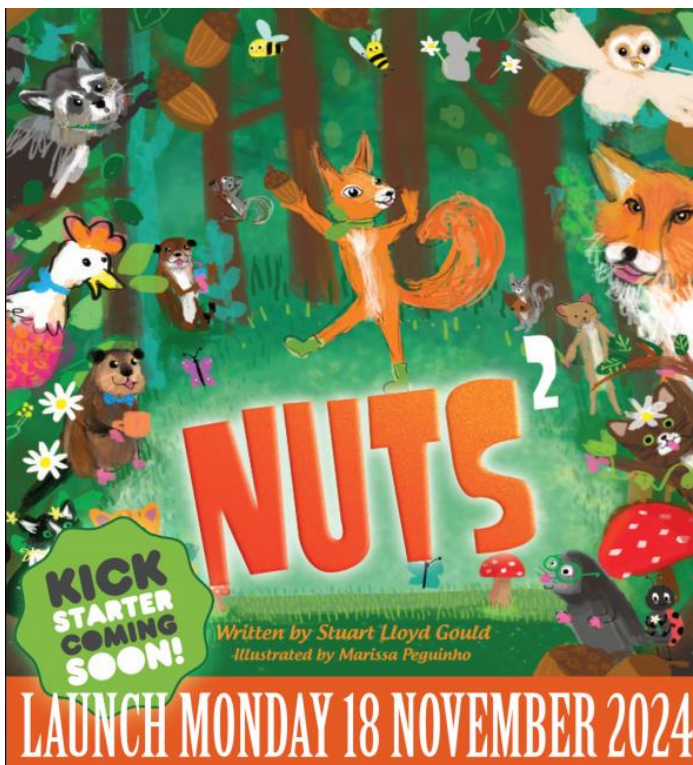
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Lighthouse courses

Lighthouse, part of the Blue Kite Trust, run a number of courses providing support for children and their families. All of the events are available for parents/ carers with children at any of the Blue Kite Trust schools. Upcoming lighthouse courses this term include:

- Friday 10th January, Family Foundations course, at Catherine Wayte (running for 6 weeks)
- Tuesday 14th January - 9am Managing Big Feelings at Greenmeadow Primary (SN25 3LW)
- Tuesday 28th January - 2pm Managing Screen Time at William Morris (SN25 2PP)

A booking is needed for the Family Foundations course, but the other sessions do not require advance notice. Please email gwollen@bluekitetrust.org or bbradley@bluekitetrust.org for more information or to book a space. Please refer to the Lighthouse newsletter that was emailed out last term for more information.



Author Visit

We are pleased to announce that the author, Stuart Gould, will be visiting our school on Thursday 23rd January.

He will be sharing his new book, Nuts 2, in our assembly. You will then have an opportunity to buy a signed copy of his book after school, in Madagascar class.



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Safeguarding

Mental wellbeing is about how you're feeling right now, and how well you can cope with life's stresses and challenges. Good mental wellbeing is essential to living a happy and healthy life. It helps us feel better about ourselves, sleep better, do the things we want to do and create positive relationships.

Not only does good mental wellbeing make us feel good in the moment, but it also makes us more resilient, and ready to face life's difficulties.

It is important that we don't just look after our mental wellbeing when we're struggling. It should be something we do all the time. On the following Barnados website, you can learn more about mental wellbeing, as well as advice you can teach your children so they can become healthier and happier.

<https://www.barnados.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/mental-health/supporting-your-child/wellbeing>



Vacancies

We currently are looking to recruit an MDSA to work for 1 hour each day at lunchtime. We are also looking for a casual cleaner to cover any staff absence. If you would be interested in either of these roles, please speak to Mrs Rouse or Miss Horrobin informally to find out more.



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TOP TIPS FOR BEING ON TIME



BE PREPARED

Pack your bag & lay out your uniform the night before.



LIGHTHOUSE

SET YOUR ALARM

Invest in a good alarm clock & make sure it's set for the morning. Mobile phone alarms are not always reliable.

EAT BREAKFAST

Breakfast sets us up for the day! If you don't have time for breakfast at home, ask your school about Breakfast Club.



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Limit the use of phones, iPads & TV in the mornings to allow plenty of time for your journey to school.



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Apply now! Scan the QR Code

☎ 01793 299175 ✉ inspire@bluekitetrust.org

TRAIN TO TEACH WITH US



WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

Want to
become a
primary
school
teacher?

GCSE English*
GCSE Science*
GCSE Mathematics*
**Grade 4/C or above*

Degree in any subject

The Blue Kite
Academy Trust



**Ambition
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