



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

February 2025 Newsletter

A message from the leadership team

What an exciting term we have had! From making discoveries in the Explorer Dome to learning about how to keep safe on the internet, the children have learnt lots of new things while having fun! In the second half of the term, we will be celebrating World Book Day, Year 5 will be visiting Hampton Court, Year 1 will be going to Cotswold Wildlife Park and some of our year 4 pupils will be going on residential to Liddington PGL to name a few of the exciting things happening.

It was great to see so many of you at parents' evening. If you were unable to attend, please speak to your child's class teacher who can update you on your child/children's progress.

Upcoming Dates

Friday 14th February – Last day of term – clubs running as normal except zumba

Monday 17th February – Half term break begins

Monday 24th February – T.D. Day

Tuesday 25th February – Pupils return to school

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Thursday 6th March – School Disco

Monday 10th March – Year 1 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park

Tuesday 11th March – Year 6 trip to Harry Potter Studios

Wednesday 12th March – Rags 2 Riches collection 9am

Tuesday 18th March – Rock Steady Concert (for those pupils who have lessons)

Friday 21st March – Red Nose Day

Tuesday 25th March – Year 5 trip to Hampton Court

Tuesday 25th March – Make a noise concert (FS pupils)

Monday 31st March – Year 4 Residential (3 days)

Friday 4th April – Last day of term (no clubs) Easter Egg hunt (Friends of Ferndale)

Monday 7th April – Easter holidays begin

Tuesday 22nd April – Pupils return to school



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Foundation Stage Learning

FS2 have loved learning all about events from the past this term: the Ice Age, moon landing and space and dinosaurs. The highlight has definitely been the fossil dig workshop where they investigated fossils that were discovered and had to find out what part of the dinosaur it was. They even met a baby dinosaur from Andy's dinosaur adventures. It brought to life all that we have learnt over the past weeks.

Year 2 Learning

What a fantastic term we've had in Year 2! After discovering the secret garden, we've received lots of letters from the fairies and wrote our own replies to tell them all about ourselves. We even designed our own leaf fairies using leaves and wrote brilliant instructions on how to make them! Our learning about plants has been exciting, too, as we planted our own flowers and have loved observing and watching them grow. We've also been learning about our local area, where we went on a lovely walk to explore our local area.

Year 4 Learning

Year 4 have been working really hard this term. We really enjoyed finding out more about the Anglo Saxons and designing our very own crosses. We also have been writing all about the Digestive System and how disgusting but amazing it is. In maths we've moved onto fractions after all of our multiplication and division learning. Well done to year 4 – we're all looking forward to another great term!

Year 6 Learning

We have had a magical term with our Harry Potter topic. We have been creating an evil Hogwarts teacher and have described Diagon alley. We have finished the term with our Harry Potter day where we have solved a maths potion challenge, made wands and been sorted into our houses.

Nursery Learning

Little Ferns have had an exciting term. Supertato has been to visit our room with his veggie friends! The children had to find all the escaped veggies that the Evil Pea let loose in the school! We also had a very special visit from Spiderman to help us learn about Superhero's. The children loved meeting him and he read them a special story. What an exciting term!

Year 1 Learning

Year 1 kicked off the term with an exciting plane ride—soaring through hot and cold places around the world! We even huddled up for a cozy indoor campfire with a story, wrapping up in our coats, singing songs, and enjoying some delicious biscuits. Our adventures took us all the way to Antarctica, where we explored icy habitats and learned about incredible explorers like Captain Scott. We also discovered different environments and the amazing creatures that call them home

Year 3 Learning

In year 3, we have been reading and writing about The Bear and the Piano. We really enjoyed the story, and we have written some lovely, descriptive sentences about the bear. In Maths, we have been measuring and solving problems using different measures. We continue to enjoy learning and researching all about Ancient Egypt.

Year 5 Learning

It has been a busy few weeks for year 5, with a visit from the Explorer Dome, where we learnt all things forces to writing our own persuasive text, persuading Miss Flynn and Mrs Billingham to visit Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. In History, we are continuing with our focus on Tudors, ahead of our trip to Hampton Court Palace next month. We can't wait to share our experience with you!



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Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 11th February 2025 was Safer Internet Day promoted by the UK Safer Internet Centre. This year the theme is **Too good to be true?** Protecting yourself and others from scams online.

In school, we have been teaching our pupils how to navigate the online world safely through lessons in class and a whole school assembly. We have started to discuss scams online. Scams can take many forms and may target anyone, including young people. There are resources available to support children, adults, parents and carers to stay safe online. Here is a link to some top tips to keep you and your loved ones safe online. <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>



In addition, please can we take this opportunity to remind you that your child/ren should be supervised when online and/or parental controls should be in place including when pupils are on platforms like Netflix and Prime. Please ensure that your child/ren are not watching programmes rated as appropriate for older children or adults.

Please be advised that 'Snapchat' and 'Whatsapp' have an age rating of 13 and therefore should not be being used by primary aged pupils. Thank you for your support.



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Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial for your child's academic success. When a child arrives late, they miss valuable instructional time that can hinder their understanding of the day's learning. Even a few minutes can disrupt their ability to grasp key concepts, which can accumulate over time, leading to gaps in knowledge that may affect their overall progress



Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but...

My child is only missing just...	Arriving at:	That equals	Which is	Your child's % at the end of the year	Your child has missed out on
5 minutes	8:50a.m.	25 minutes a week	3 school days a year	98.4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting and settling into class with their friends The introduction to their morning task linked to their learning
10 minutes	8:55a.m.	50 minutes a week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	97.6%	Completing their morning task
15 minutes	9:00a.m.	75 minutes a week	2 weeks per year	94.6%	Getting ready for their maths, english or phonics lesson
20 minutes	9:05a.m.	<u>1 hour</u> 40mins a week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	92%	The beginning of the explanation for <u>their</u> maths, english or phonics lesson

8.45a.m.
 All doors are shut, you will now need to walk your child round to the main reception.
 Morning tasks have been explained and begun. These tasks support their learning that will take place. The children have had an opportunity to say good morning to each other.

8.50a.m.
 Register is taken

**Lateness =
 Lost Learning**

9.15a.m.
 Registration has now officially closed. Any arrival after this time is now marked as an 'unofficial absence'. They have also missed the introduction to either their maths, phonics or English lesson which began at 9.00a.m.

1. Academic Impact:

- Late arrivals mean missing crucial learning time.
- Even a few minutes can lead to gaps in understanding and knowledge.

2. Attendance Percentage:

- Every late arrival affects your child's overall attendance rate.

3. Social Consequences:

- They miss important morning routines that help build friendships and classroom community.

5. Emotional Impact:

- Late arrivals can cause stress and anxiety for your child.
- They may feel embarrassed walking into a settled classroom.

Your Role Matters:

- Please ensure your child arrives on time to support their learning and social development.
- A consistent morning routine can help make this easier for both you and your child.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child arrives at school on time each day. Establishing a morning routine can make this easier, whether it's preparing the night before or setting alarms to allow for a calm start to the day. If you would like any support in making sure your child arrives at school, on time we would be very happy to work with you, please contact the school office if this is the case.



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Parking

Please be aware we have had reported to us unsafe parking and unsafe driving in the streets surrounding our school. We are concerned that these things could result in a child or parent being hurt, which is something we do not want to happen.

We are in regular communication with the police and parking wardens and have asked for an increase presence to ensure the safety of our pupils and their families.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that there is parking available at the Fernbrook Car Park on Southbrook Street. The school gates are opened around pick up and drop off times so you can walk through the school.

We are aware that the parking issues discussed above only involves a small number of our parents and would like to thank those who walk to school or use the Southbrook street car park.



Litter Picking

Our Eco councillors have been extremely busy collecting litter around the school. Although we have a number of bins on the playground, the wind sometimes blows the rubbish out of the bins.

We would like to say a massive thank you to the co council for keeping our school clean and tidy. We would also like to thank Mrs Salamanca who oversee the Eco council projects and events.

Telephone: 01793 332425

Email: admin@ferndale.swindon.sch.uk

Website www.ferndaleprimaryschool.co.uk



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SEND noticeboard

SIAS Drop In Sessions

The SEND Information, Advice and Support service will hold the following drop in sessions during the new school term. Come along to one of the below dates if you have any questions about SEND, want to meet the team or just prefer to speak face to face!

Central Library
SN1 1QG

12:30 - 16:30
Wednesday

8 January
15 January
22 January
29 January
5 February
12 February

ASDA Cafe
Oribtal Centre
SN25 4BG

18:30 - 20:00
Thursday

9 January
6 February

*Any changes to these dates will be communicated on our Facebook page



SIAS
SEND Information, Advice & Support

PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSION OF NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS



Branches and PINS

We are combining our February Branches with our PINS project. This is open to all parents and carers, not just for the schools involved with the PINS Project.

WHEN?

Tuesday 11th
February

WHERE?

Pinetrees Community
Centre,
Main Hall
SN2 1RF

TIME?

7pm-8.30pm

Who is this event for?

Parents of children who are struggling with their Mental Health.
Parents of children with diagnosed or undiagnosed conditions.
Professionals or volunteers who work with children or young people with SEND.

Who is coming?

Becky Richens, who is a Consultant Mental Health Nurse and Neurodiversity Specialist, with over 20 years experience. Becky offers a unique approach tailored to families struggling with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties.





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World Book Day

It is World Book Day on Thursday 6th March and we are looking forward to spending the day celebrating books and reading. The theme this year is '**Read your way**'. Research shows that children feel reading is something they have to do, rather than something they choose to do but we want to change that! **Reading your way** encourages everyone to let go of reading pressures and expectations, and empowers children to have fun discovering reading on their own terms.

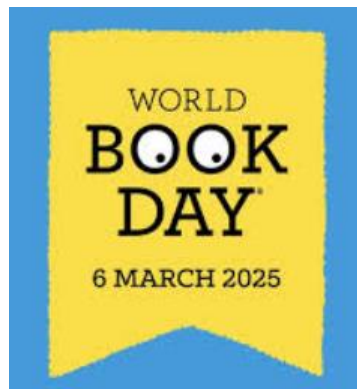


On World Book day, we would like your child to come into school wearing their pyjamas and bring with them their favourite book ready to share with the class. We have lots of exciting activities planned across the day to continue to help the pupils to develop a love of reading. These include our 'Masked Reader' competition, our 'Book Doors' competition and our 'Bug Club' competition.

We will shortly be sending out the World Book Day vouchers and these can be used at our school book fair. The book fair will take place on the Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th and Monday the 3rd March in Kalahari class from 3.30pm to 4pm.

Your child's Bug Club account provides your child with access to a range of books to enjoy reading including books at the appropriate phonics level. In addition, it is free to join the local library and you will not be charged for borrowing books for the agreed period of time. You can use any of the Swindon libraries including North Swindon and Central library.

Parents sometimes tell us that reading can feel like work, so World Book Day is here to unlock the fun. Use the following link to help you do this! <https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>





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Mental Health Week

We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week from the 3rd to 9th February and shared activities with our pupils that help to make us feel good, stay positive and help to take care of our mind.

Here are some suggestions from Be U to help take care of our mental health together. Be U provides support for children and young people with their mental health, more information can be found on their website: <https://beuswindon.co.uk/>

Be U

1. Connect with other people

Good relationships are important for your mental wellbeing, they can:

- help you to build a sense of belonging and self-worth
- give you an opportunity to share positive experiences
- provide emotional support and allow you to support others

Roll With It

Ask everyone to sit in a circle. Each person rolls a six-sided dice, then answers the question for the number rolled. Post the questions on a piece of paper where everyone can see them.

- 1: An activity you love to do
- 2: Something you would like to learn
- 3: Favourite book, movie or song
- 4: A place you'd love to visit
- 5: What am I proud of
- 6: One of your heroes

Be U

2. Be physically active

Move your body, boost your mood.

Being active is not only great for your physical health and fitness. It can also improve your mental wellbeing by:

- raising your self-esteem
- helping you to set goals or challenges and achieve them
- causing chemical changes in your brain which can help to positively change your mood

Activity

Take 10-15 minutes to do something active. Dance to your favourite song, go for a walk, do some stretching, try a new sport or do a quick workout. You'll feel more energised and focused afterward!

Be U

3. Learn a new skill

Learning new skills can also improve your mental wellbeing by:

- boosting self-confidence and raising self-esteem
- helping you to build a sense of purpose
- helping you to connect with others

Even if you feel like you do not have enough time, or you may not need to learn new things, there are lots of different ways to bring learning into your life.

Some activities you could try are;

- practicing drawing techniques to improve artistic skills, starting a gardening project to learn plant care, try to make your favourite food dish (with help from an adult),

Be U

4. Give to others

Giving to others can help our mental wellbeing by:

- creating positive feelings and a sense of reward giving you a feeling of purpose and self-worth helping you connect with other people.

It could be small acts of kindness towards other people, or larger ones like volunteering in your local community.

Some examples you could try:

- saying thank you to someone for something they have done for you
- asking friends or family how they are and really listening to their answer
- spending time with friends or relatives who need support or volunteering in your community
- make hand made cards with kind messages or drawings on them and give them to family members, friends, teachers or



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School term and holiday dates 2025-26

September 2025					October 2025					November 2025							
M	1	8	15	22	29	M	6	13	20	27	M	3	10	17	24		
Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu	7	14	21	28	Tu	4	11	18	25		
W	3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29	W	5	12	19	26	
Th	4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th	6	13	20	27	
F	5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31	F	7	14	21	28	
Sa	6	13	20	27		Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29
Su	7	14	21	28		Su	5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30
December 2025					January 2026					February 2026							
M	1	8	15	22	29	M	5	12	19	26	M	2	9	16	23		
Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu	6	13	20	27	Tu	3	10	17	24		
W	3	10	17	24	31	W	7	14	21	28	W	4	11	18	25		
Th	4	11	18	25		Th	1	8	15	22	29	Th	5	12	19	26	
F	5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	30	F	6	13	20	27	
Sa	6	13	20	27		Sa	3	10	17	24	31	Sa	7	14	21	28	
Su	7	14	21	28		Su	4	11	18	25		Su	1	8	15	22	
March 2026					April 2026					May 2026							
M	2	9	16	23	30	M	6	13	20	27	M	4	11	18	25		
Tu	3	10	17	24	31	Tu	7	14	21	28	Tu	5	12	19	26		
W	4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	W	6	13	20	27	
Th	5	12	19	26		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th	7	14	21	28	
F	6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24		F	1	8	15	22	29
Sa	7	14	21	28		Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	2	9	16	23	30
Su	1	8	15	22	29	Su	5	12	19	26		Su	3	10	17	24	31
June 2026					July 2026					August 2026							
M	1	8	15	22	29	M	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31		
Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25			
W	3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		
Th	4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		
F	5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		
Sa	6	13	20	27		Sa	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	
Su	7	14	21	28		Su	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30	

Key	
	Term Time
	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Teacher Development Day

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FERNDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Raise funds by collecting reusable clothes

RAGS 2 RICHES Schools Clubs Groups

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.rags2riches4schools.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

If you are unsure what to put in the bags
STOP AND THINK
WOULD YOU WEAR IT?

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

Collection Date:
Wednesday 12th March

Please remember NO UNIFORM



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SPRING DISCO

FS & YR 1 ★ 3:15 - 4PM
YR 2, 3 & 4 ★ 4:15 - 5:15PM
YR 5 & 6 ★ 5:30 - 6:45PM

BOOKINGS VIA PARENT PAY ONLY

6TH MARCH



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Local events



KID'S LEARN TO CYCLE & NEXT STEPS SKILLS SESSIONS

Moredon Sporting Hub, Swindon, SN2 2QJ
£5.00 per child, bikes & helmets available

Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th
February

Booking Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/swindon-cycle-campaign-61575400583>



HALF TERM LIMITLESS KIDS & FAMILY CYCLING

Moredon Sporting Hub, Swindon, SN2 2QJ
£3.00 per child (supporting adult go FREE)
Adapted cycles & helmets included

Cycling for SEND kids & their families.
Monday 17th & Thursday 20th
February 12:00 - 13:00

Book via [Moredon Sporting Hub website](https://www.moredon-sporting-hub.co.uk).
For queries contact: 07515606704
rebecacox@britishcycling.org.uk



HALF-TERM FAMILY CYCLING

Moredon Sporting Hub, Swindon, SN2 2QJ
£3.00 per child (One adult FREE)

Monday 17th February 2-4pm
Thursday 20th February 2-4pm
Friday 21st February 10- 4pm

A chance to practice your cycling skills as a family on the traffic-free cycle track. Bikes & helmets available to borrow on request.

Book your place via [Moredon Sporting Hub website](https://www.moredon-sporting-hub.co.uk) or pay at reception on arrival.



FREE ENTRY

Friday Youth Football

Who:
Open to all young people, aged 11-18

When:
Every Friday (term-time only) @ 17.00-18.00

Where:
Moredon Sporting Hub 3G Pitch, Cheney Manor Industrial Estate

- Sessions are supervised by Soccer Excellence coaches.
- This is a turn-up and play session, so no pre-booking is required.
- Attendees are required to wear appropriate sports clothes and moulded stud boots and bring their own footballs, as these will not be provided.

Contact:
youthworker@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk
for further information

FREE ENTRY

The Den

Moredon Youth Club

When:
Year 6-8: Tuesday @ 3.30-5.00
Year 9-11: Thursday @ 3.30-5.00

Where:
Moredon Sporting Hub, Cheney Manor Industrial Estate

Regular Activities:

- PS5
- Nintendo Switch
- Arts and Crafts
- Pool
- Foosball
- Table Tennis
- Board Games
- And more...

Contact:
youthworker@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk
for further information

FREE ENTRY

Inclusive Youth Activities

Accessible activity sessions for children with disabilities and/or additional needs; aged 8-14- **Parents/Carers will be required to stay.**

- Wednesday @ 17.15-18.00- Pinetrees Community Centre, Pinehurst
- Friday @ 16.00-16.45- Moredon Sporting Hub, Cheney Manor

Regular Activities:

- Arts and Crafts
- Sports and fitness
- Pool
- Foosball
- Board Games
- And more...

Limited spaces available, so please book by contacting:
youthworker@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk
or call 07494 048 530