



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

A message from the leadership team

Music concerts, school trips, an Easter Egg trail, Red Nose day and World book day are just a few of the exciting things we have planned for Term 4. Lots of reasons to ensure that your child/children are in school every day, learning and having fun.

As the weather improves, we will be able to take more learning outdoors utilising all the exciting areas that our school has to offer including the adventure zone, sensory garden, pond area and of course our school forest! We look forward to the term ahead!

Upcoming Dates

New dates:

Ferndale Family Fun Day, Saturday 17th May 11a.m. – 2p.m.

Parents' Day, Tuesday 3rd June 2.30p.m.



More information to follow regarding these two dates, but please put them in your diary as we would love to see you at them.

- 6th March – World Book Day
- 6th March – School Disco
- 10th March – Year 1 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park
- 11th March – Year 6 trip to Harry Potter Studios
- 11th March – Junior Music Festival
- 18th March – Rock Steady Concert
- 20th March – BKT Year 5 Debate competition
- 21st March – Red Nose Day
- 25th March – Year 5 trip to Hampton Court
- 25th March – FS Make a noise concert
- 26th March – Houses day
- 31st March – Year 4 Residential (Liddington, PGL)
- 4th April – Easter Egg Trail
- 4th April – Last day of term
- 22nd April – Pupils return to school (Term 5)





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Foundation Stage Learning

This term we are learning all about stories. Last week, the children experienced a Great Fairy Tale Disaster, where all the fairy tale characters, props and settings got muddled. The children sorted the fairy stories and acted out the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs. This week we are making porridge for the bears and writing a set of instructions.

Nursery Learning

5,4,3,2,1.... Blast off! Little Ferns are going to Space! There are lots of lovely activities planned for Little Ferns to learn about the planets, space rockets and Aliens! We cannot wait to explore the galaxies with them!

Year 1 Learning

This term, we continue with our exciting *Journey Around the World* topic! We discovered a lost and lonely penguin and have been reading his story with great curiosity. In Geography, we've been learning about hot and cold places, and in Science, we've been exploring the amazing world of animals and how to classify them. With our school trip coming up, we can't wait to put our learning into action!

Year 2 Learning

This term, we are continuing with our Secret Garden topic. We'll be making our very own fruit fairies in DT and creating beautiful secret garden drawings in Art. In Science and PSHE, we'll learn all about staying healthy, like eating the right food, keeping clean, and looking after ourselves. It's going to be a busy but exciting term, and we are looking forward to lots of fantastic learning.

Year 3 Learning

Year 3 are learning about fractions of shapes which involves many discussions about equal amounts of pizza and cake!! We are also learning about water cycles and the uses of rivers now and in ancient times.

Year 4 Learning

Year 4 are really looking forward to learning about a character called Beowulf and Grendel from an old Anglo-Saxon tale. We are also preparing for our residential which is incredibly exciting. Our science is all about electricity and we can't wait to discover how it works. Let's have a great term!

Year 5 Learning

Year 5 are having a great start to the term. We have started our PSHE topic about health and learning about how good choices help us with being happy and healthy. We are very much looking forward to learning about South America in geography and continuing our history topic with our trip to Hampton Court Palace.

Year 6 Learning

This month, we have been looking at Greece. In our writing we have been writing a text to persuade people to come to Greece and have been writing a balanced argument about which city-state is the greatest: Sparta or Athens. In Geography we have taken a closer look at Europe and Greece.



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Attendance

Thank you very much for your continued support to promote high attendance for all children in our school. We will continue to have positive conversations, early help meetings and create individual attendance plans, where relevant, to ensure that all children receive their right to an education. We are and will continue to follow the steps outlined in our Attendance policy and to follow local and national guidance regarding attendance. Please do get in touch if you have any concerns or require support with your child's attendance.



Comic Relief

Red Nose Day for Comic relief is on Friday 21st March. Comic Relief is hitting the big 4-0 and we will be joining in with their big birthday bash by disco dancing throughout the day!

On Red Nose Day, we will be having a day full of party music and therefore children can come to school in their party clothes ready to get up and dance! We are asking for a voluntary donation of £1 to be paid on ParentPay. The money donated will go to Comic Relief.

Comic Relief works hard to support some incredible projects making a change to people's lives across the UK and around the world.





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SEND

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 18th
March

Where?
Coleview Community
Centre, Towcester Road,
Swindon, SN3 4AS

Time?
10am - 11.30am

Working Together
Strengthening Support
Reaching Out

Guest Speakers:

- Molly Moffat: GP supporting families of children with feeding differences including ARFID
- Becky Cox: Inclusive Cycling
- Hannah Freeland and Teresa Jones from Social Care Pathways for the Disabled Children's team



Swindon SEND
Families Voice



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World Book Day – Thursday 6th March

We will be taking part in World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March 2025**, where we will be celebrating the reading that your child/children chose to do in their free time without judgement. We will be asking the children to **'Read Your Way'** and give them the opportunity to discover reading on their own terms. Further information about this day can be found in February's newsletter.

Children can come to school wearing their pyjamas and bring their favourite book ready to share with the class.

Read Your Way encourages everyone to let go of reading pressures and expectations, and lets children find fun in reading. Children and parents tell us that reading can feel like work, so this World Book Day we want to unlock the fun!

Here is a link for things that you can do together as a family including snuggle up with a picture book video or listen to a free audiobook: <https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>





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Friend of Ferndale – Term 4 events

A reminder to get out your children's dancing shoes as it is our school disco on Thursday 6th March. We will continue to have 3 discos and pupils will enter/exit via the link corridor. As you will know from your emails, tickets are now closed for the disco.



It is with great egg-citement that we look forward to the Easter egg trail at the end of term. It will take place at 1pm on Friday 4th April in the main playground. You will need to collect your child from school and complete the Easter egg trail with them. If you would like your child to participate, you can purchase a ticket on ParentPay.



Reading Rewards

A massive well done for all the reading that is taking place across the school. At our reading assembly, the number of tickets in our reading raffle was huge with lots of tickets from both key stage 1 and key stage 2. Those pupils that won could choose from the exciting new books displayed, reading with bear or choosing a new book at the book fair.

In addition, lots of children have been awarded the bronze reading certificate for reaching 90 reads and it is great to see that some pupils are starting to be awarded the silver award for 150 reads. Keep up the great work!

Staff News

We are very sad to inform you that Miss Viney will not be returning from maternity leave. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all she has done. Miss Viney always gave above and beyond to make sure all children had a voice at Ferndale, working tirelessly with our families. I am sure that you will join us in wishing Miss Viney much happiness with her family and thank her for everything she did for our school.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Storey who have welcomed a new baby boy into their family in January. We wish them all the best for the future and can't wait to meet him!

Sorry You're Leaving...
GOODBYE
GOOD LUCK
WE WILL MISS YOU
LOTS & LOTS





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Swindon SEND Families Voice

With Amina and Hannah!

SEND STAY & PLAY SUPPORT GROUP

For children aged 0-5 years with SEND
FREE to attend!

Email: sendstayandplay.ssfv@outlook.com to book a place

When: Every Thursday; 10:00 - 12:00
Where: The Meadow, Leigh Road, Swindon, SN2 5DE
Please note parents and carers are responsible for their children whilst attending

Safeguarding

We would like to make you aware of the following advice and support for parents and carers regarding child criminal exploitation (this is provided by the Barnardos charity):

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/child-abuse-and-harm/criminal-exploitation-children>

Criminal exploitation is when an individual or a group manipulates, deceives, coerces or controls someone under the age of 18 to take part in any activity which breaks the law. All children are at risk of criminal exploitation, including girls.

It's important to be aware of the signs and indicators of child criminal exploitation (these are listed on the Barnados page which can be found using the link above). Child criminal exploitation can take many different forms, all of which can cause serious harm.

[Find out more about where to get help if you're worried about a child.](#)

If you're worried a child is being exploited, it's important to reach out to professionals and share your worries, as the information provided can be vital to providing the correct support.





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The 'Big Walk and Wheel'

We are taking part in the 'Big Walk and Wheel' where we will be competing with other schools to see who can get the highest percentage of pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school. This will take place from 24th March to 4th April and we need your help! This is an event which we have won in the past!

'Big Walk and Wheel' inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.



In addition, walking and wheeling to school will make the streets surrounding our school less congested with cars at drop off and pick up. This will hopefully lessen some of the parking issues that have been reported this academic year.



All the children to do is walk, scoot or bike to school. The children will then be able to record their journey to school during registration. If you live further away, this could include parking a little further away from school and walking the last part. We will be talking to the children about this in an assembly.

So let's get walking and wheeling to Ferndale and hopefully win some prizes for the school in the process!