



# Ferndale Primary School and Nursery

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

*October 2025 Newsletter*

## ***A message from the leadership team***

Welcome back! We would like to extend a warm welcome our new nursery and FS pupils. We wish them all the best as their school journey begins.

Across the school, there have already been lots of things happening this term. Year 1 have had a visit from the fire brigade, Year 6 spent a day surviving in the forest and Year 2 found a magical mystery machine in the forest. We also had our 'Ferndale Family Fun Day' with music, arts and crafts and even a maths trail!

Parents evening is due to take place near the end of this term. We look forward to meeting with you and updating you on how your child/children are settling into their new class. If you have not yet signed up for a slot, please do so soon! It is by working together that we ensure the best outcomes for our pupils.

## ***Upcoming Dates***

- 14<sup>th</sup> October** – Rags to Riches
- 14<sup>th</sup> October** - Parents' Evening – 3.30pm to 6pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> October** - Parents' Evening – 3.30pm to 6.30pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 5 Visit Life Exhibition
- 16<sup>th</sup> October** – Harvest at the church (Children only)
- 21<sup>st</sup> October** – Last day of Term 1
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – T.D. Day (School closed to pupils)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Term 2 begins (Pupils return to school)
- 7<sup>th</sup> November** – Fireworks night
- 10<sup>th</sup> November** – Odd Socks Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need (events to be confirmed)
- 25<sup>th</sup> November** – School photographs
- 1<sup>st</sup> December** – Flu vaccinations
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December** – Rock Steady Concert
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December** – Christmas dinners
- 5<sup>th</sup> December** – Santa Experience Day/ Christmas in the forest
- 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Carols by candlelight



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## *Foundation Stage Learning*

This term the children have settled well into Avebury and Uffington. They have learnt where to hang their coats and bags and where to put their water bottle and lunchboxes.

All the children have made new friends, practised writing their names and learnt the rules of our school. We are so proud of all the children and how well they have settled in!

## *Year 2 Learning*

Year 2 have been off in time and space this term learning all about Tilly and the Time Machine! After finding a time machine in the forest, we visited the beach and wrote diary entries about our adventure. We have also made our own magical mystery machines using the instructions we found in the forest!

Year 2's can't wait to continue their adventures in the Time Machine!

## *Year 4 Learning*

Wow year 4 have been doing so much recently. Our class story, The Wild Robot, has inspired lots of art where we learned how to do mono printing. The children are loving learning all about the island and the different wild animals. In writing, we have finished our non-fiction reports all about plastic in the oceans. It has been so amazing to learn about people who are making it better and what we can do to help improve the situation. Well done everyone, what a fantastic start!

## *Year 6 Learning*

So far this term, our Year 6 children have been practising their survival skills with an exciting day out in the Ferndale forest, where we built dens and cooked our flatbreads on the campfire. Our writing has been inspired by the book, The Explorer, by Katherine Rundell and we will be going on to create our own poetry and artwork based on 'The Lost Words' poems by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris. For those budding surgeons (or butchers) in Year 6, in the final week of term, we will be donning our white coats, picking up our scalpels and dissecting hearts, in order to investigate how to keep our bodies healthy.

## *Nursery Learning*

Little Ferns are enjoying their new environment and especially loving the new resources! The children are so enthusiastic and enjoy their daily sessions! They have started PE and dance lessons and are showing amazing independence already!

Teddy bears picnics, forest trips and food tasting are planned for the future. We are looking forward to the having lots of fun!

## *Year 1 Learning*

Year 1 have made a brilliant start to the term with our topic, "To the Rescue!" We had a fantastic visit from the fire brigade where the children tried out using buckets to put out a fire and learned all about how to stay safe. In class, we've been discovering the story of the Great Fire of London, baking bread just like the bakery on Pudding Lane, and even building and decorating our own houses to look like the homes from that time period. It's been an exciting way to bring history to life!

## *Year 3 Learning*

This term we have been finding out about the Iron Age and have learnt about 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. It has been a great start to the term and we have already had so much fun!

## *Year 5 Learning*

Year 5 have blasted off into their Intergalactic Invaders topic with great enthusiasm, diving deep into the wonders of space! From crafting detailed non-chronological reports on planets of their choice to designing stunning 'Space Scapes' in art, their creativity has truly taken off. In science, they have been exploring how the Earth's rotation makes the Sun appear to move across the sky — using nothing but their own shadows! What an out-of-this-world beginning to the term!



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## ***Safeguarding News***

The theme for anti-bullying week this year is '**Power for Good**' and takes place from 10th – 14th 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 Monday 10th 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, Miss Tracey Challoner and Miss Zoe Miller.**

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

## ***Attendance***

We are very impressed with our pupils' attendance so far this term! Don't forget that those who made 100% attendance this month (this included being on time) will go in the prize draw to be headteacher for the afternoon. You've got to be in it to win it!

We have also been having our 'Turn up, Treasure Up' days. The pupils have loved finding their treasure. We have had two 'Turn up, Treasure Up' days so far this term. The latest treasure was their own special duck!

In addition, each week in our Friday assembly, we announce the class with the best attendance. This class wins the attendance trophy for the week as well as additional playtime! A number of classes have won this trophy this term but not yet all! Keep up the great work everyone!



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## ***Harvest***

The Rev. Barbara Sheppard has invited us to the church for our harvest celebration on the 16th October. We will be collecting harvest donations on this date. The following items will be greatly appreciated: tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned fruit, and tinned vegetables, pasta, rice, cereal, UHT milk, tea, coffee, jam, peanut butter, and long-life juice. Any items received will be donated to the Swindon Food bank. Thank you for your support.

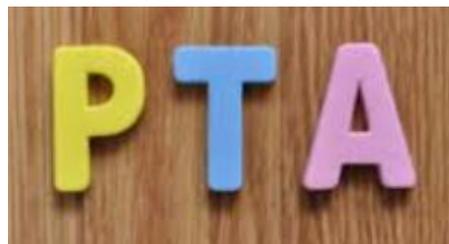


## ***Friends of Ferndale PTA (Parent Teacher Association)***

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 2025; Mrs Jo Bellman has taken over the role of chair of the PTA, Jo Knowles-Lake as treasurer and Sue Emmitt as secretary. We would like to say a massive thank you to Jane Holden who has stepped down as chair. She has contributed so much during her time as a parent at Ferndale including her work as chair, going on school trips and even helping in the office! Thank you so much Jane.

Friends of Ferndale have already started preparing sweets and merchandise for fireworks night. **If you are able to help FOF at this event**, please email [pta@ferndale.bluekitetrust.org](mailto:pta@ferndale.bluekitetrust.org) or speak to the office.





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## ***Fireworks night***

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a firework's night on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Fireworks will start at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased at a cheaper rate in advance on ParentPay or in cash at the school office, or can be purchased on the night at a slight increase in price.

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



## ***Staff updates***

As we start our new term, we are pleased to welcome new members of staff. Miss Mangham is the new class teacher for Olympus class. Mrs Telfer will be working as a TA in Madagascar class. Miss Duval will be working as a TA in Loch Ness class. In addition, Miss Webb, a trainee teacher, will be working in Year 1, in Tintagel class, supported by Mrs Salamanca.



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## *School Place Applications*

### Secondary school admissions for September 2026

You can apply for a secondary school place starting in **September 2026** from **Monday, 1 September 2025**.

Your child must have been born between **1 September 2014** and **31 August 2015**.

The deadline to apply is **11.59pm** on **Friday, 31 October 2025**.

If you need a school place for **September 2025**, you will need to complete an application through our [moving or changing to a school in Swindon](#) process.

### Primary school admissions for September 2026

You can apply for a primary school place starting in **September 2026** from **Monday, 1 September 2025**.

The application deadline is **midnight** on **Thursday, 15 January 2026**.

If we receive your application after the deadline, it will be classed as late and only considered after all on-time applications have been received.

If you need a school place for **September 2025**, you will need to complete an application through our [moving or changing to a school in Swindon](#) process.



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## ★ SEND ★ Information Afternoon

Wednesday 19th November

2:00–3:00 PM

Come along to our SEND  
Information Afternoon!



Enjoy a cup of tea ☕ and  
a friendly chat with a range of professionals  
who are here to support you and your child.

Whether you have questions, want  
advice, or simply wish to connect with  
others, this is a great opportunity to  
share ideas and find out more about  
the support available.

**All parents and carers welcome!**

In Ferndale Primary School Hall



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**HARVEST 2025**

The Food Bank is feeding approx. 10,000 people and is in need of the following:

**FOOD:**  
Tins of Meat, Potatoes, Fruit Fish, Sachets or jars of Coffee  
Cartons of Long life Milk and Fruit Juice, Bottles of Squash, Cereals

**PERSONAL HYGIENE:**  
Shampoo/Conditioner, Shower Gel, Deodorant, Toothbrushes, Soap

**HOUSEHOLD:**  
Washing up Liquid, Laundry Pods, Surface Cleaning Sprays, Toilet Rolls

To Book Collections:  
Please complete Our Form and Send to  
[harvest@swindonfoodcollective.org](mailto:harvest@swindonfoodcollective.org)