



Ferndale Primary School and Nursery

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

December 2025 Newsletter

A message from the leadership team

We have had a fantastic and memorable term! Our children were thrilled by a visit from Santa and his elves, Little Ferns, FS and KS1 impressed us all with their Christmas nativity performances, and our Carols by Candlelight evening was a truly special occasion.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Friends of Ferndale, who have worked tirelessly to organise enjoyable events for our children, including the much-loved Santa Experience Day.

As the term comes to an end, we wish all our children and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Upcoming Dates

- 19th December** – Last day of term – no clubs 1pm finish
- 5th January** – Spring term begins and the children return to school
- 7th January** – September 2026 FS Stay and Play
- 14th January** – Year 6 Harry Potter Trip
- 22nd January** – Year 5 Hampton Court Trip
- 27th January** – FS Dinosaur Fossil Dig
- 28th January** – NO After School Club due to staff training
- 10th February** – Safer Internet Day
- 10th February** – Parents Evening (times to be confirmed)
- 11th February** – Parents Evening (times to be confirmed)



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Foundation Stage Learning

The children have loved learning about different cultures and countries this term. We have had two main stories of 'Handa's Surprise' and 'The Tiger Child'. We started our term off with a traditional clothes day and food tasting. The children loved exploring foods from different countries. We are so proud of all the children and how they performed in the nativity. What a great term!

Year 2 Learning

Year 2 have been creating dog alien sculptures and wrote detailed fact files about these fictional characters. In the run up to Christmas, we have been busy learning our parts and songs for the nativity. We have also written our riddles and made pop-up Christmas cards ready to take home. Well done Year 2 for a fantastic term!

Year 4 Learning

We have just finished learning all about volcanoes. It was amazing to write all about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the destruction of Pompeii, inspired by an amazing story. We also found out about where volcanoes come from and why they erupt. We even made our own out of clay and are looking forward to 'erupting' them soon! We're also finishing up our amazing Christmas decorations, which will be coming home soon!

Year 6 Learning

In Year 6, we have been to 'Christmas unwrapped' at Gorse Hill Baptist church which was great fun! We have been learning about evolution in science and writing non-chronological reports about cheetahs in English. The children had some great ideas for 'teacher pleasers' and wrote detailed descriptions about these.

Nursery Learning

Little Ferns are ready for Christmas! The tree is decorated and the stockings have been hung up. Stickman has come to our room and everybody is enjoying the story and activities. We are looking forward to our Christmas party. Merry Christmas from Ferndale Nursery!

Year 1 Learning

This term, Year One has been exploring the United Kingdom, learning to name its four countries and discovering interesting facts about each one, including their national flowers. In Geography, we've been keeping a close eye on the weather, recording our observations on weather charts like true meteorologists. We have also been busying rehearsing for our Christmas nativity. We were incredible proud of how the children performed on the day! Well done Year 1.

Year 3 Learning

This month we have focused on multiplication and division in maths, learning our 3, 4 and 8 times tables. In English we have created some beautiful pieces of writing about different settings. We have explored the world in geography and science, finding geographical features and investigating light and shadows.

Year 5 Learning

Year 5 have had a very busy and exciting term, finishing off their Intragalactic Invaders topic with a Big Write that focused on using rich, descriptive vocabulary to transport the reader to another world. We were delighted to welcome Janet, who supported our RE learning as we explored the enquiry question, *What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?* In science, the children enjoyed learning about water resistance and air resistance, and they have been smashing their tennis topic this term—literally!



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Santa Experience

A massive thank you to our PTA, Friends of Ferndale for organising a number of events including a visit from Santa. This year's festive events included Breakfast with Santa, Santa photos, the Santa Experience, letters to Santa, Christmas gift wrapping and the Christmas Topper competition.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to FoF for all their hard work and dedication.



Staff updates

We are excited to welcome new Teaching Assistants, Miss Pike, Miss Wallace, Miss Frost and Miss Osbourne who have joined our school and will be supporting children in **Foundation Stage, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4**. We look forward to the positive contribution they will make to our classrooms.

Attendance – Every day counts!

Regular school attendance is key to children's learning, wellbeing, and friendships. Research shows:

- Children with **95%+ attendance** are far more likely to achieve their potential.
- Missing **just 1 day a fortnight** can add up to **nearly 4 weeks of lost learning in a year**.
- Pupils with high attendance have **better social and emotional development**, alongside academic success.

Every day matters – and we want every child to have the best start in life! At Ferndale, we monitor attendance carefully, celebrate high attendance, and intervene early when support is needed.

Let's work together to make every day count!



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Christmas at the church

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Rev. for inviting us to the church and for sharing the Christmas story with us. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed taking an active role in bringing the story to life.

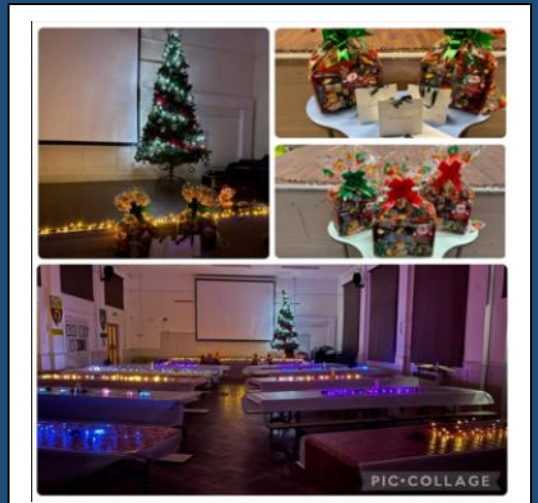
We are also very grateful to Rev. for her continued support of the school, including making Christingles with our FS and Nursery children and leading some of our values assemblies.



Carols by Candlelight

Thank you to all the children and parents who attended our carols by candlelight event. The choir sang beautifully and it was a magical evening!

Our Friends of Ferndale, raffle was drawn at this event and there were some magnificent prizes including jewellery, hampers and cash prizes. A special thank you to businesses for their donations; Beaverbrooks, Swindon Rendezvous and The Gateway Ice Rink, South Cerney.



SWINDON
Rendezvous



BEAVERBROOKS

THE JEWELLERS



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The Blue Kite
Academy Trust

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School is part of The Blue Kite Academy Trust



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Safeguarding News

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people have now taken every day online. These videos can put their real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch, understanding these dangers is crucial for parents and families who want to protect children in a fast-moving digital world.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- DEEPFAKE ABUSE CONTENT**
AI-generated deepfakes are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people have now taken every day online. These videos can put their real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch, understanding these dangers is crucial for parents and families who want to protect children in a fast-moving digital world.
- EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION**
AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic-looking content that can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation. This content can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation. This content can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation.
- DISINFORMATION**
AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic-looking content that can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation. This content can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation.
- IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS**
AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic-looking content that can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation. This content can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation.
- BLURRED REALITY**
AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic-looking content that can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation. This content can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation.
- USED FOR BULLYING**
AI-generated videos can be used to create realistic-looking content that can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation. This content can be used to spread false information, spread rumors or to spread disinformation.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- TEACH HOW IT WORKS**
Explain to children how AI-generated videos work. Use simple terms like 'deepfake' and 'AI-generated' to describe the technology. Encourage them to think critically about what they see online and to ask questions if they are unsure.
- TALK ABOUT TRUST**
Discuss with children how they can tell if a video is trustworthy. Encourage them to think about the source of the video and whether they know the person in the video. Encourage them to ask questions if they are unsure.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS**
Encourage children to ask questions about what they see online. Encourage them to think about the source of the video and whether they know the person in the video. Encourage them to ask questions if they are unsure.
- STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS**
Encourage children to use strong passwords and to use privacy settings on their devices. Encourage them to think about what they share online and to be careful about what they post.

Meet Our Expert
Dr. Sarah Jones is a leading expert in AI-generated content and digital education. She has worked with schools and universities across the world to help them understand the risks of AI-generated content and to develop strategies to protect their students. She is a frequent speaker at conferences and has published several articles on the topic.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College



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Student Achievements

Congratulations to one of our year 2 students who recently collected her award from author 'Steve Antony'. She took part in a design competition as part of the summer reading challenge at the Swindon libraries. There was a winner for each library and she was selected for Pinetrees Library. The author was very impressed with her imagination and how she told him all about her deep sea creature design. Well done from all at Ferndale!



Has your child recently achieved anything outside of school? We would love to hear about it and celebrate all our student successes. Please email admin@ferndale.bluekitetrust.org any that you are happy to share in future newsletters.



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TICKETS NOW OPEN
21st November - January 18th

Skate Aids £5 available to pre-book

Peak Ticket £9.99

Off Peak Ticket £7.99

Super Off Peak Ticket £4.99

Family Tickets £8.75 Per Person*

*Based on Two adults & Two Children

BOOK NOW
gatewayicerink.co.uk

Find Us

Lake 6, Spine Rd E, Cirencester GL7 5TL

Open Monday - Thursday 11 am - 8 pm / Friday - Sunday 10 am - 8 pm