



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Liz Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

February 2026 Newsletter

A message from the leadership team

We have had a great start to the term and lots of our year groups have been getting out and about. Year 2 went on a walk around the local area, year 5 went to Hampton Court and year 6 have visited Harry Potter Studios. In school, some year groups have been enjoying playing cricket and our foundation stage had a special visitor teaching them about dinosaurs!

This term, our school team has grown! We are pleased to welcome Miss Frost who is working in year 2, Miss Pike who is working in FS and Miss Osborne who is working in various year groups across the school. We also welcome back into year 2 Mrs Storey who has returned from maternity leave.

Upcoming Dates

- 9th February** – Safer Internet Day, FS Parent workshop at 2:30pm in the Blue Kite Hall & Wiltshire Dance Festival (Zumba children)
- 10th February** – Parents' Evening
- 11th February** – Year 6 Harry Potter Activity day & Parents' Evening
- 16th February** – Half term (17th & 19th Mossy Badger Active Adventures)
- 23rd February** – School closed (Teacher Training Day)
- 24th February** – Pupils return to school
- 25th & 26th February** – Book Fair Main Hall 3:25-4:15pm
- 27th February** – Rags 2 Riches collection 9am
- 2nd March** - Book Fair Main Hall 3:25-4:15pm
- 5th March** – World Book Day (fancy dress) & School Disco
- 12th March** – Y5 production
- 13th March** – Red Nose Day
- 16th March** – FS Parents Maths workshop Blue Kite Hall 2:30pm
- 17th March** – Junior Voice Festival
- 24th March** - Rock Steady Concert
- 25th March** – FS Make A Noise Festival at The Platform
- 25th-27th March** – Year 4 Residential
- 27th March** – Easter Activities – more information soon!



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Liz Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX



Foundation Stage Learning

This term we have been learning 'is the past key to the future'. We started the term off learning about the ice age, exploring snow and ice and creating woolly mammoths and sabre-toothed tigers. We have moved onto dinosaurs now and how we can describe different dinosaurs. The children loved being palaeontologists at the fossil dig where they explored different fossils and met a dinosaur!

Year 2 Learning

This term, our classrooms have been transformed into a magical secret garden and fairies and elves have moved in! The children are busy writing letters to our new elf friends and have been describing a leaf man. In PE, we are exploring how our friends move in dance. We are developing our plant knowledge in science and in art we are creating our own leaf men using printing and rubbing techniques.

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 have immersed ourselves into the magical world of Harry Potter. We kicked off the topic with a fantastic trip to Warner Bros. Studios where we found out the secrets behind how the books were turned into films. We even discovered that the train used for the Hogwarts Express was made in Swindon! Using the trip for inspiration, we have been writing descriptions of Diagon Alley and making pastel owls from paper bags. In science, we have begun our investigation into light and are looking forward to creating our own 'hologram' projectors.

Nursery Learning

The Gingerbread Man has been visiting nursery as well as Supertato! Supertato is back by popular demand. Little Ferns are looking forward to meeting Goldilocks and the Three Bears next week. There may even a Bear hunt coming up! Watch this space!

Year 1 Learning

Year 1 have zoomed off on an exciting new adventure called *Journey Around the World!* Our first stop was Antarctica. Brrr! The ice was freezing cold and the wind was howling like a wolf! In Science, we have been busy weather explorers, making our own rain gauges and measuring the wind. We have also been learning about Scott of the Antarctic and discovering interesting facts about Buddhism. We are loving our journey and can't wait to see where we travel to next!

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 made a great start to their Terrific Tudors topic, launching their learning with a trip to Hampton Court Palace. They are developing their writing through balanced arguments, asking: *Were the Tudors terrible or terrific?* In PE, pupils are enjoying gymnastics, where they are practising different rolls and improving their balance, control and confidence. We have also dived into a new class Story 'The Nowhere Emporium'.



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Liz Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

Attendance

Every Day Counts!

- ✓ Good attendance supports learning and confidence
- ✓ Helps children keep up with lessons and friendships
- ✓ Builds strong routines for lifelong success

Please ensure your child attends school every day unless they are unwell. Thank you for supporting good attendance this Spring term.

Safeguarding – Online Safety (How to support your child)

As children spend more time online for learning and play, it's important we work together to help keep them safe.

How you can help at home:

- **Talk regularly** with your child about what they do online and who they talk to. Reassure them they can always come to you if something worries them.
- **Use parental controls** on devices, apps, games and streaming services to manage screen time and block unsuitable content.
- **Set clear rules** about which apps and games are allowed, when screens should be switched off, and where devices are used.
- **Remind children** never to share personal information such as their full name, school, address, passwords or photos.
- **Encourage kindness online** and remind children not to respond to unkind messages, but to tell a trusted adult instead.

If something goes wrong, reassure your child they won't be in trouble for speaking up. Save any evidence and use in-app reporting tools. Please contact school if concerns involve other pupils.

Helpful websites for parents:

- **Childnet:** <https://www.childnet.com>
- **Internet Matters:** <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/>

Together, we can help children enjoy the online world safely and confidently



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Liz Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

Safer Internet Day



SAVE THE DATE

**Safer
Internet
Day 2026** | Tuesday
10 February

[better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/
saferinternetday](https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/saferinternetday)

On **Tuesday 10 February 2026** we will be taking part in **Safer Internet Day**, a global event to help children think about how to use technology safely, responsibly and confidently. This year's theme is **"Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI"**, encouraging pupils to learn about how artificial intelligence (AI) affects the online world around them, how to use smart tools safely, and how to make good decisions when they're online.

Throughout the day we'll be taking part in age-appropriate activities and discussions to build pupils' understanding of AI and support them in making positive, safe choices when using digital technology.

You will find practical advice on talking to children about technology and recognising where AI is being used on the following link [Safer Internet Centre – Parent Tips 2026](#)

Parking

We kindly remind families that the school car parks both on Wiltshire Avenue and behind Fernbrook are not available for parent parking during drop-off and pick-up times.

We also ask all drivers to take extra care when travelling in the local area, watching closely for children, families, and staff, especially during busy times. Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe.



NO PARKING



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Liz Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

ECO COUNCIL – TREE PLANTING



🌲 Tiny Forest Tree Planting 🌲

The Eco Council at Ferndale proudly took part in the Tiny Forest tree-planting community event! Together, we planted over 60 trees through great teamwork and lots of fun, helping to support local wildlife and care for our environment. We're excited to return in the summer to check on how our trees are growing. A fantastic effort from everyone involved!



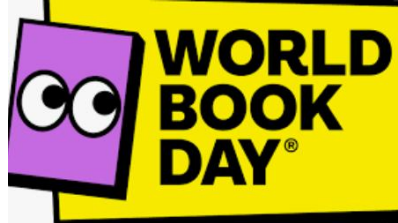


Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Liz Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

World Book Day



We are looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day** on **Thursday 5th March** with a fun-filled day focused on books and reading.

To help us celebrate, we would love children to come to school **dressed as a book character** and to **bring their favourite book** to share with their class. We have lots of exciting activities planned across the day to inspire a love of reading, including our **Masked Reader**, **Book Doors** and **Bug Club** competitions.

World Book Day vouchers will be sent home after half term and can be used at our **school book fair**, which will take place on **25th & 26th February & 2nd March**. Book tokens will be given out on the first day back of term 24th February.

Your child's **Bug Club account** gives access to a wide range of books, including those matched to their phonics level. In addition, joining the local library is free, and families can use any Swindon library, including **Pinetrees Library**, **North Swindon** and **Central Library**.

Parents sometimes tell us that reading can feel like work, so World Book Day is all about celebrating the fun of reading. You can find ideas to enjoy reading together at home by visiting: <https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

Go all in celebrating World Book Day
in the National Year of Reading





Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Liz Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 262 MONDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2026

Trauma Informed Practice Training

We are pleased to share that we are offering schools Trauma Informed Practice Training sessions. This half-day online learning opportunity will explore recovery from trauma and the power of our everyday interactions in improving outcomes for children.

The session is designed to:

- Explain the core principles of Trauma Informed Practice
- Strengthen staff confidence in responding to children and young people
- Offer practical, classroom-ready strategies
- Explore how even small every day interactions can help provide safety and recovery to a student.

These top-up sessions will be delivered online and are suitable for all staff members.

Upcoming session dates:

- 3rd February 2026 12:30pm – 15:30pm
- 5th March 2026 12:30pm – 15:30pm

For further details and to register click [KCA Reg form: Swindon Trauma Informed Schools Half Day Online](#)

Contact the SEND Service

Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641
Lines are open Monday to Thursday
8am-5pm and 8am-4.30pm on Friday.

Alternatively, you can email
SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk

For more information, please visit the
Meet the SEND Service page on the
Local Offer -

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20208/what-is-the-local-offer/1462/meet-the-send-service>

Events:

Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

Swindon SEND Families voice are running a series of community events from now until February covering a wide range of topics.

The next session is: **Branches and PINS**

Tuesday 10th February 6:30-8pm
Pinetree Community Centre,
Main Hall,
The Circle, Swindon, SN2 1RF



SEND SOCIAL CLUB

For young people aged 13-25 years with SEND
FREE to attend!
Email: sendsocialclub@swindon.gov.uk to book a place
When: Thursday 12th February 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Where: The Meadow, Longwood, Swindon, SN2 5DE
Parents and carers are responsible for their young people and their transportation to the event.

SEND Social Club

Swindon SEND Families Voice is running a SEND Social club for young people ages 13-25 with SEND.

Thursday 12th February 6:30-8:30pm
The Meadow, SN2 5DE

Survey of SEND Services 2026

The Survey of SEND Services 2026 opened on 05/1/26, and closes on 27/3/26. To complete the survey [click here](#).

Please take the time to complete the survey and let us know your thoughts and opinions about the strategic direction for services for children and young people with SEND for the next 2 years.



Check out our useful bite-sized videos on the **Local Offer YouTube channel**.

<https://www.youtube.com/@swindonlocaloffer5964>
Subscribe and give your feedback.

CONTACT THE LOCAL OFFER ON LOCALOFFER@SWINDON.GOV.UK Issue 262, Monday 02 February 2026



Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher: Miss Liz Horrobin

Ferndale Primary and Nursery School - Wiltshire Avenue
Swindon - Wilts - SN2 1NX

Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

**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.raas2riches4schools.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**

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

Collection Date:

Friday 27th February

Please remember - NO UNIFORM



SCHOOL DISCO!
on World Book Day!

**Story Character
Fancy Dress Theme!
Thursday 5th March**

**Chapter 1: 3:15 - 4pm
(FS & Year 1) £3
Includes a snack!**

**Chapter 2:
4:15 - 5:15pm
(Years 2,3 & 4) £2.50**

**Chapter 3:
5:30 - 6:30pm
(Years 5 & 6) £2.50**

Pizza & Tuck shop available at 2nd & 3rd discos.
Cash for Pizza & Tuck shop please - a fun way to practice independence & money confidence!

BOOK BY 1ST MARCH!
Bookings via Parent Pay