



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

## March 2026 Newsletter

### *A message from the leadership team*

Music concerts, school trips, Easter Egg competition and Easter challenges, Red Nose Day and World Book Day are just a few of the exciting events during Term 4. There are so many wonderful opportunities ahead for our children to learn, grow and enjoy memorable experiences together. Every day in school truly counts, and we encourage all pupils to attend regularly so they can make the most of both their learning and the fun activities on offer.

This term, we are also placing a strong focus on developing play opportunities for our pupils. High-quality play is an essential part of children's development, supporting social skills, creativity, problem-solving and emotional wellbeing. We are continuing to enhance our provision to ensure that playtimes are purposeful, inclusive and engaging for all children.

We are very much looking forward to a busy, productive and enjoyable Term 4 together.

### *Upcoming Dates:*



**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** – BeU Parent Workshop 2:15pm

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 5 production at 2pm

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – FS Parents Maths workshop 2:30pm Blue Kite Hall (courtyard entrance)

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** – Junior Music Festival

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 6 'Easter Unwrapped' in Gorse Hill

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** – Red Nose Day

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – Decorated Hard boiled egg entries into class

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** – Rock Steady Concert 9:30am

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 3 Egyptian Day, Easter visit to the church and FS Make a Noise Concert

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 4 Residential (Liddington, PGL)

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March** – Blue Kite Year 5 Debating Heat

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Last day of term – No Clubs.

Easter Bonnet parade in the school day & The Great Easter Games Trail at 1pm

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April** – Pupils return to school (Term 5)



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## Foundation Stage Learning

This term we are learning all about stories. Last week we read 'The great fairytale disaster' which the children found hilarious. We have been focusing on retelling the stories of 'The three little pigs' and 'Goldilocks and the three bears' by sequencing pictures and using role play. This week we are making porridge and then writing a set of instructions.

## Year 2 Learning

This term we will continue our **Secret Garden** topic. The children will make fruit fairies in DT and create beautiful secret garden drawings in Art. In Science and PSHE, we will learn about staying healthy by eating well, keeping clean, and caring for ourselves. We are also excited to welcome baby chicks into our classroom, where the children will help care for them and observe how they grow.

## 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 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.

## 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. In Science, we've been exploring the amazing world of animals and how to classify them. We have also been enjoying practising our ball skills in PE. With our school trip coming up, we can't wait to put our learning into action!

## 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 5 Learning

Our *Midsummer Night Dreams* production rehearsals are now in full swing, and the excitement is building! The children have been working exceptionally hard, practising their lines, songs and stage directions with great enthusiasm and dedication. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow with each rehearsal, and we cannot wait to welcome parents to our upcoming performance. In addition to our theatrical preparations, we are continuing to immerse ourselves in our Tudor topic in History and South American topic in Geography.



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## **Attendance**

Thank you very much for your continued support to promote high attendance for all children in our school.

### **Every Day Counts**

**95% attendance = 10 days missed a year**

That's almost 2 weeks of learning lost.

**90% attendance = 19 days missed a year**

That's nearly 4 weeks of school.

Over primary school, this can add up to  
**HALF A YEAR of missed learning.**

## **Why Good Attendance is Important**

- Builds strong reading, writing and maths skills
- Boosts confidence
- Strengthens friendships
- Develops positive routines
- Helps children achieve their very best

**Arrive on time. Attend every day. Be ready to learn.**

Together, we can make this Spring Term a happy, successful and productive one for all our pupils.

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



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## ***Safeguarding***

We know that family life can sometimes feel challenging, and there may be times when relationships at home don't feel safe or supportive. If you are experiencing behaviour that feels controlling, frightening or upsetting, or if you're simply unsure and would like to talk things through, there is confidential help available. The **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** offers free, 24-hour support on 0808 2000 247. You can also find helpful advice and information about local services on the **Society Without Abuse** website ([www.societywithoutabuse.org.uk](http://www.societywithoutabuse.org.uk))

If you would prefer to speak to someone at school, please do get in touch with the office in confidence — we are always here to listen and to help signpost you to the right support.

## ***Friends of Ferndale – Term 4***

Our pupils had an amazing time at our school disco on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. A massive thank you to the PTA for organizing this exciting event.



It is with great egg-citement that we look forward to 'The Great Easter Games' at the end of term. It will take place at 1pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March in the main playground. You will need to collect your child from school and complete the Easter egg challenges with them. If you would like your child to participate, you can purchase a ticket on ParentPay. They will then come out of school with their sheet to complete to claim their prize. This event is available to all children, nursery and school and will be running come rain or shine!





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## Comic Relief

We are excited to be participating in Red Nose Day on Friday, 20th March 2026!  
Organised by Comic Relief, this special day raises vital funds for people facing poverty and hardship both in the UK and around the world. On the day, we invite all children to 'take yourself funny for money' and kindly ask for a small donation to support this important cause, through ParentPay. For example, your child may come to school with a crazy hair style or clothes, perhaps their t-shirt is inside out or back to front



## Events:



**SEND Social Club** for young people aged 10-25 years. Free to attend, on Thurs 12 Mar 2026, from 6.30pm-8.30pm at Punjabi Centre, Swindon, SN2 7BB

**Branches support group**, for all parents/ carers of CYP with SEND, on Tues 17 Mar 2026 from 10-11.30am at Immanuel Church, Main Hall, Swindon, SN3 1DH. Guest speakers include: Nicola Ponton, Head of SEND Service at Swindon Borough Council.



## Kooth - online mental health support

Two free online information sessions for parents/carers about the services offered:

- Thurs 12 Mar 2026 from 7.30-8pm - <https://kooth.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d59bd9b5bcf63d9845647aa1f&id=15f7a5828e&e=b24c65d298>
- Fri 13 Mar 2026 from 1-1.30pm - <https://kooth.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d59bd9b5bcf63d9845647aa1f&id=dbc0a85581&e=b24c65d298>



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WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
5 MARCH 2026

## World Book Day

**World Book Day 2026** took place on Thursday 5th March and this year's exciting theme was "Go All In", celebrating the National Year of Reading 2026. The campaign encouraged children to dive deeper into the things they love — whether that's gaming, football, animals, history or something completely different — through the joy of reading.

The focus was all about choice and enjoyment, helping children discover that reading can be a fun, everyday habit. By following their own interests, children can build a lifelong love of books and develop confidence as readers.

On the day, children came to school dressed as a favourite book character and looked amazing! They also had an opportunity to read together with other children in the school. We had our Masked Reader competition and our Book Door competition (winning classes won books for their class.)



Following on from World Book Day, 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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9am - 12 noon Saturday 14th March 2026

## CLOTHING Swap

FREE SCHOOL UNIFORM & MORE



Donate old school uniform  
Collect free used school uniform

All Saints Church, Southbrook Street, Swindon SN2 1HF

## THE GREAT EASTER GAMES

Friday 27th March  
1:00pm

Complete challenges, earn your stamps & claim your Easter egg prize!

Active games • Puzzle challenges • Family fun

Gotta be in it to win it!



£3 per child

Bookings via ParentPay - deadline 22nd March

Must pre-book to receive your challenge sheet

Hop • Think • Play • Win

## Best Decorated Hard-Boiled Egg Contest!

Bring your egg in on Monday 23rd March!

Winners Announced in Wednesday Assembly!

## Easter Bonnet Parade!

Friday 27th March!

Anyone Can Enter!

Bring your bonnet in on the day!

Parade during the school day!

Winners Selected!

Get Creative & Join the Fun!



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## Easter Eggstravaganza & Spring Fling



A lively, nature inspired club designed for children who love to explore, create and stay active. The club blends forest fun with sports, arts and crafts, and DT to create hands-on, adventurous sessions. Children can enjoy energetic games, creative crafts and fun challenges with lots of laughter, choice and opportunities to make memories.

**Week 1: Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> &  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Week 2: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> & Thursday  
9<sup>th</sup> April 8am-4pm**

### Activities include;



Forest fun



Design and technology



A wide range of sports Arts  and crafts

Easter and Spring fun.....and much more!

£26 per child per day

Bookings can be made through Parentpay. For any enquiries, booking information and messages, please contact us direct:  
[mossybadgers@ferndale.bluekitetrust.org](mailto:mossybadgers@ferndale.bluekitetrust.org)