



# Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

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

## *April 2026 Newsletter*

### *A message from the leadership team*

Welcome to the Summer Term! Our Year 6 children will soon be preparing for their SATs, and we wish them every success as they approach this important milestone with confidence and resilience. Alongside this, many classes will be taking part in educational visits, bringing learning to life beyond the classroom and creating lasting memories.

We are particularly excited about our upcoming Family Fun Day on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, where families will have the opportunity to complete an exciting Scarecrow Trail. Families are warmly invited to join us for this special event, 11am to 1pm.

As we step into the summer term, we look forward to what is always a vibrant, busy, and exciting time in school life.

### *Upcoming Dates*

- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April** - Y5 trip to Swindon Academy
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April** – Y1 trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May** – Ferndale’s Got Talent competition
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank holiday: School is closed to all children
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – FS trip to Roves farm
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May** – VE Day celebrations – wear red, white and/or blue
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 6 SATs week
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** – Ferndale Fun Day – Scarecrow Trail (11-1pm)
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – Last day of term 5
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** – TD day: School is closed to all children
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Pupils return to school (Term 6)
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** – Phonics Screening Check completed over 2 weeks
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 6 trip to Coleshill
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June** – Summer Fayre
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June** – TD day: School is closed to all children
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July** – Year 6 residential to PGL
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** – Last day of term 6
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** – TD day: School is closed to all children



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## Foundation Stage Learning

This term FS are learning all about protecting the planet and animals. At the beginning of term, we dressed up as Eco Warriors and promised to do little acts to protect the planet. We have already planted flowers and bulbs in our outdoor area and made a habitat for the mini beasts. Over the coming weeks we will learn about pollution, recycling, bees and animals.

## Year 2 Learning

Year 2 has returned full of enthusiasm and are excited to begin our new topic, 'Explorers'! This term, the children will be learning about the incredible journeys of the explorer Ibn Battuta in History, exploring the country Zambia in Geography, and investigating a variety of habitats in Science. In English, we will continue developing our writing skills by working on diary entries based on an imaginative alien adventure.

## Year 4 Learning

In year 4 we have been learning all about sea monsters! We're writing a scary story where the Kraken appears near a boat! We can't wait to read their terrifying narratives. Not only that but we've started our Vikings topic, learning about the truth behind them and whether all they did was raid and take over. We're approaching the times table test so there's a lot of work going on around those too. Well done everyone, you're all working incredibly hard. Let's have fun in our final term!

## Year 6 Learning

In year 6, we continue to look at Ancient Greece in our writing and will be retelling the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur, whilst revising for our forthcoming SATs and revisiting the rules of spelling, punctuation and grammar. In science, we are exploring electricity and are building up our knowledge ready for an exciting project where we will be making Bristlebots. In PE, we have started the cricket season and had great fun practising our throwing, catching, batting and fielding skills in our first match of Mini Cricket.

## Nursery Learning

Little Ferns are learning about New Life. From the Ugly Duckling, Jack and the Beanstalk to The Very Hungry Caterpillar! We will be planting seeds to learn about life cycles and we will watch tiny caterpillars develop into beautiful butterflies! Fingers crossed we get sunny days to help our plants thrive!

## Year 1 Learning

This term, Year 1 is bursting with creativity, curiosity, and colour! We're exploring the work of Andy Warhol, focusing on his bold and vibrant textile designs. The children will experiment with colour and create prints using stencil techniques on fabric. In History, we're diving into the rich past of our very own community by exploring the history of Ferndale. Through examining historical sources, talking with local experts and residents, and taking walks around the school, the children will become young historians uncovering stories from the past.

## Year 3 Learning

In year 3, we have enjoyed reading the Iron Man and we are looking forward to writing our own opening to the story. In Maths, we are looking at mass and capacity. In History, we are learning all about our local area - please let us know if you have any information about the history of Swindon. Last term the children did amazingly well with their swimming, the instructors said what a great job they did. Well done!

## Year 5 Learning

Year 5 have enthusiastically launched into their exciting new topic, Jungle Fever! We will be exploring the fascinating world of the ancient Maya, learning about the rich biodiversity of rainforests, and investigating lifecycles in Science. It's already been wonderful to see their curiosity and engagement shining through. We would also like to take a moment to celebrate our fantastic debating team, who represented the school brilliantly in the recent competition with other Blue Kite schools. Their confidence, teamwork, and thoughtful arguments made us all incredibly proud—well done!



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## ***Attendance***

As we begin the Summer Term, we would like to highlight the continued importance of strong attendance. Research across the UK shows that pupils with attendance of 96% or above are far more likely to achieve expected or higher standards by the end of primary school. While 90% attendance may sound positive, it actually means a child is missing around half a day of learning every week—equating to nearly four weeks of school over the course of a year. Persistent absence, defined as attendance below 90%, can have a significant impact on both academic progress and social development.



We are pleased that many of our pupils attend regularly, and it has been wonderful to see how much the children are enjoying our 'Turn Up, Treasure Up Days', which have been a great success in promoting positive attendance. We are excited to inform you that we have more of these planned for the Summer Term. As the term becomes increasingly busy with events and activities, we kindly remind parents and carers that every school day counts. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping every child attend school regularly and make the most of all the opportunities ahead.

## ***Comic Relief***

Thank you to everyone who donated money on 20th March in celebration of Comic Relief. We had great fun making ourselves look crazy (crazy hair and clothes) on red nose day.

As a school, we raised £241.50 for this charity. The money raised will be used by Comic Relief to support people to live free from poverty, violence and discrimination.





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## Safeguarding

Ensuring children's safety remains our highest priority, and we are committed to working closely with families to ensure every child feels safe, supported, and ready to learn. As we move into the Summer Term, we would like to highlight some key areas of child protection that are particularly relevant at this time of year.



With the lighter evenings and warmer weather, children are naturally spending more time outdoors and online. We encourage parents and carers to remind children about staying safe when playing outside, including knowing where they are, who they are with, and when they are expected home. It is also important to continue monitoring online activity, as increased screen time during weekends and after school can expose children to risks such as inappropriate content, online bullying, or contact from strangers. Regular conversations at home can make a significant difference in helping children feel confident to speak up if something worries them.

Parents and carers may find further guidance on supporting children online through the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

This page offers practical advice on topics such as social media, online gaming, parental controls, and how to start conversations about staying safe online. The NSPCC emphasises that open, ongoing discussions at home are one of the most effective ways to help children stay safe in the digital world.

## Starting family conversations about online safety



### Talking to children about AI

How to have conversations with your children about artificial intelligence (AI), explore this technology together, and help to keep them safe.



### Online safety quiz

Does your child know how to stay safe online? Here's a family quiz you can take together.



### Talking to your child about online safety

Advice on how to talk to your child about staying safe.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all children safe.



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## SEND – Parent Workshops

The Swindon Educational Psychology Service are running a series of free online parent workshops. The workshops are aimed at parents and carers of children and young people and focus on themes that we know are frequently raised by families, including sleep, anxiety, online safety, school attendance, exam stress and transitions. They are designed to be supportive, practical and accessible, and open to all parents and carers.

**Helping your child to stay safe online**

**Course Dates:** Friday 24th April  
**Times:** 10am-12pm  
**Location:** Online

The workshop for the first session will be an interactive session for parents through Zoom. Parents will be able to ask questions and share their own experiences. The second session will be a recorded session for parents to watch at their own convenience. The workshop will be held in the afternoon on Friday 24th April. The workshop will be held in the afternoon on Friday 24th April. The workshop will be held in the afternoon on Friday 24th April.

To request a place on this course  
01793 332425  
admin@ferndale.gov.uk

Swindon Educational Psychology Service  
Education & Skills Funding Agency

Helping your child to stay safe online  
Friday 24th April, 10am-12pm  
Looks at how the online world affects children, types of digital harm, and practical ways to support safe and balanced online use.

## Events:

**SEND STAY & PLAY SUPPORT GROUP**  
For children aged 0-5 years with SEND  
FREE to attend!  
Email: [sendstayandplay.ssfv@outlook.com](mailto: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

With Amina, Kat or Lyndsay!

### SEND Stay & Play Support Group

For Children aged 0-5 with SEND

Every Thursday 10am-12pm at The Meadow, Leigh Road, Swindon SN2 5DE

Please note parents/ carers are responsible for their young people and are expected to stay for the session



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## *Houses of Parliament visit*

Our School Council Chair and Vice Chair recently had the exciting opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament alongside fellow pupils from Blue Kite schools. This memorable trip gave them a valuable insight into how government works, bringing their learning about democracy and leadership to life in a truly inspiring setting. It was a fantastic chance to explore such an important national landmark, deepen their understanding of British values, and represent our school with pride. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mr Buckley for organising this enriching experience for all involved.



## *Ferndale Debate Team*

On Thursday 26th March, our debating team, made up of Joe, Hajrah, Luca and Jessica took to the stage to present the idea that: All schools should have a therapy pet. The debate was held to a large audience. The team, which consisted of a chair person, questioner and two presenters, worked hard throughout the term to prepare brilliantly for this event.

Although our team did not win the debating competition, we are incredible proud of their achievements!





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## ***Family Fun Day!***

Join us for a fun-filled Family Day on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, from 11am to 1pm, where parents and children can come together for a relaxed and enjoyable day. Come and see our outdoor play environment and learn more about our Opal play project.



The highlight of the event will be our Scarecrow Trail Competition, each class will be designing and creating their own scarecrow based on their favourite TV and film characters. Will you be able to identify all the characters? All the correct answers will be entered into a prize draw.



Families are welcome to bring along a picnic, make the most of the outdoor play equipment, and enjoy spending time together in a friendly, community atmosphere. This event is open to all current families as well as those due to start at the school, making it a perfect opportunity to meet others and feel part of the school community. We look forward to seeing you at this event.





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## ***Friends of Ferndale***

The Friends of Ferndale are busy planning the summer term events and enrichment treats for the students and families to enjoy.

Firstly, the Summer Fayre is fast approaching and friends of Ferndale need your help! There are so many things to plan in the build up and take part in on the day, if you are able to help in any way possible, please get in touch.

Do you have a business stall you would like to run at the Fayre?

Are you able to help set up/run a stall or share the role with parents of stall running/help pack away?

Do you have any ideas for activities/stalls to run on the day?

We are putting together the raffle prizes and wondered if anyone is able to donate a prize from a business or have any contacts please?

Any help is greatly appreciated, we look forward to a super event for us all to enjoy!

Please contact Jo B via [pta@ferndale.bluekitetrust.org](mailto:pta@ferndale.bluekitetrust.org) or pop by the office to see her to share your thoughts!

