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

September 2026 Newsletter

A message from the leadership team

A very warm welcome back to all our pupils, parents and carers as we begin a new school year. We are delighted to welcome our new Foundation Stage pupils and their families to our school community. We wish them every happiness as they begin this exciting new chapter in their school journey.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning, growth and new experiences for all our children. As always, we greatly value the support and partnership of our families. By working together, we can ensure that every child feels happy, safe and supported and has the opportunity to achieve their very best.

We are excited to be planning a **Family Fun Day** later this term. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our whole school community to come together, have fun and celebrate our school family. More details will be shared with you soon.

Dates for your diary

3rd October — Family Fun Day 11 a.m. – 1p.m.

19th October — Phonics Workshop for Parents

10th October — World Mental Health Day – This day is normal school uniform with something yellow. It could be a yellow hair clip, sweat band, yellow socks, yellow tshirt. This is optional so please do not feel you need to go and buy something yellow.

13th and 14th October – FS Parents Evening

14th and 15th October —Year 1 – Year 6 Parents' Evening

16th October – Friends of Ferndale (FOF) AGM

20th October – Last day of Term 1

21st October – T.T. Day (School closed to all pupils)

3rd November – Term 2 begins (Pupils return to school)

6th November – Fireworks night

9th November — School photographs (individuals)

9th November – Year 1 & 2 Parent Phonics Meeting

16th November – Odd Socks Day – normal school uniform with odd socks

13th November – Children in Need - children may come to school dressed in disco clothes (appropriate for the weather and playing outside in) as we will be taking part in the Strictly Dance!

27th November – Christmas in the Forest – this is a free event after school for you to attend as a family, more details will be shared next term

Attendance Matters

We would also like to remind families about the importance of **regular school attendance.** Every school day counts, and being in school every day helps children to keep up with their learning, build friendships, develop confidence and make the most of all the opportunities school has to offer. As we start the school year, we encourage all families to make attendance a priority and to ensure children arrive at school on time, ready to learn. Don't forget the children are working towards achieving a bronze, silver or gold certificate which will be presented in assembly.

School Uniform

Please make sure your child is attending school in the correct uniform, this includes the correct PE kit as well. We have noticed some children not wearing the correct school uniform. If your child does not have the correct school uniform and you need support in getting it, please let us know as we would be very happy to help out.

Safeguarding – Online Safety

Children often spend more increased time on devices during breaks. Take a few minutes this month to review privacy settings on new or existing devices, check app age limits (many social media platforms require users to be 13+), and know who your child is communicating with.

Let your child know they can always come to you or a trusted adult at school if something online or in person upsets, confuses, or worries them. Reassure them that you will stay calm so they feel safe sharing problems.

If you have any concerns or need early support, please reach out to our **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs Evans, or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL), Mrs Rouse,** via the school office.

For independent online safety advice, visit the NSPCC Online Safety Guide or Internet Matters.

Staff updates

As we start our new term, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Pearson who has joined our FS team working with identified children. In addition, we welcome Miss Harvey, a trainee teacher who will be working in Year 1, supported by Mrs Salamanca and Miss Ockwell, a trainee teacher who will be working in Year 2, supported by Miss Mangham.

We say goodbye to Miss Miller who has moved to the Blue Kite Trust Lighthouse Team this term. We wish her all the best in her new role in the Trust. We would like to take this opportunity for the fantastic work Miss Miller has done with our children and families and we know some of you will be very sad to see her going. Thank you, Miss Miller for your wonderfully caring nature and for always being there for us!

School Place Applications

The main secondary school application period window opened on 1 September 2026 and will finish at midnight on 31 October 2026 for children due to start secondary school in September 2027, Your child must have been born between **1 September 2015** and **31 August 2016**. Local secondary schools will hold open days and open evenings and families always find it useful to attend such events. These are often advertised on the schools' websites.

The application window for primary school places opened on 1 September 2026 and closes at midnight on 15 January 2027. You will be able to apply for a primary or infant school place to start in September 2027 for children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023. Information for parents is available on the Swindon Borough Council Website: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school_places_and_admissions/427/primary_school_places_and_admissions The website includes the link for parents to apply online and also includes the admissions guide.

Ferndale Primary School and Nursery

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

Friends of Ferndale (FOF) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Friends of Ferndale (FOF) AGM will take place on Friday 16th October 2026, at 1pm in the Blue Kite Conference centre. At this meeting we will be electing a new Committee for 2026 to 2027 and sharing the successes of the previous year.

As the parent or carer of a child at Ferndale Primary School, you are automatically a member of the PTA. The meeting is open to everyone. Please come and join us! If you would like to stand as

Thinking of becoming a school governor?

The Ferndale governing team would like to welcome all new and returning families to a new year at Ferndale! We're sure it's going to be another great year filled with fun, friendships and lots of learning and discovery.

We currently have a few vacancies for governors and would like to welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a school governor to observe our next meeting, which is on 1st October in the evening. To be a school governor you can be a parent, grandparent or carer of a child at Ferndale, and we also welcome other members of the community. You will need to have a bit of time to commit to learning about the school and helping us make sure that the wonderful Ferndale team continue to give the children the very best learning experience. To register your interest or find out further information about what is involved, please contact the school office or email elegg@governors.bluekitetrust.org

Year Group Parent Workshops

Thank you for attending the year group parent workshops run by the class teachers. We hope you found them informative. Please don't forget to have a chat at drop off or pick up if you have any concerns, queries or information you want to pass on to your child's class teacher.

Assessments

We are very pleased to let you know that last year's Year 6s did superbly well in their end of Year KS2 SATs. As a school, the percentage of children achieving age expected for each of the subjects was better than the previous year's national percentage. Our fabulous children don't just stop there though…
Our current Year 5's out performed national data in their multiplication tests, when in Year 4, with 48% children achieving full marks, this was above the national data from the previous year of 37%!

Similarly, our wonderful Year 2's out performed last year's national data with 82.1% passing their phonics assessment at the end of year 1, compared to 80% nationally the previous year!
A very big well done to all our children.

Ferndale Family Fun Day!

Our Ferndale Family Fun Day is taking place on **Saturday 3rd October, 11am to 1pm**. Come along and join in the Autumn activities including our 'Throw the welly' competition. Just like our Opal play at lunchtimes, this will take place outside come rain or shine, so come along appropriately dressed for the weather!

Cycling Safety

We have noticed a number of children riding their bikes without helmets. Whilst it is lovely to see so many children on their bikes we would strongly recommend your child wearing a helmet at all times. We are happy to store these in school so they do not fall off or get wet during the school day.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year and making 2026–27 a happy, successful and memorable year for every child.

The Leadership Team