

Farnham Primary School Newsletter

November 2024

Welcome back after the half-term break. It's been a busy first half-term and we are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication shown by your children in all aspects of their learning.

Attendance

We've seen a significant improvement in attendance rates this term. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your children are present and ready to learn every day. Consistent attendance is crucial for academic success, and we are committed to continuing this positive trend.

Autumn Celebrations

Our first 'party' was a huge success and the feedback from children and parents has been amazing. Nearly 200 pupils attended over the 2 events! With input from our School Council, we are looking at planning further after-school events - watch this space!

Thank you to the staff who gave up their own time to make these events happen.

Assemblies

Thank you to everyone who has attended an assembly this half-term. Your children really love to see a family member or friend in the audience and our Stars of the Week are enjoying their place in the 'Best seats in the house' on the stage during assembly.

Class assembly

Thursday 2.45pm - 3pm

Achievement assembly

Friday 8.50am - 9.20am

Our brand new Lunchtime Award is also proving popular as the weekly winners enjoy their lunch with their class in the 'Lunchtime Party Room'.

Parking

There are still ongoing concerns from the community about the dangerous parking on Stratford Road. Please adhere to the road markings and do not park directly in front of school.

Respect our neighbours and do not block exits and driveways when parking.

Thank you

WINTER FAIR



Wednesday 18th December

Following the success of our Summer Fairs over the past few years, we have been asked by a number of parents to organise a Winter Fair.

If you are interested in having a stall, please speak to a member of the office team.

Farnham Community Hub

Mrs Ravat (our Learning Mentor) has been busy developing our new Farnham Community Hub. This will be a warm space where the whole community can come together.

We will be creating a Farnham Food Bank, a uniform swap shop, parent classes and workshops.

If you have any suggestions or would like to support in anyway, please speak to Mrs Ravat in the playground at the start or end of the school day.

Further details will be shared soon of the official opening of our community hub. We hope that you will be able to join us.



Outdoor Play And Learning

We have already started to make improvements to playtime and lunchtime by;

- Improving the canteen setting so that pupils have more space and opportunities to eat with friends in a calm environment.
- Split playtimes so that pupils have more space to play.
- Providing each class with a personalised selection of play equipment to support their physical development and team skills.

To improve these crucial times of day even further, we will soon be starting the OPAL programme at Farnham. OPAL is an award-winning, mentor supported school improvement programme that addresses all the areas that schools must plan for if they want to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of their play opportunities. OPAL is the only programme of its kind that has been independently proven to sustainably improve the quality of play in British primary schools.

We have already started preparing by sourcing some equipment such as tyres, pallets and scooters but we need your help!

Please let us know if you know of anyone who can donate milk or grocery crates, carpet samples, hoses, pipes, guttering and tubes of any kind, metal pots, netting, planks, scaffold boards, tarps or steering wheels.



Important Diary Dates

We would like as many parents to join us for assemblies, workshops, events and celebrations throughout the year. So that you can plan ahead as much as possible, please find below important dates for your diary for the Autumn term. For all events, please come to the main entrance. Everybody welcome!

Date	Time	Focus
Monday 4th November	8.35am	School opens
Tuesday 5th November		Year 4 trip to Cineworld
Wednesday 6th November		Year 3 trip to National Coal Mining Museum
Monday 11th November	9am - 9.30am	Year 6 parent reading workshop
Thursday 14th November		Year 5 trip to The Light
Thursday 14th November	2.45pm - 3pm	Strong Class Assembly
Friday 15th November		Children in Need Day
Thursday 21st November	2.45pm - 3pm	Rauf Class Assembly
Friday 22nd November		Staff training day - school closed
Wednesday 27th November		Year 5 trip to Bronte Parsonage Museum
Thursday 28th November	2.45pm - 3pm	Jeffers Class Assembly
Friday 29th November	2pm - 3pm	Year 4 parent DT workshop
Tuesday 3rd December	1.30pm - 2pm	Year 2 parent DT workshop
Wednesday 4th December— Monday 9th December		Scholastic Book Fair in school
Thursday 5th December	2.45pm - 3pm	School Council Assembly
Tuesday 10th December		Year 6 trip to The Imperial War Museum
Thursday 12th December	2.45pm - 3pm	Rosen Class Assembly
Friday 13th December	2.15 - 2.45pm	Year 5 parent maths workshop
Wednesday 18th December		Christmas lunch & jumper day
Wednesday 18th December		Winter Fair
Friday 20th December	3.10pm	School closes for Christmas holidays
Monday 6th January 2025	8.35am	School reopens

Government updates to pupil attendance

The government have made some significant changes regarding pupil attendance over the summer.

It is important that you speak to Mrs Keenan or Mrs Buckley if you are intending to travel abroad during term time.

ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 2 parents = £1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

4

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

2ND TIME

2 parents and 1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.
A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child
1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000



Asda Cashpot for Schools

Our Cashpot is steadily rising and we have nearly **£220**. There's still time to support us!

Please download the Asda Rewards app, select Farnham Primary School, and when you shop at Asda using Rewards, the supermarket will give Farnham 0.5% of the value of your shop.

And finally...

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Farnham Primary School. We appreciate the role you play in your child's education and look forward to working together to achieve even greater success in the future.

If you have any questions or queries, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact one of our Senior Leadership Team.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs S Keenan
Acting Headteacher

THANK YOU