

Farley Hill Primary School

24th January 2025

Newsletter Number 718

Items for Action:

- Dates for the calendar

Items for Information:

- 2025 Term Calendar dates
- Sports Fixtures

Dear Parents and Carers

We ended a week with what I have heard was a marvellous assembly by Beech class showcasing all their recent achievements in their learning. Miss Clarke was very pleased she was able to watch it and thanks to Beech, Mrs Howard and all the team in Year 5. This week I have seen the penguins that Acorns and Conkers have made that move! The children have been so clever at making them and using split pins to make their flippers move side to side. Year 2 have been learning about Neil Armstrong this week and how he was the first man on the moon – they know lots of facts about him and travelling to the moon. I also spotted Year 4 using watercolours this week to create washes and blend colours. Lots of skills and knowledge being learnt in school every day!

Thank you to all the parents who responded to our Traffic Survey this week. I shared all your comments with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) before meeting with them on Thursday. It was a long meeting and WBC are tied to some degree by the fact the school is still within a developmental area and our road is not yet adopted by WBC. However, I did stress we are a growing school and the traffic issues will only continue to get worse as the number of families joining the school increases. They are completing a feasibility of what could be done on Biggs Lane and will get back to us asap. They also encouraged us to contact the local Parish council to ask them to support us financially with any developments Wokingham might be able to provide. This will help us when WBC decide which projects they can complete in a timely manner. If you are involved in Barkham or Arborfield Parish Councils please let me know – thank you.

Can I ask again that people are particularly considerate when driving through the school site and remember that it is a **one-way system only** please do not cross traffic or reverse onsite. Thank you.

I need to apologise to our **wonderful PTA team** as I forgot to mention that the PTA had kindly paid for the exciting Teach Rex experience all the children participated in last week. They have also recently paid for a new Bluetooth sound system (which you might have seen at our Christmas Singalong), books for phonics and in the library, equipment and resources for the KS1 Outdoor learning area, a school sports kit for events, chimes and

they shared the cost of the new noticeboard with the school too. We so appreciate all their support. Please, please, please help them if you can. I know they would welcome further support on the committee or volunteering at events. Everybody is welcome and they make such a huge difference to our school.

They are also ready to start the Woodland outdoor learning area at the back of the school playground. Final designs for its layout are in (based on ideas children submitted) and costings are being agreed. If you feel you have the skills or the time to help in the work that will be needed please let us know – every little helps to move the project forward for the benefit of all our children.

Finally, I just need to thank the amazing staff team here at school, the teachers, teaching assistants, Admin and catering teams. We have had a large number of staff off sick this week with this awful flu bug that is around. Those in school have been wonderful at supporting each other and myself to ensure your children's learning and their lunches have not been impacted. To those staff who are ill

we wish you all the very best and a speedy recovery. I consider myself very lucky to be the Headteacher at a school where the community spirit amongst the staff is so supportive and always focused on providing the best they can for the children, in tricky circumstances this week.

I hope you all have a lovely, peaceful weekend

Best wishes

Head Teacher



2025 Term Calendar Dates

SPRING TERM		
Monday	06/01/25	Inset Day
Tuesday	07/01/25	First day of Spring Term
Wednesday	08/01/25	Yr 6 Lion King
Friday	24/01/25	Yr 5 Beech Class Assembly
Friday	31/01/25	Yr 1 Silver Birch Class Assembly
Monday - Friday	17/02 – 21/02/25	Half Term
Thursday	06/02/25	Yr 4 Native American Day
Thursday	06/02/25	Yr 1 Natural History Museum Oxford
Monday	24/02/25	Inset Day
Friday	04/04/25	Last day of Spring Term 1PM close
SUMMER TERM		
Tuesday	22/04/25	First day of Summer Term
Monday	05/05/25	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Friday	23/05/25	Inset Day
Monday - Friday	26/05 – 30/05/24	Half Term
Wednesday	23/07/25	Last day of Summer Term 1PM close

Sickness

Please be aware that if your child has been sick (vomited) or had an upset tummy (diarrhoea) they cannot return to school until 48 hours have passed since the last bout of illness.

NHS guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

This Weeks Awards

Unicorn Awards			Values Leaf Awards		
Hattie	R	Acorns	Sofia	R	Acorns
Holly P	R	Conkers	Bethany	R	Conkers
Jackson	1	Holly	Niv	1	Holly
Abdullah	1	Silver Birch	Freddie	1	Silver Birch
Florence	2	Aspen	Daisy	2	Aspen
Noah	2	Maple	Anayah	2	Maple
Jaylen	3	Sycamore	Evie	3	Sycamore
Finley	4	Willow	Holly	4	Willow
Beech Class	5	Beech	Florence	5	Beech
Edward	6	Oak	Reid	6	Oak

Weekly Birthdays

We wish the following children, a very happy birthday this week:

Charlie F
Daisy G
Danny
Lincoln
Matthew



Weekly House Winner

Saturn



Weekly Attendance Cup Willow Class



Lunch Bookings

Due to the volume of children whose lunches are not being booked and dietary requirements, from now on **anyone not booked** will automatically go down as a JACKET POTATO – this covers all allergens and vegetarians.

Thankyou for your continued support, Catering Team.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Farley Hill!

The book fair will be open after school on:

Thursday 30th January

Friday 31st January



Every year this gives us a fantastic opportunity for the children to choose some amazing books to buy and read AND if enough books are purchased at the book fair we are awarded FREE BOOKS for the school! Come and support us after school on Thursday 30th and Friday 31st January. We can accept **cash***** and **online payment via a QR code** (card details will be required for this) at the book fair. We are also trialling a card machine so hopefully we will be able to take payment via card too!

We will be open at the end of school day outside the front of the school (by the hall).

There will be books galore and even some stationery too! Children will have the opportunity to visit the book fair during the school day to have a look at the book selection. Books will only be sold at the end of the school day.

***** we will be unable to provide 1p change so please be aware if paying in cash we will**

Parking – Polite reminder

Please refrain from parking in the residents and visitor car parks on the residential roads near the school.

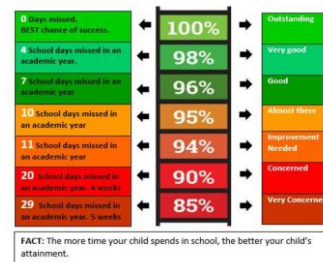
Several people have had an idea that may help the traffic flow through the school and on Baston Road. If all drivers could make a left hand turn onto Biggs Lane where it meets Baston Road (after exiting the school). This may help the flow of traffic leaving the school site not come to a standstill.

By driving down to the roundabout and coming back up Biggs Lane it may actually save time for everybody.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs Bateman

Attendance

In the Government's document 'Working together to Improve Attendance' it states: 'All schools have a continuing responsibility to proactively manage and improve attendance across their school community. Attendance is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for all pupils. This is why we continue to set expectations about attendance levels for our children. **However, we work with all families, and especially those with children who have SEN or medical needs, to support them with any attendance concerns regarding their children. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if support would be helpful.**



Playground at Pickup

Please note that the Pirate Ship and Adventure Playground should not be used outside of the school day. We would appreciate it if you could ensure that your younger children do not play on these whilst you are collecting your school children.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs Bateman

Disabled Parking Bays

A polite reminder that disabled parking bays are for parents, grandparents and visitors who require these specific bays. Please do not park in these bays unless you are a blue badge holder. The disabled bays have designated space around the parking bay to allow for easier access. Please also consider that there are a wide range of impairments or conditions not necessarily visible to others, please be considerate and respect others.



Leave of Absence Forms

If your child requires time off school for any medical appointment, please ensure that you complete a Leave of Absence form which can be obtained from our website or paper copy from the Office Reception.