



In partnership with the
Institute of Education



Farley Hill Primary School



18th October 2024

Newsletter Number 707

Items for Action:

- Dates for the calendar

Items for Information:

- 2024-2025 Term Calendar dates

Dear Parents and Carers

The sun has shone – hurray! School has, as always, been busy. Year 4 had a fascinating visit to Woolly Firs Environmental Education Centre on Tuesday. They learned lots of things but the staff there commented on how many good scientific questions they were asking – we like to encourage curious children! Thank you also to the parents who volunteered for this trip and others this half term. Year 6 are due back this evening from a wonderful trip to Condover. The four day residential is always eventful and enjoyable, this year they even had floods! I know they will have learned many skills and they learn many intangible skills as well such as resilience, decision making, courage, determination, teamwork and so much more. We have been singing 'Sing a Song in Unison' in assembly this week and the children are marvellous singers – the song is about everything we value at Farley Hill and to hear them all singing together is just wonderful. Well done also to our year 5/6 Netball Teams who have done so well over the past few weeks representing the school - thank you!

We appreciate your continued support with driving and car parking on site. We continue to liaise with Wokingham Borough Council about the roads and parking – we will let you know when we have any updates.

The PTA AGM was last week and they have kindly supported us in buying books and resources for the children's learning. Their big project is the re-development of our copse wooded area. We will be so excited to get this started this year – we have a landscaper

involved but if you, or someone you know, could help us with materials, soil, plants etc the PTA would love to hear from you. Also, please add to your diaries Winter Wonderland on December 6th!

Have a happy weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday (remember we finish on Thursday 24th at 3.10pm next week).

Best wishes

Head Teacher

2024 – 2025 Term Calendar Dates

Monday	21/10/24	Parents Information Evening 6PM
Thursday	24/10/24	Yr 6 Oak Class Assembly
Friday	25/10/24	Inset Day
Monday - Friday	28/10 – 01/11/24	Half Term
Tuesday	12/11/24	School Photos
Thursday	14/11/24	Yr 4 Willow Class Assembly
Monday	18/11/24	Yr 3 River and Rowing Museum Trip
Wednesday	27/11/24	Yr 4 Viking Day
Wednesday	27/11/24	Parents Evening (4-7PM)
Friday	29/11/24	Yr 3 Sycamore Class Assembly
Monday	02/12/24	Parents Evening (3.45-6.15PM)
Friday	06/12/24	KS1 Christmas Play dress rehearsal
Monday	09/12/24	KS1 Christmas Play PM
Tuesday	10/12/24	KS1 Christmas Play AM
Friday	20/12/24	Last day of Autumn Term 1PM close
SPRING TERM		
Monday	06/01/25	Inset Day
Tuesday	07/01/25	First day of Spring Term
Monday - Friday	17/02 – 21/02/25	Half Term
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

Watch this Space...

... for more on this year's magical *Winter Wonderland* and other fun events!

The PTA held its AGM on Wednesday last week. We have two fantastic new Co-Chairs in Gina Ashwell, whose daughter is in Year 2 and George Brown, who has a son and daughter in Years 3 and 5. Many FH parents will already know George as part of the driving force behind our *Dad Power* group.

Warmest thanks and appreciation to our dedicated, outgoing Co-Chairs Rachel Barnett and Abi Schmit, who are both Year 6 parents. Your hard work and your leadership clearly demonstrate that *Together Everyone Achieves More!*



Weekly Birthdays

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

**Willow
Ashton
Seb
Freddie SB**



This Weeks Awards

Unicorn Awards			Values Leaf Awards		
Arthur	R	Acorns	Fraser	R	Acorns
Dominic	R	Conkers	Amari	R	Conkers
Ted	1	Holly	Charlie	1	Holly
Rayyan	1	Silver Birch	Charlie	1	Silver Birch
Evan	2	Aspen	Amara	2	Aspen
Harley	2	Maple	Olivia	2	Maple
Shanzay	3	Sycamore	Lexi	3	Sycamore
Willow Class	4	Willow	Maddison	4	Willow
Veronika	5	Beech	Tegan	5	Beech
Out at Condoover	6	Oak	Out at Condoover	6	Oak

Parents Meeting

Myself and the Senior Leadership Team would like to invite you to a parents meeting, at school, on Monday 21st October at 6pm.

We would like to share with you information on our recent achievements at Farley Hill and our plans and expectations for the coming year. It is an information giving meeting and as such no children should attend – many thanks.

We look forward to seeing you on the 21st.

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.

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.

Please see NHS guidelines here:

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

500 Words Competition

Each year, the BBC run a competition called '500 words'. This is an opportunity for the children to be creative and share their wonderful writing. To enter and to find out more information visit:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>.

Submit your stories online before 9pm on Friday 8 November 2024.

There are two age categories: **5-7 and 8-11 year-olds**. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 Words or less.

We would love children of all abilities to enter; **spelling, punctuation and grammar** are not marked - it's all about creativity!

50 finalists will be invited to go to a glamorous **grand final** at Buckingham Palace in February next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities. There are also lots of **prizes to be won** - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners also win 500 books for their school library.

Not only that, the winning stories will receive an original **illustration** from **Dapo Adeola, Nigel Parkinson, Lydia Monks, Momoko Abe, Rob Biddulph or Yasmeen Ismail**.

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.**



FACT: The more time your child spends in school, the better your child's attainment.

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



PIERCES PUMPKINS

**PIERCES FARM, MORTIMER, READING, RG7
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NETBALL NINJAS



MONDAYS 5-6PM THE HOLT SCHOOL SPORTS HALL AND GYM

Group 1: Years 2, 3, 4

Group 2: Years 5, 6, 7

Qualified coaches and PE teachers

Suitable for beginners

Games against other clubs

Book at www.netball-ninjas.co.uk



Teen Writing Group

AT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY

JOIN IGNITING WRITING,
WOKINGHAM LIBRARY'S TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

FACE TO FACE SESSIONS EVERY SATURDAY
(EXCEPT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)

SESSION FOR YEAR 6-8 9.45AM TO 11.15AM
SESSION FOR YEAR 9-13 11.45AM TO 1.15PM

THE SESSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
YEAR 6 TO YEAR 13 STUDENTS

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES
- USEFUL WRITING TIPS
- GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON STORY IDEAS

ALL SESSIONS NEED TO BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE
TO SIGN UP FOR SESSIONS, VISIT THE EVENTS PAGE ON OUR
WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.WOKINGHAM.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries)



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Igniting Writing, Wokingham Library's Creative Writing Club for Year Sixes



Dear Parent or Guardian,

To introduce myself, my name's Alex Baker and I run a group called **Igniting Writing**. If you've never heard of Igniting Writing before, it's a **creative writing club for Year Six pupils and above, based at Wokingham Library**. Writing can sometimes be seen as a solitary activity, so the aim of the club is to bring together young writers to share their ideas, make friends and develop their story writing skills in a fun and relaxed group environment.

Sessions are free to attend and feature fun writing activities, useful writing tips and group discussions. Each session focuses on a different writing topic each week, from building settings and creating characters to exploring sci-fi and fantasy worlds, so there's something for everyone. Both beginners and more experienced writers are welcome and face to face sessions are held at Wokingham Library every Saturday (excluding school holidays) at the following times:

Session for Year 6-8 pupils, 9:45am to 11:15am

Session for Year 9-13 pupils, 11:45am to 1:15pm

Places for Igniting Writing sessions are limited, so attendance must be booked in advance. Please sign up for Igniting Writing by visiting Wokingham Library's event booking page (<https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/EVENTS?HOMEPRMS=EVSESPARAMS>) and typing Igniting Writing into the 'search for library events' box. Alternatively, please email libraries@wokingham.gov.uk or call 0118 978 1368 to register.

This year Igniting Writing is celebrating its 10th anniversary, having held its first session back in 2014. In that time we've helped thousands of young writers gain confidence and improve their storytelling, been invited into more than 50 local schools and been recognised through several local awards, including the Wokingham Town Council Civic Award 2020, the Wokingham Borough Council Covid-19 Roll of Honour and the Wokingham Mayor's Honour Award 2024.

Igniting Writing also has partnerships with several professional publishing companies, who provide our members with prizes for writing competitions, discounts for their books and authors to be guest speakers at our sessions. The publishing companies we've teamed up with are ZunTold (<https://www.zuntold.com/>), Hashtag Press (<https://www.hashtagpress.co.uk/>), Tiny Ghost Press (<https://www.tinyghostpress.com/>), the Emma Press (<https://theemmapress.com/>), Sweet Cherry Publishing (<https://sweetcherrypublishing.com/>), Hachette Children's Group (<https://www.hachettechildrens.co.uk/>), Bloomsbury Children's Books (<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/childrens/>), Faber and Faber (<https://www.faber.co.uk/>), Candy Jar Books and Neem Tree Press (<https://neemtreespress.com/>).

To find out more about the group, you can find us online:

Website: <https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=Wi6ijfJao4E>

Blog: <http://ignitingwriting.tumblr.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ignitingwriting>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IgnitingWriting>

Regards,

Alex Baker, founder and group leader of Igniting Writing