

# Farley Hill Primary School

4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Newsletter Number 705

## Items for Action:

- Dates for the calendar

## Items for Information:

- Autumn Term Calendar dates

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 6 went back to WW2 this week and had an eventful trip to STEAM. They experienced what it was like in an air raid shelter during the Blitz and also what it was like to be an evacuated child. This all enriches their learning about WW2 and how it was a turning point in history. Year 5 have been to Leighton Park to meet the author, Lisa Williamson and be inspired in their writing. Earlier this week, Year 1 were part of a workshop on Rosh Hashanah and learned what this celebration means to the Jewish faith. Acorns and Conkers have planted bulbs in our sensory garden for Spring next year enriching their learning of plants and how things grow. It's been a busy week but we believe it is important our learning is enriched with activities that consolidate the knowledge we gain in class.

It is the **PTA AGM** on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm. We will meet in the hall and ALL ARE WELCOME! Our PTA are a wonderful group of volunteers who work hard to enable us to have access to all sorts of learning resources and they are currently working on the redevelopment of the wooded area at the back of the school. This could be an amazing learning space for the children – if you would like to be involved or can help, then please, please come along to the AGM meeting this week coming. The more the merrier as they say and, with everything we do at school – it is all for our children's benefit!

As you know we aim for children to have 98% **attendance** at school and we celebrate whole class attendance weekly in our celebration assemblies. The children love being the winning team! We are monitoring attendance on a regular basis and will be looking to work closely with families where attendance falls below 90% and will be monitoring attendance below 95%. We realise that some absence is unavoidable and we ask that you let the school know promptly the reasons for absence (completing an absence form). We would also

ask that medical appointments are made as much as possible outside of school hours. We will liaise with families where there are challenges which might lead to absences and please don't hesitate to contact us for support if needed.

Please can I remind parents that booking **lunches** on Scopay is essential to ensure the children receive the lunch they want and are not disappointed on the day. This is also a necessity for children in the Infants who receive free school meals.

Year 6 parents there is a **meeting about our residential trip to Condoover** on Monday evening at 5.30pm in the hall.

Finally we will have a lovely **Harvest Assembly** on Monday afternoon where any foods we receive will be shared with Wokingham Foodbank. Please see later in the newsletter about which foods to bring in and we welcome any donation you can share with us being brought into school on Monday morning. Thank you in advance.

It has been nice to see the sun for the end of this week, although I don't think the weekend is as sunny! Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you on Monday

Best wishes



Head Teacher

## VIP Invitation

*All Farley Hill Parents and Guardians*

are warmly invited to:

*The AGM of the PTA*

The PTA provides resources for our children's learning, to make their primary school experience as much fun and as enriching as possible.

on: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
at: 6-7.30pm in the School Hall



## 2024 – 2025 Term Calendar Dates

|                    |                  |                                      |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday             | 07/10/24         | Yr 6 Condoover Parent Meeting 5.30pm |
| Monday             | 07/10/24         | Harvest Assembly PM (Children only)  |
| Friday             | 11/10/24         | Yr 5 Beech Class Assembly            |
| Mon-Fri            | 14-18/10/24      | Yr 6 Condoover Residential           |
| Tuesday            | 15/10/24         | Yr 4 Woolley Firs Trip               |
| 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    |
| <b>SPRING TERM</b> |                  |                                      |
| Monday             | 06/01/25         | Inset Day                            |
| <b>Tuesday</b>     | <b>07/01/25</b>  | <b>First day of Spring Term</b>      |
| 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    |
| <b>SUMMER TERM</b> |                  |                                      |
| <b>Tuesday</b>     | <b>22/04/25</b>  | <b>First day of Summer Term</b>      |
| 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    |

## Harvest Festival Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Parents can kindly donate produce on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October for our Harvest Festival Assembly

All the produce you donate goes to local food banks, charities in Reading and Wokingham, who use the food for making up food parcels for the needy in the area and in their 'soup' kitchen. The food banks would particularly welcome the following dried or tinned items.

- Tinned Spaghetti
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Potatoes
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Meat

Fresh produce should be avoided.

Following the service, the food will be loaded by the Year 6 children into the charity vans. The food really does help many families in our local area. This event is for children and staff only.



## Weekly Birthdays

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

Imogen  
Flo E  
Harry D  
Alfie B  
Jonah G



## This Weeks Awards

| Unicorn Awards |   |              | Values Leaf Awards |   |              |
|----------------|---|--------------|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Sienna         | R | Acorns       | Maja               | R | Acorns       |
| Billie         | R | Conkers      | Evie               | R | Conkers      |
| Matthew        | 1 | Holly        | Tom                | 1 | Holly        |
| Emma           | 1 | Silver Birch | Rosie              | 1 | Silver Birch |
| Henry          | 2 | Aspen        | Koko               | 2 | Aspen        |
| Amelie         | 2 | Maple        | Maddie             | 2 | Maple        |
| Suhas          | 3 | Sycamore     | Riley              | 3 | Sycamore     |
| Elin           | 4 | Willow       | Pranavi            | 4 | Willow       |
| Wraith         | 5 | Beech        | Isla               | 5 | Beech        |
| Jude           | 6 | Oak          | Sam                | 6 | Oak          |

## Value of the Month

### Kindness

### Ambassadors

|                     |   |              |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| Romilly and Dyson   | 1 | Holly        |
| Henry and Willow    | 1 | Silver Birch |
| Scarlett and Max    | 2 | Aspen        |
| Dasiy and Noah      | 2 | Maple        |
| Sophie and Oliver H | 3 | Sycamore     |
| Theo and Grace      | 4 | Willow       |
| Isha and Tommie     | 5 | Beech        |
| Alona and Zac       | 6 | Oak          |

### **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.

## 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



# YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

**JOIN THE PTA!**

Are you passionate about making a difference to your children's education? We're looking for enthusiastic parents to join the Farley Hill PTA TEAM!

## Why Join?

- Support school fundraising events
- Be a voice for your class
- Meet other parents

Whether you have a little time or a lot, your contribution will make a huge difference!



**Together Everyone Achieves More.**

If you're interested, please contact –  
[PTA@farleyhill.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@farleyhill.wokingham.sch.uk)



**JOIN US AT THE AGM**  
 Wednesday 9th October  
 6pm in the School Hall



# Explore Oakbank

Visit us during the day to have a look around the school during our Explore Oakbank mornings.

Tours are at 9am to 10.30am on Monday and Wednesday mornings in the weeks beginning 7 October and 14 October.

Scan the QR code to book the date of your choice...



T. 0118 988 3616 E. [enquiries@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:enquiries@oakbank.anthemtrust.uk)

**anthem**

## 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)







## 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](mailto:libraries@wokingham.gov.uk) or call 0118 978 1368 to register.

This year Igniting Writing is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> 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://neemtreetpress.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