



In partnership with the
Institute of Education



Farley Hill Primary School



13th December 2024

Newsletter Number 714

Items for Action:

- Dates for the calendar

Items for Information:

- 2024-2025 Term Calendar dates
- Sports Fixtures
- PTA Thanks

Dear Parents and Carers

I was very fortunate to attend the Wokingham Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert on Sunday evening at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre. Our choir were performing with 20 other schools and it was a lovely festive concert for all ages. Our choir represented us brilliantly and I was very proud to be their Headteacher. Ava, one of our children in Key Stage 2, showed incredible courage when she beautifully sang the opening verse to Once in Royal David's City as a soloist, and with no musical accompaniment. Everyone there was very impressed and we were very proud of her. Many thanks go to Mrs Brady and Mrs Howard who gave up their own Sunday afternoon to attend the rehearsal and performance with the children.

Year 2 produced a wonderful Nativity earlier this week – their singing was superb and they told the Christian story of Christmas so well. Year 1 also gave fabulous performances of their Christmas show and again their singing was magical. We are looking forward to Nursery and Acorns and Conkers performances next week too. Today, the whole school made Christingles – learning what they represent about the Christmas story. The children were very proud of their individual Christingles and we had a lovely, candlelit assembly to share what we had learned. Thank you to Sue and Penny who led the Christingle making in school and to all the lovely TAs, who with Mrs Hudson, topped and tailed all the oranges for the children to use.

Tonight I saw some beautiful Christmas cakes leaving school! The children in Cookery Club have done a remarkable job making fully iced Christmas cakes for home – I am sure they will be delicious. Thanks to Mrs Paul, Miss Caplin and Miss Bevan for all they do for Cookery Club.

Please can I ask that all children bring their coats into school – the weather has definitely changed. Also, to be clear the school gates close at 8.50am.

There seems to be a growing number of children arriving later than this time, it is usually best if your child can arrive between 8.35am and 8.50am when the register will be taken. Thank you for your support with this. Parking also seems tricky again at the moment. We had an incident this week where parents were very concerned about the safety of a family with young children. Please drive and park carefully on site and be very considerate of the fact that we have small children, who's actions cannot always be predicted, moving through the car park area. Thank you.

Next week is our Christmas lunch on Wednesday - whether you have ordered a Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, or your children are bringing a packed lunch, they will all have a very festive time. Christmas jumpers can be worn with normal uniform on Wednesday (18th). On Thursday after school there are the school discos for Year 3 and 4 (5pm to 6pm) and Years 5 to 6 (6pm to 7pm). Key Stage 1 parties are also on the Thursday afternoon and I know information will be forthcoming about all these events early next week.

Friday is our last day of term. We hope you can join us at 1pm for a Farley Hill family Christmas sing-a-long in the playground.

I hope you have a very lovely, peaceful weekend and we will look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes

Head Teacher

2024 – 2025 Term Calendar Dates

Monday	16/12/24	EYFS and Nursery Concert / Nativity
Tuesday	17/12/24	IRock Concert
Wednesday	18/12/24	Christmas Lunch
Thursday	19/12/24	KS1 Christmas Parties
Thursday	19/12/24	5-6 PM Yr3/4 Disco
Thursday	19/12/24	6-7 PM Yr5/6 Disco
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

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.

This Weeks Awards

Unicorn Awards			Values Leaf Awards		
Baladev	R	Acorns	Ariana	R	Acorns
Arya	R	Conkers	Holly	R	Conkers
Holly Class	1	Holly	Tallulah	1	Holly
Silver Birch Class	1	Silver Birch	Ethan	1	Silver Birch
Colin	2	Aspen	Henry	2	Aspen
Joshua	2	Maple	Emily	2	Maple
Evie	3	Sycamore	Lochie	3	Sycamore
Rowan	4	Willow	Lizzie	4	Willow
Jessica	5	Beech	Austin	5	Beech
Maddison	6	Oak	Oak Class	6	Oak

Weekly Birthdays

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

Grayson

Cali

Jacob W

Aarial



Weekly Attendance Cup Willow Class



Weekly House Winner

Saturn



Christmas Post Box

We are very excited to have our Christmas Post Box in the Reception foyer by the office. If your children would like to send cards, please ensure that the cards are addressed to include Name and Class of recipient, then our Elves will sort and process the Christmas Post.

Please note that unfortunately we cannot print class lists due to GDPR. It's a great memory exercise for your child to write a list of their friends.



Christmas Lunch

Our fabulous Christmas Lunch is on **Wednesday 18th December**, Christmas Jumpers are welcome to be worn over school uniform, instead of school jumpers or cardigans.



Christmas Discos

On Thursday 19th December the DJ is coming to town for Years 3 and 4 at 5-6pm and Years 5 and 6 at 6-7pm.

Please bring your child with £2 to the School Hall Door.



Football Teams

Our girls team played Hawkedon on Friday 6th December. Hawkedon were our toughest school yet, beating us 4-0 but in the second half of the match the girls did not let the other team get a single goal, defending the goal many times. We are looking forward to playing more matches in Spring Term.



Last Friday a team of Year 5/6 boys from our football squad represented our school at an all-day Tournament at Cantley Park. They had to play 6 games with other local schools. The boys defended many goals and worked together as a TEAM. All the boys were in high spirits for the whole day and did the school proud. They finished their day with more 'friendlies' which they really enjoyed, gaining a lot of experience. A big thank you to Coach Sally and Mr Braham for going with them and coaching them throughout the day.



Christingle

Yesterday we celebrated Christingle with each child making a Christingle in school with the help of Sue and Penny from the Children's Society. We then celebrated with an assembly where the choir sang Love Shone Down beautifully.



Parking – Polite reminder

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

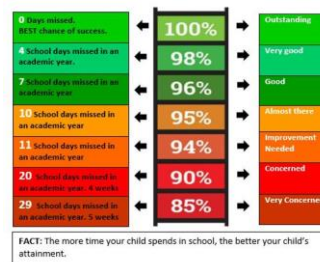
Several people have had an idea that may help the traffic flow through the school and on Baston Road. If all drivers could make a left hand turn onto Biggs Lane where it meets Baston Road (after exiting the school). This may help the flow of traffic leaving the school site not come to a standstill.

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

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/>

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.

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.



WINTER WONDERLAND THANK YOU!



THE FARLEY HILL PTA AND THE WINTER WONDERLAND COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND HEARTFELT THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS MAGICAL EVENT A SUCCESS!

From the parents who donated gifts and volunteered on the night to the creative talents of 'Dadpower' for crafting Santa's Grotto, we are deeply grateful. Special thanks to:

- Santa and His Elves for bringing festive cheer.
- The Butler Family, especially Russell, for chauffeuring Santa in style on the Big Green Tractor.
- Mrs. Bateman, Miss Clarke, Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Howard, and the choir for their wonderful performance.
- Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Castle, and their team for the delicious treats in the Alpine Café.
- Ms. Martens, Mr. Braham, and the School Office team for their endless support.

Thanks to your efforts and generosity, Winter Wonderland and the Online Auction raised over **£4000** to enhance our children's learning and school experience.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ONLINE AUCTION

A huge thank you to the fantastic local businesses that generously donated vouchers for our Online Auction and to everyone who placed a bid.

If you 'won' your lot, thank you! You should have received details on payment and how to claim your voucher.

Your support helps the PTA continue its work enhancing our children's school experience.

A huge thank you to our wonderful donors:

Arborfill / Berks Henley Dance / CK's Holistic Therapies / Drop Zone Gaming
Duo Dance Studio / Elite Infusions / Headline Hair / Henry Street / Neil Palmer Photography
Oakwood Climbing Centre / Pamper Beautique / Pip Squeak and Roo / Pipfit / Primelase
Pure Serenity / Serenity Mojo / Siren / SJ Yoga and Wellness / Stables / Sula
The Bull Inn Arborfield / The Co-Op / The Serene Room / Xenuk

Arborfill

XENUK

PIP SQUEAK & ROO

The co-operative

STABLES
Sponsoring the PTA

SIREN
CRAFT BEER

The Bull

Neil Palmer
Photography

Henry Street
Garden Centre

OAKWOOD
CLIMBING CENTRE

PRIMELASE

Message from PTA

Winter Wonderland was a huge success and we would like to thank all the school staff for the continuous support; Santa, who brings so many smiles to our children; Mr and Mrs Butler for helping Santa arrive to school in style; and all the PTA rep and parents who volunteer to make the evening magical for all our kids.

Thank you also to the Dad Power Team for building the amazing and magical Grotto for Santa.

WBC Consulting on school admission numbers

We are looking to reduce the number of school places offered to reception pupils in eight primary schools in the borough to help schools to better plan for future resources.

We want to make sure people have the chance to have their voice heard, so please see our [consultation document](#) for full details.

The changes would be in place for the school year 2026/27 at the following schools:

- Radstock Primary School
- Robert Piggott CofE Infant School
- The Colleton Primary School
- Gorse Ride Infant School
- Gorse Ride Junior School
- Bearwood Primary School
- Winnersh Primary School
- Walter Infant School

There are currently significantly more primary school places in Wokingham borough than are needed.

This is due to a decline in the birth rate, which is steeper in the borough than the national average. Families moving into new housing as well as other demographics of local areas mean not all schools have experienced the same decline in applications.

These changes have a major impact on school operations, as funding received is per child, not per class.

By reducing school places offered, these proposals will allow schools to structure and plan more effectively and be more financially stable, all leading to better quality education.



We warmly invite you to join us over this festive season and learn more about the real reason we celebrate Christmas

Christingle and Carols

Sunday 15th December - 4.00 pm

Come and make your own Christingle and hear about the birth of Jesus Refreshments served afterwards

Family Carols

Sunday 22nd December - 4.00 pm

Join us as we sing carols and enjoy a fun family service

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December - 10.00 am

An all-age service celebrating the birth of Jesus

Arborfield Green Community Centre
Sheerlands Rd, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9ND

 **Church@TheGreen**
Arborfield Green