



FARNDON NEWSFLASH

Dear Parents / Carers,

A belated Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring term. The children have made an amazing start to this term and have clearly enjoyed being back with their peers and the staff. Usually, on the first week back we do a whole school project as part of our GET SET GO curriculum. We always have a quality text at the centre of it to inspire the teachers to plan creative elements in response such as art, writing and performance poetry; but more on that below.

You will have noticed my absence on the school gate these last few days. I have had some surgery that was planned and it has meant I have been unable to come into school these last few weeks. However, I have managed to keep up to date and carry out some work as I recover and recuperate (whilst trying to avoid my wife's glares). Hopefully, I will be back for the start of February and I must thank all the staff who have worked so hard to cover my absence and to those who have sent their well wishes. I am certainly looking forward to seeing the children again soon!

The first big test of the School Spider app appeared to go well. We put on an online OFSTED style questionnaire and had 58 responses. I was very pleased to see 98.3% of parents felt their child was well looked after with 64.4% strongly agreeing. And 94.9% of parents felt their child was taught well with 62.7% strongly agreeing. 96.6% of parents also felt their child makes good progress with 55.9% strongly agreeing.

I predict that 2024 will be another fabulous year for our school and the wider community.
Mr Walker – Headteacher

SPORTS ROUND UP

Throughout the winter term, we have had several pupils participate in the West Cheshire Cross Country championships. Poppy (Yr4) and Oscar (Yr3) won overall Bronze; Blake (Yr3) won overall silver; and Henry (Yr3) won overall gold. Our Year 3 boys also won an overall gold trophy for the school.

Mr Bond took the Year 3 and 4 athletes to a tournament against other Broxton schools.

Our team of 10 boys and 10 girls competed in sprint races and field events including jumping and throwing. With 30 points, we won team gold.



YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

- If your child is ill and will be absent from, you can simply report the absence through the School Spider app. This sends a direct message to the office and Headteacher who can then authorise it.
- A polite reminder that the gates open at 8:45am and the expectation is that pupils are in for registration by 8:55am. The amount of pupils drifting in at 9:00am and even beyond is creeping up once again. If your child is late after 9:10am, it goes down as an absence and 10 or more in a term can lead to fixed penalty.



FARNDON GOVERNORS

Lindsey Lancelotte, who has been our Chair of Governors for 6 years, took the decision to step down as both Chair and as a Governor within our school. During her time as Chair, and the years preceding, she has given huge support to the school and its senior leadership team. She was an integral part of the team that worked on the large building expansion back in 2018 and led the Governing Body through our most recent inspection. As Headteacher, I will miss her council and the unwavering positive support she gave to our school. Everyone here at Farndon thanks her for all the contributions she has made and wish her well in the future.

COLOUR WAS EVERYWHERE IN MILESTONE 2

Within Milestone 2, they explored the colours green, pink and black. They focused their work on birds that were these colours and researched lots of different exotic birds that they didn't even know existed, such as the Pink Robin!

They created fact file books about their chosen bird, learnt how to sketch a detailed feather and created some lovely bird drawing for our displays. They also wrote a story about their chosen bird and an adventure that they went on. Those creative juices were certainly flowing within Years 3 and 4.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th Feb: Mental Health Week

8th Feb: Jodrell Bank trip for Year 5 and 6

13th Feb: Year 6 Parents' Evening

14th Feb: Year 6 Parents' Evening (Kestrels only)

16th Feb: Half term break-up

26th Feb: Pupils return to school

14th March: Nantwich trip (Year 1)

21st March: Nantwich trip (Year 2)

26th March: Strings Concert (Year 5)

27th March: End of Spring term for pupils

28th March: INSET day

15th April: Pupils return to school

For those parents looking to book their holiday getaways and want them to coincide with the school holiday dates to avoid a fixed penalty, the 2024 - 25 academic dates are available on our website.

<https://www.farndon.cheshire.sch.uk/page/term-dates/3587>

SCHOOL DINNERS

Menus are available on the school website:

Week beginning 29th Jan: Menu Week 1

Week beginning 5th Feb: Menu Week 2

Week beginning 12th Feb: Menu Week 3

For menus, please follow the link below:

<http://www.farndon.cheshire.sch.uk/page/school-dinners/4281>

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Our first trial with the School Spider app went extremely well. Thank you to the 58 people who completed the questionnaire, which is now available on the website:

<https://www.farndon.cheshire.sch.uk/page/parent-view/4322>

The responses were overwhelmingly positive and it will help us to plan for future school improvements.

COLOUR WAS IN MILESTONE 3 AS WELL

As part of *Get, Set Go!* Year 5 and 6 focussed on the colours 'purple' and white from the book *Colours, colours everywhere* by Julia Donaldson! They created some beautiful poetry, focussing on different emotions instigated from these colours and their different shades. In year 6, they created their own colour palettes (Farrow and Ball eat your heart out!) from water colours where they mixed different shades of Amethyst, Witches' Cloak, Blackberry Jam, Meet Me at Midnight and Lavender to name just a few, while year 5 focussed on creating poetry related to white animals and creatures of the natural world. We also went on to create our own "Scratch Art" inspired by the pages of our book.

FOXES CLASS CHOSE BLUE

Year 1 wrote their own poem thinking about the colour BLUE as part of their response to *Colours Everywhere*. As a class, the children also helped to choreograph movements to go with the poem which was performed to Mr Walker at the end of the week. The children used mosaic to show each line of the poem through art.



SCHOOL SPIDER APP

The roll out of the School Spider app has started well. Soon, it will be time for its next big test - digital sign up to book a time slot for Parents' Evening meetings.

Year 6 have asked for their meetings to be moved earlier within the term and will take place on the 13th and 14th February (Kingfishers is on 1 night - 13th). Booking slots should become "live" for the parents of Year 6 pupils on the 1st February at 4:00pm so that parents can then book a time.

Many parents are already using it to report absences and complete questionnaires and soon we will use it to send positive messages about our pupils.

If you still haven't managed to sign up for the app on your phone, there is still time! Details on how to access it and to sync it to your child are on the letter that can be found on the school website:

<https://www.farndon.cheshire.sch.uk/page/letters/65001>

Or ask at the school office.

