



Farnham Primary School

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22nd April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all of those who attended the parent breakfast meeting this morning in our main hall. There is another meeting on Wednesday morning from 8.45am with Mrs Perry, our SENDCO. This meeting is for parents of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities - everyone is welcome!

Please find below a brief overview of the main points that were covered during the meeting this morning.

Attendance

We want to work with parents so that children are in school **every day** and **on time (8.35 am - 3.10 pm)**. Please do not book holidays during term time and try to make appointments out of school hours. If you need to make appointments during the school day, then try and make them for the afternoons so that pupils are not missing lessons in core subjects.

We want to give your child the best education and when your child is taken out of lessons or school during term time, their learning is disrupted and it is difficult for them to catch up.

Our whole school attendance so far this year is 93% - our target is 96%

% Attendance so far, per class (September to date)

Class	% attendance	Class	% attendance
6QM	95%	6LE	95%
5JN	96%	5CW	92%
4SS	94%	4JC	96%
3ET	93%	3LA	95%
2ES	93%	2HT	90%
1LK	93%	1HB	97%
RHH	89%	RHM	90%
NAM	88%	NPM	86%

The Government expectation is that **all pupils should have a minimum of 96% attendance**, this is the national average and our whole school target. Well done to 5JN, 4JC and 1HB who have met our target!



Statutory Assessment Tests - dates

Here are the dates for the statutory tests taking place this year.

Monday 13th May - Thursday 17th May	Year 6 KS2 SATS	Please help your child revise maths, English and grammar, punctuation and spelling.
Monday 3 rd June (2 weeks)	Year 4 Multiplication tables check	Please help your child to learn their times tables.
Monday 10 th June - Friday 15 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check	Please help your child to learn their phonic sounds.

Please encourage your children to read everyday! Research shows that children who read or share lots of books make accelerated progress in all areas of the curriculum. Reading sparks your child's imagination and stimulates curiosity. It helps develop your child's brain, ability to focus, concentration, social skills and communication skills. So let's keep reading ...

Parent workshop dates

Here are the dates for this term's parent workshops. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible as they are a great opportunity for you to see what your child is learning in school.

Nursery	Wednesday 17th July 2024 10.45am & 2.15pm	Plant a sunflower
Reception	Tuesday 9th July 2024 2pm - 2.45pm	Design technology - team building
Year 1	Tuesday 11th June 2024 2pm - 2.45pm	Cross-curricular maths
Year 2	Friday 28th June 2024 1.30pm - 2.30pm	Art - African masks
Year 3	Friday 10th May 2024 2pm - 2.45pm	Art - Pop Art printing
Year 4	Friday 10th May 2024 2pm - 3pm	Art - canopic jars
Year 5	Friday 26th April 2024 2.30pm - 3pm	Maths Passports
Year 6	Friday 28th June 2024 1.30pm - 2.30pm	Islamic Illumination sculpture

Charitable donations

We have successfully raised lots of money for charity through our non-uniform days and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous donations.

We raised **£177.30** for Comic Relief, **£173** for Save the Children to support children and their families affected by the war in Gaza and a total of **£323.82** for school funds which we are very excited to be able to replenish the school library with some new and exciting books for the children to read. We collected 68kg of food for the Bradford Foodbank and this provided 102 meals for hungry families in Bradford.

My Happy Mind & Mental Health Support Team

We have introduced My Happy Mind to all pupils from Nursery to Year 6. The programme is designed to prepare children for tomorrow's world by building resilient, balanced and happy minds at home, nursery and school. So far, the children are really enjoying their My Happy Mind sessions in school so we are now inviting parents to download the My Happy Mind app to continue the programme at home. Further details will be sent in a separate letter via Marvellous Me.

We are also lucky to have the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) who will be based at Farnham one day a week. They will be working with us to provide support to children, school staff, parents, and carers. They offer therapy and support to young people who may be struggling with mild to moderate mental health difficulties as well as supporting us to adopt a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.

Therapy Pets

We will soon be welcoming Honey & Fudge, our new school therapy pets to Farnham. Pets in school have been proven to help develop pupils' reading skills, improve behaviour, attendance and academic confidence, as well as increasing children's understanding of responsibility and supporting them to develop empathy and nurturing skills. So that your child can have the opportunity to care for our school pets, please make sure that you complete the Google form that has been sent via the Marvellous Me app.

Special Events Week

From Monday 20th May to Friday 24th May is Special Events Week. This year's focus is on celebrating Farnham's cultural diversity. Teachers will be planning a wide range of exciting activities for their classes linked to the different heritages and cultures of the pupils in their class. We would love for you to be involved so if you feel that you have any skills or resources to support our special week, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Eid Mela

We are holding our annual Eid Mela on Friday 21st June from 1.30pm. We are hoping that this year's fair will be bigger and better than ever before! More details to follow nearer the time. We will be having a huge raffle so any donations for prizes would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in making a prize donation for our raffle or having a stall of your own, please speak to our office team for further details.

Holiday dates to remember

School is closed;

- Monday 6th May (bank holiday).
- From 3.10pm on **Friday 24th May** to 8.35am on **Monday 3rd June 2024**.
- Monday 17th June (training day).

Staff changes

3AR are now officially known as 3LA! Mr Antony has joined the Farnham team as Miss Ryan will soon be leaving us to start her maternity leave. We wish her the best of luck as she becomes a new mum.

As some of you may know, Mrs Bains has been ill since January. We continue to wish her well and hope that she makes a speedy recovery. I will continue in my role as Acting Headteacher until she returns so please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or questions.

I thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'SK' followed by a long horizontal line.

Mrs S Keenan
Acting Headteacher