



We have another busy term in store with some exciting things planned for the children, especially now the enrichment part of our curriculum is now finished.

Thank you to parents who completed our PSHE questionnaire. It's really valuable to capture your views. The team is now reviewing the responses and looking at ways to include these key aspects in our practice. Thank you also to those parents who joined us for our phonics & reading workshops. We were thrilled with the number of parents who attended. There will be more workshops coming up in the future to provide you with more details about how you can support your child at home in this area.

## Healthy Lunchboxes

Within school we're continuing to promote healthy snacks and lunchboxes. We know that some of our children will only eat certain foods or have a restricted diet but where possible we'd like the children to have a healthy balanced diet. With this in mind, please avoid sending your child to school with take away meals from fast food chains. If you'd like to make changes to your child's lunchbox but not sure of the best way to do please get in touch with your child's class teacher, Janice (family support worker) or our school nurse Ann-Marie. More information can also be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Following a review of our health and safety practices in school around food, we have made the decision to stop heating or re-heating food items that are sent in at lunchtime. This is so we can be compliant with food safety guidelines and reduce the possibility of food poisoning to as low a level as possible. If you wish your child to continue to have hot food at lunchtime, please send the heated cooked food to school in the most appropriate container ie. a food thermos flask or a thermal lunch box. Food insulation containers are readily available from the majority of high street shops or from internet suppliers.

Some of the children in school have an ARFID diagnosis and/or have support from the complex feeding team. If your child receives support from this service, please let us know so we can work together in this area.



## Lending Library

We hope that your child is enjoying sharing a book with you at home. Please remember to return the book to school so we can swop it for another one. If books are not returned, we may not be able to continue with the Lending Library. Please also remember to write in the reading diary.



## African Drumming



As part of our topic on places and celebrating multi cultural texts, we have organised for the children to experience African drumming in school. We have a musician coming in on Monday 11th March to work with the children. They will have the opportunity to watch the performance and then have a go themselves.

## Mid Point Progress

As we are now half way through the year, the teachers have updated their assessments of the children. This year we will be using Evidence for Learning to create a progress report which will show how many steps progress your child has made since September. We are aiming for this to be sent out using the evidence for learning family app next week. Once you have received it, please contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions. If you would like a copy emailed or printed, please let the office know.



### Online Safety Coffee Morning

Please join us on Thursday 21st March 9.30-11.30am for our Online Safety Coffee Morning. We have Simon Aston, Online Safety and Wellbeing Officer at West Northamptonshire Council joining us to talk about how to keep your children safe when online. Simon will present key information about the risk when your child is online and things you can do to keep your child safe. There will also be a chance for you to ask him any questions you may have.

### World Book Day - Thursday 7th March 2024

Our theme for this years World Book Day is MONSTERS. The children can come dressed as their favourite monster OR their favourite Monster Phonics Character. Our English team have worked really hard to plan a great day of monster activities for the children to be involved in.

We understand that some of the children may find dressing up difficult as it is a change of routine. If your child doesn't want to wear a costume that is absolutely fine or you would like them to put on their costume when they get to school, please let your child's class teacher know.



### Celebration Evening

Our Celebration Evening is on Wednesday 6th March 2024. The focus of the evening will be to spend time in the classroom with your child exploring how they learn. You will experience the Enabling and Outside environments and share your child's Learning Journal along with Evidence 4 Learning. Teachers will be available to talk with you, explain practice and share how your child accesses their personalised learning through the day.

The evening will be in two sessions, and you will need to choose which session is convenient for you to attend and celebrate your child's learning. The first session will run from 4.00pm – 5.15pm and the second session will run from 6.00pm – 7.15pm. Please click on the link to select which session you'd like to attend.

<https://forms.office.com/e/s293BhKPt5>



### Easter Assemblies

We will be having our Easter Assemblies and Easter Egg Hunt at the end of term, and it would be lovely if you could join us. Please arrive at 1.30pm.

**Wednesday 27th March** - Early Years (Otter & Duckling) and Key Stage 1 (Dormouse, Rabbit, Hedgehog and Mole)

**Thursday 28th March** - Key Stage 2 (Squirrel, Deer, Badger, Fox, Dove, Kestrel, Owl and Robin)



If you park in the school car park, please ensure you have left by 2.30pm to allow for spaces for Buses and taxis at the end of the day. Younger siblings are allowed to attend, however we ask that if they are noisy you take them out of the assembly so they do not disturb the experience of the children and other parents.

### Year 5 Coffee Morning

If your child is in Year 5, please come and join us on Thursday 16th May 2024 to discuss your options for secondary school and how to apply. More details to follow.

# MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

## The Governments campaign to improve attendance in schools.

It is extremely important that your child attends school regularly. Regular attendance promotes pupils' well-being, maximises progress in learning and helps pupils reach their potential. Good attendance is fundamental to a successful and fulfilling school experience. It is our duty to promote 100% attendance for all children. For our children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital that our pupils are at school, on time, every day the school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

### The DfE have shared some top facts about attendance

#### The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who regularly attended school.

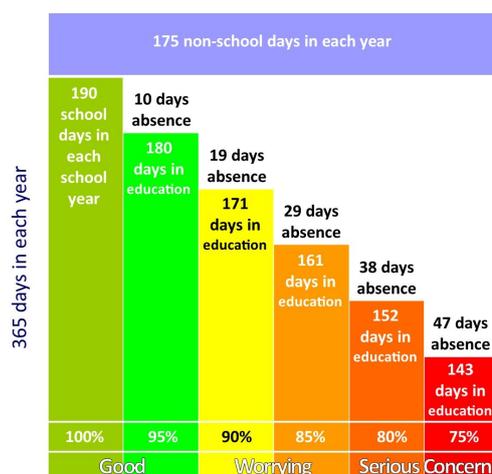
36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, compared with 84% of regular attenders.

#### And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:

More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.

#### But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.



You may have seen in the media that the DfE are making changes to how schools manage attendance from next academic year, this includes how we will work together to improve children's attendance and the new National Framework for Penalty Notices for absence. Over the summer term we will be updating our school policy so this is in line with the new Government Guidance and the School Attendance Support Service at West Northamptonshire Council. Once completed, this will be sent out so you are aware of the changes ready for September.

## Dates for the Year.

We have been asked to share dates with you all with as much notice as possible. Below are the scheduled dates for the year. They are all to be confirmed nearer the time. Please keep an eye on the Parent App for updates

### Coffee Mornings

Thursday 21st March— 9.30am **Online Safety**  
Thursday 9th May — 9.30am  
Thursday 16th May - Time TBC **Year 5 Secondary School**  
Thursday 27th June — 9.30am

### Assemblies

Easter Assemblies inc Easter Egg Hunt— Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March  
End of Year Celebration Assemblies — Monday 22nd July & Tuesday 23rd July

### Parents Evenings

Celebration Evening—Wednesday 6th March  
Tea with the Teachers—Wednesday 10th July

### School Events

- World Book Day — Thursday 7th March
- Eid celebration—Friday 19th April
- Sports Week—20th—24th May
- Olympic Challenge Week - 10th—14th June
- Cooking Day—Friday 28th June

### Parallel Windsor - Sunday 7th July 2024

Parallel Windsor is a Festival of Inclusivity with Challenge Events for all ages, health conditions & abilities. Held in the grounds of the majestic Windsor Great Park & staged on the iconic Long Walk.



**Fairfields are entering a team — would you like to join us and help raise some money for school?**

Walk, push or run - there are no cut off times. **'Start Together, Finish Whenever'**.

Everybody who starts gets a medal, t-shirt & goody bag. Choose from: 100m, 1K, 5K, 10K or our very own SuperSensory 1K. Parallel's innovative SuperSensory 1K supports neurodiversity & participants with profound & multiple learning disabilities to exercise their senses over a series of challenges such as engaging with sound, taste, touch, & smell. There is also the option to purchase a Virtual Entry ticket. All Virtual entries receive a medal & t-shirt.

If you would like to join our team please get in touch with Lesley or click on the link <https://www.racespace.com/gb/parallel-lifestyle/parallel-windsor-2024>

### Getting in touch

If you do have any questions or concerns, staff in school are always happy to talk with you. If you would like to get in touch you can do this through contacting the school office either on the phone or via email and a member of the leadership team would be happy to discuss this with you.

**Lesley Elder - Headteacher**  
**head@fairfields.northants-ecl.gov.uk**

# FAIRFIELDS PTA NEWS



spring

2024

*Welcome to our very first PTA newsletter!*

*A place for information on all our events past and upcoming and to keep you informed of what these funds do for our brilliant school. I just wanted to take the opportunity to say a massive thank you for your support at our events which aim to raise funds for the school as the budget becomes ever tighter.*



## Upcoming events

Celebration evening 6/3/24 – refreshments and uniform stand

School Disco – please come and join us with your child for our first school disco.

Friday 22nd March 2024

4.30pm – 7.30pm

Tickets – £3 incs drink and a glowstick

Refreshments will be on sale for parents



Our Christmas raffle,  
Christmas jumper day  
and staff craft evening  
raised £416.00!!



## Could you help?

Being on the PTA doesn't have to be a huge commitment, maybe you could spare an hour to help sell refreshments, or bake cakes to donate. Maybe you have IT skills and could contribute to the making of the newsletter or maybe you have connections with companies that are willing to support us. The PTA is a invaluable source of support to the school but cannot function without the help of wonderful parents like you.