



Fairfields School

Helping children to help themselves

www.fairfields.northants.sch.uk

No.5 Term 5 2018

Important Dates

Monday 7th May

Bank holiday

Friday 25th May

Last day of Term 5

Monday 4th June

Start of Term 6

Friday 29th June

80th Birthday Ball

Thursday 12th July

Sports day

Friday 20th July

Last day of school year

A bit about our school

Did you know our school building is 80 years old this year? When school first opened in 1938 it was known as Open Air Recovery School. The pupils who attended at that time had health problems, such as tuberculosis, which have now largely been eliminated.

A log book was dutifully completed until 1990. The first entry in the log book states that, "School opened with 35 scholars." It goes on to document day to day events, such as, in 1945 children helping to clear the snow away from the rest sheds.

In 1973 the school re-opened as Fairfields School.

At this time the school catered for children with physical difficulties and medical needs. The school age range was from nursery to school leaving age.

Log books show that over the years the pupil population changed as did the number of children on roll. In 2005 there were only 72 children on roll, we currently have 111 children.

Over recent years we have invested a lot into ensuring our learning environment is accessible, engaging and matches the needs of the children. We have seen some big changes, a new car park, refurbished bathrooms, swimming pool area and hall. Our quad playground has been improved significantly. We now have Wi-Fi. Our library has had a big overhaul including new shelving and books. Our classroom learning environments have had great attention, and new furniture enabling children to be as independent as possible as well as providing opportunities for children to use their developing skills. Our early years playground is now an amazing outdoor learning space.

We continue to want to improve the school building. The LA have now secured contractors to continue with the building improvements. This will include two extensions, one a new classroom the other increased office and front entrance space. Our sensory room will be relocated to a bigger space. We are also aiming to improve all the remaining playgrounds.

Howdens Joinery are kindly refurbishing some kitchen areas in our classrooms as well as the staffroom.

We will of course keep you updated; letting you know when the building works will start.

In addition to the **80th Birthday Ball** we are of course planning to celebrate with the children. We are aiming for this to be during the week beginning either 25th June or 2nd July. We have to have a birthday party with the children and their families!



Fairfields School is looking for new parent governors...

What is a school governor?

School governors are volunteers who work together with the Head teacher to make strategic decisions that impact on the educational outcomes and life chances of our children.

What experience and skills do I need?

You don't need special skills to be a governor but you'll need to be able to work well in a team, as you'll be making **joint decisions** on policy. The most important qualities for being a governor are **enthusiasm, commitment** and an **interest in education** and be able to bring a **parental perspective** to the strategic management of Fairfields School. This involves:

- setting and monitoring the school's aims and policies
 - supporting the headteacher, but also asking questions and making sure the headteacher is taking the school in the right direction
 - overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
 - monitoring educational performance of the organisation and its pupils
- It does not require you to get involved in the day to day management of the school. That is the role of the Head teacher.

What is the commitment?

Governors need to have an in-depth knowledge of how the school works to enable them to make decisions that ultimately affect the lives and education of the children in their care. Governors are therefore assigned to Learning teams and meet once a year with the team to monitor curriculum developments and pupil progress data.

We expect our governors to undertake any training that will enable them to carry out their role more effectively.

You need to be available to attend:

- The full governing body meetings 3 / 4 times a year
 - one of two subcommittee meetings three times a year. Depending on your interests and experience this could be either 'Supporting School Structures' (finance and Personnel, Premises and Health and Safety) or 'Excellence and Enjoyment' (curriculum)
- NB Travel and child care costs can be reimbursed.

Interested but want to no more before you commit yourself for election?

Please e mail the Chair of Governors:

Mary.doveston@northampton.ac.uk

I visit the school regularly and am available for informal conversation before school on Wednesday May 23rd 2018

Attendance Matters



Last year our attendance target was 94%, we actually achieved 92.35%

Our current attendance is 92.65%

Regular attendance really does matter so please try to send your child into school every day; unless of course they are feeling too poorly. If you have difficulties with your child's attendance please contact Janice Crane, our Assistant Family Support Worker who will be happy to try to help.

Please note, due to government regulations, the headteacher is unable to authorise holidays in term time except in very exceptional circumstances.

80
Fairfield's School
accordingly invites you to celebrate their 80th Birthday
with a Diamond Dinner and Dance
At The Park Inn, Northampton, NN1 2TA
29th June 2018.
Arrival 7.15pm for dinner at 7.45pm
Disco and live band till 12.30am with carriages at 1.00am.

Tickets £45 per person
or a table of 10 for £405.

Formal dress - black tie and evening dresses

Contact: 01604-714777
email: thomsonm@fairfields.northants.sch.uk
or cranej@fairfields.northants.sch.uk



Parent View
Your Child's School

**Give Ofsted your view
on your child's school**

As you know we ask you to tell us what you think about school in our annual survey – June. However you can also share your views using either the link on our website or

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>