



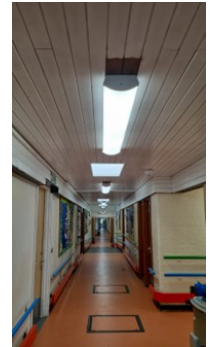
Fairfields School

Term 1 2023

Welcome
BACK!

It's been so lovely to have the children back in school. I hope you've all had a lovely summer.

We had a very busy six weeks in school. Over the summer holidays we had lots of building work carried out to ensure our school continues to offer great provision for your children. We have had a new roof put on the conservatory we use for meetings. This means that this will be a better working space all year round. We have had some new accessible equipment installed in our early years playground and we've started developing our Spinney outside learning environment to include our memorial garden. We've also had new lights installed across school to make us more energy efficient.



You may have notice that we have new gates at the front of school and we are waiting for the installation to be completed. Once this has happened we will be in touch to share how this will work at the start and end of the school day.

We have three new teachers in school.



Paul is in Fox Class



Ruth is in Rabbit Class



Amanda is in Kestrel Class

Alice Ewers, our teacher in kestrel, will be leaving us at October half term to take up a position within the EHCP team at The Local Authority, I'm sure you will join us in wishing her the best of luck as she starts her new role.

Teachers will be sending home a class newsletter over the next few days to give you a bit more information about their team and the plans for the year.

A few reminders...



Snacks

We are a healthy eating school. We will be providing fruit and squash for the children at snack time. If you would like your child to have anything additional to this, please send it in. We are a **nut free school** so please don't send anything with nuts in it due to the allergies of pupils and staff. Thank you



Illness

We would like to continue to be extra vigilant with illness. When deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school, please ask yourself:

- ◆ Is your child well enough to carry out the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home and consult your GP as appropriate.
- ◆ Does your child have an illness that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
- ◆ Would you take a day off work if you had this illness? If so, keep your child at home.

If your child becomes poorly during the school day, we will contact you and ask you to come and collect them as soon as possible.

Home School Communication

Your child will have a home school book as a way of communicating between home and school. Members of your child's class team will write in the book 3 times a week, unless there is something additional you need to know. If there is anything urgent the class will phone you. Teachers will still be contactable via email. Due to their teaching commitment in class and their workload, teachers will aim to respond to emails within 2 days, during working hours. If there is something important you need to discuss with a teacher, please phone the school office and they will inform them for you. If it is urgent, and the teacher is unavailable, this will be passed on to a member of the leadership team.

Parent App

Our Parent App is the way we share information with you. We use this to give you updates or let you know things in an emergency e.g. if the school is closed. We also use this system to send out letters and the documents for your child's annual review. It's important that if you have downloaded the app you have your push notifications switched on. Where we can we will also send out information so you receive it as an email too.



No Smoking

I'd like to remind you that we are a No Smoking school. Please can you not smoke on the school premises, including the car park. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Transport

For the majority of children, school transport is running quite smoothly. Where you have had problems, please let us know and we will support you in working with school transport to get this sorted. If you bring your child to school, thank you for your patience.



Chewies

We know some of the children require chewy toys to help them with their sensory regulation. If your child does use a chewy, please can you provide one to be used in school. If possible please can the chewy be on a lanyard with a safety release clasp. This is to prevent it being caught and pulled, resulting in an injury. If you'd like to chat about this please get in touch.



Outside Learning

Outside learning is a really important part of our provision in school. It would be great if we could have a waterproof coat and a pair of wellies for your child in school. The best thing for the children is a waterproof onesie. This ensures they keep dry while enjoying their learning outside, whatever the weather. If you are able to purchase one for your child, please buy one that is oversized, as this will ensure it can be used for multiple years in school. Please can these be sent in, clearly named. We do have a few resources children can use in school but we unfortunately don't have enough for everyone.



PTA

We recently set up our Fairfields PTA. We made a really great start with our summer hamper which raised £270. There will be more fundraising activities this year. Some businesses work with local charities, donating for specific projects or will match fund as part of an event. If you or someone you know works for a company who you think will be able to support us, please let us know. If you would like to join our PTA and help us raise awareness of our school and some additional funds, please get in touch.

Swimming Pool

As you know over the past few years we've had a number of issues with our swimming pool. The Local Authority have been supporting us with these issues and over the summer we have had a lot of work completed on the pool. We have had a new chair hoist, and a new heating system. We will be looking to start swimming for some of our pupils in October. Unfortunately we do not have capacity for all the children to swim so we will be prioritising our pupils with the most complex physical needs. Our swimming team will be in touch with more information over the next few weeks.



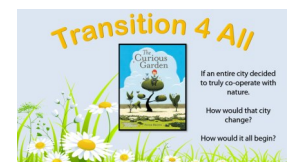
Evidence for Learning—Family App

Our Evidence for Learning Family App is a great way for you to see what your child has been up to at school. This can be download on either an Android or Apple device. Once you have download this, please let us know and we will send you your log in details.



You may have seen that Cadent have started Gas Works on Trinity Avenue. This is going to cause major disruption over the next few weeks. We ask that you are patient when dropping off and picking up your children from school. If you are in our school car park we ask that you turn left when you are leaving so you are moving in the flow of traffic. We will share additional information with you as we get it. These disruptions will have a knock on effect to our school car park. Please help us by keeping to your allocated parking space. If someone is in your space, please let a member of staff know rather than parking in another one.

During the first few weeks of term the classes will be working on our 'Transition for All' part of the curriculum. This focuses on building relationships with the children and find out what motivates and interests them. Clear structures and routines are introduced and the outcomes from your child's EHCP are layered into learning. This ensures we have a great foundation to build curriculum learning on top of. As part of this, teachers update all our individual plans for the children. This includes feeding plans, intimate care plans and behaviour support plans. Teachers will be sending out current copies out to you all so you can contribute with what your child does at home.



We want you to be involved in our school community as much as possible. If you have any questions, queries or want to discuss anything with us please get in touch.

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

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

MacMillian Coffee Morning—Friday 29th September (time to be confirmed)

Tuesday 10th October— 9.30am

Tuesday 21st November — 9.30am

Thursday 1st February— 9.30am

Thursday 21st March— 9.30am

Thursday 9th May — 9.30am

Assemblies

Harvest Assemblies—Friday 20th October

Easter Assemblies — Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th March

End of Year Celebration Assemblies — Monday 22nd July & Tuesday 23rd July

Parents Evenings

Parent's evening—18th October and 1st November

Celebration Evening—Wednesday 6th March

Tea with the Teachers—Wednesday 10th July

School Events

Children in Need — Friday 17th November

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Christmas Production — 6th and 7th December

Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 Christmas Production—12th, 13th and 14th December

World Book Day — Thursday 7th March

Sports Week—20th—24th May

Olympic Challenge Week - 10th—14th June

Attendance



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 law entitles every child of compulsory school age (from the age of 5) to an efficient, full-time education. As parents, it is your responsibility to ensure your child attends school regularly. As a school we have a responsibility to monitor children's attendance in school and to respond when pupils are persistently absent. At Fairfields we want to have a partnership with our parents and do this in a supportive way.

We have a 5 Stage model to respond when pupils are persistently absent from school.

- Stage 1: Telephone call home
- Stage 2: Letter home
- Stage 3: Parent Meeting where a parenting contract is set up
- Stage 4: Parent Meeting where the contract is reviewed, closed or extended
- Stage 5: Advise a possible referral to Local Authority

As part of the new government guidance on improving school attendance, we now have a School Attendance Support Officer, from the Local Authority, who I will be meeting with every half term to discuss any attendance issues we have. This will include any pupils who are severely or persistently absent.

If your child is off school please contact the school office with the reason for the absence, on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9.30am or as soon as practically possible.

If your child has to attend a medical or dental appointment this will be authorised as long as you notify the school in advance of the appointment.

You can do this by phoning or emailing the school office or by notifying your child's class teacher. However, we do encourage you to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, your child should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

Some pupils face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. All pupils have the right to an education so the attendance ambition is the same for all pupils. Due to the complex needs of our pupils, we will be mindful of the attendance challenges of our pupils and put in additional support where necessary to help them access their full-time education.

If you would like more information about how we monitor attendance please see our policy, which can be found on our website.

Alternatively please get in touch with our Family Support Worker, Janice crane.

cranej@fairfields.northants.sch.uk

