



Wow! I can't really believe that we're already in the final term of the school year. The children are all learning about Growing in their topic this term and we have lots of other lovely things planned for the rest of the school year.

School Pool

It has been a turbulent time with our pool over the past few years and a number of you have asked for more information about the pool, together with an update.

Challenges we have had with running warm water sessions since April 2020:

- **Covid** - there were a high level of health and safety measures needed for swimming and the risk was too high
- **Staff shortages** - unfortunately, we have a continuing problem with being short staffed which means we do not always have enough staff to run sessions safely in the pool, priority has to be given to staffing classes
- **Maintenance** - We have had a high number of maintenance issues with the pool including, maintaining the correct water temperature, ensuring there is the right chemical level in the water, requiring a new calorex unit which maintains the air temperature and an upgrade to the filtering system. The chair hoist and tracking hoist also needed replacing. This all needed to be commissioned by the local authority
- **RAAC** - We had RAAC in the ceiling of the changing rooms, which needed to be removed and replaced. This all had to be organised through the Local Authority and DfE



I feel it is important to clarify the current purpose of the pool, as I feel this has changed to what has previously been shared in the past. Historically, when the pool was installed in the 1970s, it was designed as a swimming pool. However due to the changing needs of our pupils since the 1990s, its purpose was adjusted and since then it has been run as a hydrotherapy pool.

As a hydrotherapy pool is has a temperature of between 33° and 35°. As such children can only be in the pool for a shorter period of time, a maximum of 30mins. The warm water has a number of different benefits:

- provide relaxation and an opportunity to stretch muscles
- improve muscle tone and strength
- increase circulation
- improve joint range of movement
- allow freedom of movement due to the difference in weight bearing
- reduce the discomfort associated with having a physical disability.

While in the past all children were able to have either a regular weekly slot in the pool or access it through a block, this is no longer possible due to our increased number of pupils and our ongoing difficulties with staffing. We have started running warm water sessions for some of our most complex children, and these will become more consistent across this term. If you have been contacted about these sessions, please ensure that your child has their kit in school.

From September, in consultation with physiotherapy and Conductive Education, we are planning for children with complex physical needs to have a weekly slot. We are currently looking at alternative arrangements for the children to have access to water confidence sessions during their time at Fairfields, more information will be provided in the Autumn Term.

While I know some of you have been quite frustrated with the ongoing situation with the pool, I would like to share that I have been equally frustrated and myself and the team have been working hard to try and get things sorted as quickly as we can, however I hope you can understand that many of the difficulties have been out of our control.

Sports Week

We have rescheduled our Sport Days slots and we have everything crossed for good weather!

Our PE team are currently busy continuing to organise Sports Week for all the children. A letter has already been sent out with a few more details.

Here is a reminder of dates and times for each class.

Please can I ask that children come to school with appropriate footwear to participate in the activities.



| | Wednesday 19th June 2024 | Thursday 20th June 2024 |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 10.30-11.30am | Woodland (Deer, Badger, Fox, Squirrel) | Treetops (Owl, Robin, Dove, Kestrel) |
| 1.15-2.15pm | Meadow (Hedgehog, Mole, Rabbit, Dormouse) | Riverbank (Otter, Duckling) |

Olympic Challenge Week: 1st—5th July 2024

As a school, we are having a sponsored travel to see if we can collectively travel the distance from Fairfields to Paris, ready for the Olympics. The total distance is 561KM. The children will be travelling in different ways across the week as they transition across school and during their PE sessions. Whether they walk, run, roll, crawl or are travelling in their chair, all types of travel will be included. Staff will also be joining in with different ways of travelling e.g. cycling to school. The class teams will be keeping a tally of the distances travelled which will be added to our whole school totaliser.

The event will finish with a Travel Day on Friday 5th July, to see if we can make the final push to our total. It would be wonderful if the children came to school dressed in their favourite sports wear, this may include the strip of their favourite sports team.

Attached is a sponsor form for you to start collecting sponsorship for your child as part of the event. We will also send a paper copy of the form home with your child. We ask that sponsor forms are returned to school by **28th June 2024**, ready for the Sponsored Travel week, so they can be signed off by a member of the class team.

If instead of collecting sponsorship you would rather do this online, we now have a GoFundMe page set up. Please click on the link to make your donation. This link can be shared with others if you wish.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fairfields-schools-fundraising-page>

There is still time to join us for 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>

Attendance

As you know, we are updating our school attendance policy this term. This is in line with the new Government Guidance and the School Attendance Support Service at West Northamptonshire Council. It is extremely important that your child attends school regularly and as a school we continually monitor the children's attendance. The update of the policy will include what happens when a child has an unauthorised absence and how this will be monitored, including when staff will carry out home visits, and the procedure for referring to the Local Authority when a child has a significant amount of time absence from school e.g. for an unauthorised holiday. This year we have seen an increasing amount of unauthorised holiday and requests for absence from school due to extreme circumstances. From September, we will be having a more formal system to request an absence from school and any unauthorised holiday will need to be reviewed against the new government guidance which may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued by the local authority. Once completed, this will be sent out so you are aware of the changes ready for September. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please get in touch.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Sensible Footwear

As we move into the summer months, I would like to remind you of the importance of ensuring that your child wears sensible footwear to school. Proper footwear is essential for your child's safety, comfort, and overall well-being throughout the school day. Sensible shoes help prevent injuries and provide adequate support during physical activities. Please ensure your child wears closed-toe shoes to protect their feet from potential injuries. It is important that they have sturdy shoes that fit securely and comfortably.

Please can I ask that your child does not come to school in flip flops or crocs as these shoes can pose safety hazards and are not suitable for school. If you find it difficult for your child to wear certain shoes due to sensory issues, please get in touch.

Celebration Assemblies

Our Assemblies have been planned for Monday 22nd July & Tuesday 23rd July.



| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Riverbank (Otter, Duckling) | Monday 22nd July - 10am |
| Woodland (Deer, Badger, Fox, Squirrel) | Monday 22nd July - 11am |
| Meadow (Hedgehog, Mole, Rabbit, Dormouse) | Monday 22nd July - 1.30pm |
| Treetops (Robin, Dove) | Tuesday 23rd July - 10am |
| Treetops (Owl, Kestrel) | Tuesday 23rd July - 11am |

We understand that for some of the children in Year 6 it is an important experience to get their t-shirt signed as a leaver. If you would like to send in a t-shirt for your child at the start of the last week of term, we will give them the opportunity to go around school and get it signed.

Free School Meals

The Government have recently updated their guidance for schools about free school meals. Schools are now required to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils on roll at a school to ensure they are not put at a substantial disadvantage in relation to accessing meals where appropriate. We have now reviewed the free school meal children and identified those who don't currently access the entitlement due to their disability. You will be contacted by the school office with more information about the reasonable adjustments in place and how this will be organised. If you are not contacted but feel you are entitled, please contact the school office.



Lending Library

Please can you have a search at home for any lending library books and return them to school. We would like all books returned by the end of the year so we can re-organise the library ready for September. Many thanks.



Transition

Your child's Annual Report will be sent home with them on Friday 5th July. This will include a letter with details of your child's class for next year. We will be having our internal transition sessions on Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th July.

Summer—sun cream and hats

As the weather gets warmer it's important that we have suncream in school. If you haven't sent in your consent form, please do so as we cannot administer suncream without it. Please send in sun cream, clearly labelled, for your child but please make sure it doesn't contain any nut oil.

When the weather gets warm, the children do access more water play. Please can you send your child into school with a spare set of clothes.



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 27th June — 9.30am

Assemblies

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

Parents Evenings

Tea with the Teachers—Wednesday 10th July

Stay and Play -

Friday 28th June—1.30pm—2.30pm

School Events

- Sports Week- Wednesday 19th June & Thursday 20th June 2024
- Olympic Challenge Week - 1st-5th July (please note change of date)
- Cooking Day - Friday 28th June
- Internal Transition Days -Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th July
- Year 6 stay late—TBC

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



Sponsored Travel Sponsor Form

All proceeds raised will go towards the refurbishment of the sensory room at Fairfields School.

If I have ticked the box headed 'Consent to Gift Aid (✓)'; I confirm that I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer. I have read this statement and want the charity named above to reclaim tax on the donation detailed below, given on the date shown. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax / or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

| Name | Address | Post Code | £ per metre | £ Total | Date Paid | Consent to Gift Aid (✓) | Signed |
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Alternatively a donation can be made through our go fund me page <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fairfields-schools-fundraising-page>

I confirm that _____ has travelled _____ metres by _____. Signed _____

Please return form by 28th June 2024

Sponsor Money in by 19th July 2024