



Junior School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2



Friday 19TH December 2025

Welcome to Foxhills Junior School's end of Autumn Term 2 Newsletter.

Here is a round-up of some of the wonderful things your children have been up to during the this term, as well as some important notices and dates for your diary.

Year 3

Our trip to SeaCity Museum was a highlight for year 3 this half-term. The children's behaviour was exemplary. The staff at the museum commented on their manners and engagement and we were incredibly proud of them. It was an absolute pleasure to witness the enthusiasm with which they learnt about Southampton's history.

Forest School has also been an exciting time for year 3, as each week they have set off into our woodlands to learn and explore. There has been some truly wonderful imaginative play that the children have returned to week on week, and some fantastic woodland pencils and Christmas decorations have been made too. We're ending the year batch cooking seasonal vegetable soup. It's not been taste-tested yet, but again the children have impressed us with their careful and

mature approach to learning to peel and chop.

Year 4

We've had a fantastic half term in Year 4 with lots of exciting learning! Here's a look back at what the children have achieved:

The children explored place value, learned to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000, and even studied Roman numerals up to 100. They then moved on to multiplication and division, starting with simple facts and progressing to trickier numbers like 7, 9, and 12. Using their place value knowledge, they multiplied and divided larger numbers efficiently. In subtraction, they practised column methods, including exchanging, and applied these skills to solve multi-step problems.

In Reading, we enjoyed Charlotte's Web, building fluency and expression while exploring rich vocabulary. Pupils learned to skim and scan for key information, record quotations, and summarise main ideas. In Writing, they created descriptive pieces inspired by the story, using expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to add detail and variety. They organised ideas into paragraphs and produced imaginative setting

descriptions that captured mood and atmosphere beautifully.

Our topic on States of Matter helped children understand solids, liquids, and gases. They investigated how heating and cooling changes materials, learned terms like evaporation and condensation, and explored the water cycle through practical activities.

We've also covered lots of exciting topics in our foundation subjects this half term!

In Geography, the children learned more about Europe, exploring flags, languages, and famous landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, Colosseum, and Parthenon. They also discussed migration and why people move between countries, leading to thoughtful conversations about diversity and inclusion.

In History, pupils discovered the Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain and how it shaped life in the early medieval period. They examined archaeological evidence such as Sutton Hoo and compared invasions to understand power and settlement during this time.

In Art, inspired by Paul Cézanne and Nicole Dyer, the children refined their still-life drawing skills

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and experimented with mixed media to create expressive artwork.

In Computing, pupils produced and edited their own podcasts, learning how to record, layer sounds, and export audio. They also explored online safety, privacy settings, and responsible use of digital platforms.

In PE, the children developed balance, agility, and rotation skills through Real PE and Real Gym, working on jumps, rolls, and partner balances while building teamwork and communication.

In PSHE, pupils learned strategies for managing conflict, discussed diversity, and explored how to celebrate differences respectfully.

In RE, they explored the concept of angels in Christianity, considering their role in Bible stories and what they represent for Christians.

In Spanish, the children practised numbers up to 39, days of the week, and months of the year, improving pronunciation and fluency.

In Music, pupils developed their recorder skills, learning notes like C, B, A, D, and G, and practised ensemble performance.

Finally, in Design & Technology, the children designed and made their own biscuits, planning carefully and adapting their designs before presenting their finished products.

It's been a busy and exciting half term in Year 4. We look forward to welcoming everybody back for Spring term and can't wait to see what you all achieve! We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break.

Year 5 This half term, the children threw themselves into Writing with real enthusiasm. Linking their work to Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson, they crafted imaginative and persuasive letters inspired by the story's adventures and characters. They became increasingly confident at organising their ideas and selecting powerful vocabulary, producing letters that were genuinely engaging to read.

Reading lessons were full of lively discussion as the children dived deeper into Journey to the River Sea. They made thoughtful predictions, uncovered clues through inference, and spotted key details that helped them understand the story on a richer level. Their ability to connect themes and ideas across the text really brought the book to life.

In Maths, the children rose brilliantly to the challenge of mastering written methods for multiplication and division. They practised tackling larger numbers with accuracy and enjoyed applying their skills to tricky multi-step problems. Their growing confidence was clear to see, and they celebrated each breakthrough with real pride.

Science was full of curiosity and hands-on exploration. The children investigated reversible and irreversible changes, separated mixtures, and experimented with how materials react to heat. They asked fantastic questions and showed a strong sense of wonder as they discovered how materials behave and why.

Geography lessons took the children on a journey around the globe. They learned about latitude, longitude, the Equator, hemispheres, and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, using this knowledge to understand how imaginary lines help us navigate the world. Their excitement grew as they applied their learning to real-world maps and challenges.

In R.E., the children explored the idea of warnings through the story of the Magi. They shared thoughtful reflections on how warnings can influence choices,

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showing maturity and sensitivity in their discussions.

In Music, the children explored theme and variation with great creativity. They experimented with musical structure, composed their own variations, and enjoyed recording their ideas. Their growing confidence in composing and arranging music was a real highlight of the term.

History sparked lots of interest as the children stepped back into the Anglo-Saxon period to explore crime and punishment. They were fascinated by the differences between then and now and enjoyed debating whether certain punishments were fair.

Art lessons inspired some fantastic creativity. The children studied influential artists such as Zaha Hadid, Phil Dean, and Stephen Wiltshire and used their techniques to enhance their own cityscape drawings. Their focus on perspective, line, and detail led to some truly impressive work that they were eager to share.

Year 6 What a fantastic term it has been for Year 6! The children have shown incredible enthusiasm and maturity as they've continued to embrace the challenges of their

final year at primary school. We are so proud of the independence and resilience they are developing as they prepare for the next stage of their learning journey.

In **English**, the children have enjoyed exploring *Darwin's Dragons* by Lindsay Galvin, focusing on inference and how authors use language to create vivid imagery and a strong sense of time and place. They also delved into the imaginative world of *The Land of Neverbelieve* by Norman Messenger, using it as inspiration to design their own islands and write beautifully illustrated information texts. Later in the term, they crafted gripping adventure story openings, concentrating on engaging the reader and ensuring cohesion across paragraphs.

In **maths**, Year 6 have begun working on fractions while continuing to strengthen their arithmetic skills. Their perseverance and problem-solving have been impressive! In **science**, the children explored evolution and inheritance, learning how living things adapt to their environments and how traits are

passed on. They examined fossil evidence and studied Darwin's work, sparking thoughtful discussions about change over time.

Our **geography** lessons focused on time zones and the Prime Meridian, applying this knowledge to plan a global New Year's celebration. In **design and technology**, the children researched seasonal and global foods before designing a three-course meal to meet a specific brief. They also enjoyed creating winter-inspired musical compositions in **music**, alongside practising the C major scale on the recorder.

Other highlights include learning about the two birth narratives in the Bible in **RE**, celebrating diversity and challenging stereotypes in **PSHE**, and developing Spanish vocabulary to describe where we live. In **computing**, the children designed their own websites using Google Sites, considering layout, copyright, and what makes an effective design. PE has been full of energy, with Kabaddi, dodgeball, and gymnastics helping the

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children build teamwork, agility, and body control.

Finally, our trip to the **Natural History Museum** was a real highlight! The children represented the school brilliantly and loved exploring exhibits on volcanoes, earthquakes, dinosaurs, and precious stones - all of which linked beautifully to our science learning.

It has been a busy and inspiring term, and we couldn't be prouder of Year 6. Thank you for your continued support at home. We hope you have a wonderful break and are looking forward to a fantastic Spring Term after the holidays!

Choir

The School Choir visited Woodlands Residential Home this week to delight residents with some Christmas songs. The audience loved dancing and singing along and also interacting with the children afterwards. The children were wonderfully chatty and friendly and it was heart-warming to see the generations enjoying each other's company.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed, across the federation we have collected a wonderful **£112.70** for the Poppy Appeal. Together we have helped raise £11,313.35 in district alone!



School Attendance

So far the school has achieved **94.7% attendance**. Ideally, we would like this figure to be above

97.5% in order that our children can all make the best possible progress. Thank you for all your support.

Dates for your Diary
22nd December 2025- 2nd January 2026 - Christmas Holiday
Monday 5th January 2026 – New term starts (Spring 1)
Monday 5th January – School led clubs begin
Wednesday 7th January – Y4 Hazel Class Forest School begins
Thursday 8th January – Y4 Hawthorn Class Forest School begins
Thursday 8th January – Y5 Swimming begins
Thursday 15th January 2026 – Deadline date for Year R and Year 3 Applications.
Wednesday 21st January 2026 – MHST Parent Workshop – Anxiety 09:15-10.15
Thursday 22nd January 2026 - Year 6 SATs Parents Meeting 4.30pm
Friday 23rd January 2026 – Parents Evening – Booking Opens at 8pm
Friday 30th January 2026 – Neurodiversity Parent Workshop Day 2, 09.30-10.30
Friday 30th January 2026 – Parents evening - Booking closes at 12pm
Thursday 5th February 2026 – Parent Consultations 1pm-7pm

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Dates for your Diary	
Tuesday 10th February	Smart Phone Free Parent Meeting – Abbotswood School
Wednesday 11th February	FOF School Disco – Information to follow
Friday 13th February	Celebration of Work – 14.30-15.10
16/02-20/02/26	February Half Term
Monday 23rd February 2026	New term starts (Spring 2)
02/03-06/03/2025	Reading Week
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day – Information to follow
Friday 13th March	Inset Day
23/03-27/03/26	FOF Mother's Day Gift Shop – Information to follow
30/03-10/04/2026	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April	New term starts (Summer 1)

<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/diary/grid/2023/01/>

PE Days – Spring Term

Year	Day	
Year 3	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 4	Monday	Wednesday
Year 5	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 6	Monday	Friday

Inset Days for the Academic Year 2025-2026

Spring Term
Friday 13th March 2026

Summer Term
Friday 26th June 2026

Friends of Foxhills' Swap Shop

Friday 9th January 2026
Friday 27th February 2026
Friday 27th March 2026
Friday 17th April 2026
Friday 22nd May 2026
Friday 5th June 2026
Friday 17th July 2026

Drop
Kids outgrown their school uniform ALREADY??? (Dreading the back to school shop?)
The FOF swap and shop has got you covered!
Drop off your unwanted school uniform, swap them for tokens then shop till you drop.
Pop your items in a bag along with an envelope with your child's name and class written clearly.
All items MUST be:
• In good condition (if you wouldn't take it home, don't send it in!)
• Clean
• Current (if it doesn't comply with the current federation dress code it won't qualify for a swap token)

Swap
For each item donated you will receive a swap token in the envelope you provided.
Come along to the FOF swap and shop and exchange your 'swap tokens' for school uniform.
Get other items you'd like to donate?
Good quality clothes and shoes can be donated to FOF to be sold at the swap and shop to raise money for the school.
• Good quality children's clothes
• New / Nearly new children's shoes
• Non current uniform / Pre-School uniform / Uniform from other schools
• New / Nearly new adult clothes
Unsold items will be donated to charity.

Shop
Get nothing to swap? No problem!
All uniform items, clothes and shoes will be available to purchase.
All money raised goes to FOF to continue the amazing work they do for our school!

Saving The Planet & Your Pocket!

YFM – Basic Food Bank

The opening hours over Christmas 2025 for the YFM Totton Basics Bank are as follows:



- 22nd to 24th December – open as usual (10am – 12pm)
- 25th December – 30th December – closed
- 31st December - open as usual (10am – 12pm)
- 1st and 2nd January – closed
- 5th January onwards – open as usual (10am – 12pm).

YFM Totton Basics Bank usual opening hours are 10am – 12pm, Monday to Friday all year round.

Reporting Reporting Absences



Absences

Please could all absences be reported via the phone and not email. When leaving a message please including the following details;

- Child's Name
- Child's Class
- Reason for absence, including symptoms to help us monitor in school.

Important Reminders

No Drive Zone

08:20-08:45
15:00-15:25



Please could we remind families that the driveway is a 'No turning

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around' zone. We must insist on this for the safety of our visitors on site.

Driveway safety

A polite reminder that, for the safety of all members of our school community, when entering and leaving the school site...

- **Pedestrians** should walk on the pavements.
- **Scooters** should be dismounted and walked along the pavements.
- **Cyclists** may ride on the driveway, or dismount and walk bikes along the footpath.

For the safety of all, the driveway is for cyclists and drivers only.

Please can you remind your children of these important safety rules, especially if they travel to school alone.

Parking outside the school

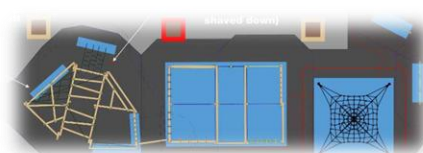
Parking outside school continues to be busy. Please could we ask that you are considerate towards our neighbours and other road users when parking.

Road safety

We have been informed of recent near misses on the main road outside of school. Please can we ask that children are supervised at all times when entering and leaving the school site, and that drivers remain extra cautious of pedestrians, cyclists and scooters at these busy times.

Voluntary one-way system

To help with congestion at school pick-up and drop-off we have adopted a voluntary one-way system during these times. Please could we ask you to help by following the one-way system (flowing from the A326 towards Whartons Lane). This will ensure traffic travels in one direction and will hopefully ease congestion for everyone.



School Play Equipment –

Important

Please can we ask all families not to use the play equipment in the playground when you drop your children off in the mornings. The play equipment needs to be supervised by school staff and we have allocated times during break and lunch when children can use the play equipment.

Nut Free School

Please can we remind families that we are a nut-free school as we have children in our community with severe allergies to nuts. Please ensure that your children do not have any snacks or lunch items containing any type of nut.

PLEASE



**NO PEANUTS
OR
NUT PRODUCTS**



Access to Toilets

Due to safeguarding reasons, we are not able to give adults or children that do not work or study here access to our toilets.



Is my child too ill for school?

Please see the NHS link for further information.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Medical

Appointments

Please could we ask that, wherever

possible, medical appointments are booked outside school hours. While we understand that this is not always possible, please could

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we ask that you send into school confirmation of the appointment for your child's file.

If appointments are during a morning session and your child requires a school lunch, please inform the office of your child's lunch order before 9am.

School Uniform



Please ensure your child comes to school wearing the correct uniform:

GIRLS:



- Foxhills sweatshirt or cardigan*
- White or navy polo shirt
- Grey or navy skirt (with or without pleats)
- Grey or navy pinafore (with or without pleats)
- Grey or navy trousers
- Grey, navy or white socks/tights
- In the summer, girls can wear a navy patterned dress.

BOYS:



- Foxhills sweatshirt*
- White or navy polo shirt
- Grey or navy trousers or shorts
- Grey, navy or black socks
- Black school shoes.

PE KIT:



- House coloured T-shirt*
- Black or navy shorts / trousers
- Plain trainers
- School logo hoodie or plain zip jacket/hoodie*

We would like to remind you that children must not wear nail polish, jewellery or smart watches for school, and sports shorts, on non-PE days, are not permitted. On normal school days, footwear must be school shoes; on PE days, plain, dark trainers must be worn.

It is really important that all children adhere to our uniform

policy and we thank you for your support.

Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name so we can reunite lost items with their owners.

Community Policing

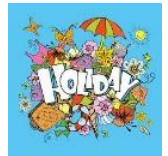


Please follow the link below for the next beat report.

<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Community+Policing&pid=109>

Holiday Activities

We have been informed of some fun activities that will take place during the school holidays. Please follow this link for more information;



<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Half+Term+Clubs+and+Activities&pid=108>

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