



Junior School Newsletter

Spring Term 1



Friday 13th February 2026

Welcome to Foxhills Junior School's end of Spring Term 1 Newsletter.

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

Year 3

This half term has been a super time for Year 3! The children have shown us such excellent focus and enthusiasm throughout the term:

We read *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne. We used "echo reading" to encourage the children to consider their use of expression when reading aloud. Children also practised retrieval and prediction skills and considered the development of characters throughout the narrative.

During each half-term, the children produced one piece of fiction and one piece of non-fiction writing. Throughout these learning journeys, they acquired new skills, practised their application and developed extended pieces of writing. The first piece of writing the children completed was a speech

narrative inspired by *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Learning included the use of speech marks for direct speech, adverbs and adverbials, and how ideas can be sequenced logically to form paragraphs.

The second piece of writing was a persuasive leaflet. As well as learning to use persuasive phrases, children revisited subordinating conjunctions and subheadings.

During the first half-term, learning focused on subtraction, working towards subtracting a three-digit number from a three-digit number, exchanging where needed.

During this half-term, children completed a physics unit on forces. They learned what a force is, what friction is and the effect friction has on a moving object. There was also an opportunity to revisit learning about magnetic force.

This half-term, children continued learning about Britain from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. Learning focused on the Bronze Age.

In Spanish this half-term, children learned about different colours.

In Computing, the children learned to create branching databases. By using specialised software, they developed skills to organise and manage information efficiently.

The children learned about keeping safe.

In RE this half-term, they children will learn about the Hindu celebration of Holi and how Hindus celebrate good overcoming evil.

This half-term, we taught the Real PE scheme, completing Real PE and Real Dance units. We focused on the cognitive cog, teaching the children ways to identify how a performance could be improved.

Year 4

We are delighted to share what a fantastic start Year 4 have made to the spring term. The children have continued to work with great enthusiasm, curiosity, and determination across all areas of their learning. They have approached each lesson with positivity, teamwork, and a willingness to challenge themselves, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved so far.

In writing, the children have been developing their use of fronted adverbials and accurate speech punctuation. Using *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* as their inspiration, they explored how authors use description and dialogue to bring characters and journeys to life.

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They have now written the middle section of their own narrative, and it has been wonderful to see the creativity and care they have shown. Their stories are imaginative, detailed, and engaging, reflecting the growing confidence they are developing as writers. We have been truly impressed with the pride they take in their work.

In reading, the children have been exploring two rich and thought-provoking texts: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and *The Wild Robot*. Through these texts, they have grown their skills in summarising and inference, while also engaging thoughtfully with themes such as belonging and identity. Their mature discussions and insightful responses have shown how much they are growing as reflective readers.

Year 4 continue to work hard in maths and have shown great perseverance when tackling new concepts. They have been consolidating their understanding of subtraction and division, becoming more confident in using written and mental methods and explaining their reasoning clearly.

This term, the children are also beginning their fractions learning journey. They are exploring hundredths and equivalent fractions, laying strong foundations that they will build on later this term. Their curiosity and willingness to tackle new challenges have been lovely to see.

In science, the children have been investigating states of matter and exploring the water cycle. Through practical activities, they have developed a solid understanding of evaporation, condensation, and how water moves around our planet. It has been wonderful to see their scientific thinking deepen as they ask thoughtful questions and make careful observations.

In history, the children have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Scots. They have explored who the Anglo-Saxons were, why they came to Britain, and how they established communities. The children have shown great interest in how early settlers lived, worked, and contributed to the development of early English society. Their enthusiasm for this topic has been evident in their discussions and independent work.

This term, the children have been learning about rivers and mountains. They have enjoyed discovering how these physical features are formed and how they shape the landscape over time. Later in the school year, the children will have the chance to apply this understanding during our rivers trip—a wonderful opportunity to see geographical features first-hand.

In RE, the children have been exploring devotion in Hindu worship. They have discussed how devotion is expressed through rituals, prayers, and celebrations, and reflected sensitively on what devotion might mean within different communities. We have been impressed with the thoughtful conversations the children have had throughout this unit.

In Spanish, the children have been learning how to describe and give opinions about sports. They have enjoyed practising new vocabulary in speaking and writing and continue to build confidence in expressing themselves in a new language.

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Year 4 have continued to show great effort and resilience in PE. They have been developing their coordination, teamwork, and tactical understanding while taking part in competitive games. In Real Dance, they have worked hard to perform with control, balance, and fluency, showing real creativity in the sequences they construct. Their willingness to work cooperatively and support one another has been wonderful to see.

Forest School has been a highlight of the term. The children have jumped straight into every challenge with enthusiasm, embracing the outdoors with confidence and curiosity. Up on the nature trail, their collaboration and creativity have been fantastic. They have built dens, explored natural materials, solved problems together, and shown great teamwork throughout. It has been lovely to see how much they enjoy taking their learning beyond the classroom.

A Wonderful Term of Learning

We are incredibly proud of Year 4 and the positive attitude they

bring to school each day. Their curiosity, kindness, and enthusiasm shine through in everything they do. We look forward to seeing all they will continue to achieve as the year progresses.

Year 5 Over this half term, we have linked our Writing with the story 'Who let the gods out' by Maz Evans, which we have also been studying in Reading, to produce a creative and descriptive narrative. The children applied thoughtful use of relative clauses and parenthesis within the first person in order to produce an enjoyable and engaging start to their story. Additionally, we have also been studying the features of a non-fiction text in order for the children to produce their own based around a custom Greek god they have designed.

In Reading, the children have read the fictional text, 'Who let the gods out' by Maz Evans which makes excellent use of figurative language to support their understanding of the impact of language and its role in visualisation.

In Maths, students have continued to use concrete, pictorial and abstract strategies to solve and

show their understanding of different mathematical concepts. This half term we have been focusing on multiplication, including multiples, factors and primes. The children have also worked towards using formal written methods to divide 4 digit numbers by 1 digit remainders, including use of exchanging and quotients with remainders.

In Science, the children have been learning about forces. In addition to exploring some of the forces through practical experiments, they have also looked at key physicists such as Isaac Newton. During practical investigations, children have applied their knowledge and understanding of forces within a real- life context. For example, recently the children were investigating the differences between weight and mass via use of a Newton meter.

In Geography, the children have been learning about natural features and events that result from the variety of continental plate boundaries across our planet. In particular, earthquakes and volcanoes. During lessons the children have researched how they form/ begin, what dangers they pose, how these threats are monitored and measured, and what measures people take when anticipating danger. This

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knowledge was then applied by looking at examples of environmental disaster posters, before creating their own.

In History, the children have built on their knowledge of crime and punishment from the autumn term, comparing the similarities and differences between the justice systems of the Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Tudors and the Victorians.

Year 6 As we come to the end of a busy and successful Spring 1 term, we would like to celebrate the fantastic learning and achievements of the children across the curriculum. It has been a jam-packed half term full of challenge, creativity, and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of everything the class has accomplished.

In reading, the children have worked hard to develop their fluency and comprehension skills through our class text, *Shackleton's Journey*. They explored challenging vocabulary, practised retrieval and inference, and gained a deep understanding of this remarkable historical expedition. Their engagement and thoughtful responses have been a real highlight.

In writing, the children produced some excellent pieces of work inspired by Shackleton's expedition. They wrote formal persuasive letters, imagining they were applying to join the crew, carefully using persuasive techniques, formal tone, and clear structure. Later in the term, they wrote scenes containing dialogue, focusing on characterisation and advancing the action, resulting in some powerful and imaginative writing.

In maths, the children have shown great perseverance while continuing their work on fractions, focusing on calculations involving fractions. They then moved on to percentages and explored the equivalence between fractions, decimals, and percentages. Their growing confidence and accuracy in this challenging area of maths has been fantastic to see.

In science, we completed our learning on inheritance and evolution before beginning our new topic on electricity. The children explored how characteristics are passed on, how living things adapt over time, and then investigated electrical components and circuits, demonstrating curiosity and strong scientific enquiry skills.

In history, the children learned about the origins of early Islamic

civilisation, exploring its culture and discovering how it became prosperous in both wealth and knowledge. They showed great interest in learning about this influential period in history and made thoughtful comparisons with other civilisations studied.

In geography, the class explored the world's biomes, learning about their key features and the animals that inhabit them. They enjoyed identifying different habitats across the globe and understanding how climate influences life in these regions.

In computing, the children developed their programming skills by creating their own mini games using Scratch. They demonstrated excellent problem-solving skills, creativity, and perseverance, particularly when debugging their programs.

In RE, the children learned about important Islamic rituals, including wudu, Ramadan, and the Eid-ul-Fitr festival. They explored the concept of rituals and reflected thoughtfully on how routines and traditions can be meaningful in everyday life.

In art, the children created expressive self-portraits inspired by the work of Kehinde Wiley, Frida Kahlo, and Vincent van Gogh. They experimented confidently with paint and colour, producing

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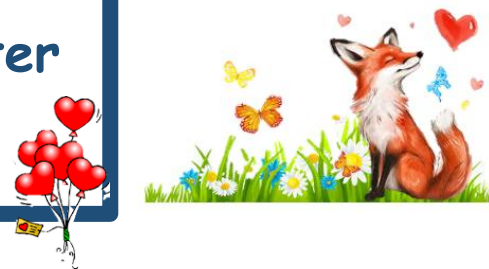
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vibrant and individual pieces of artwork that we are extremely proud of.

In PSHE, the children focused on keeping safe both online and offline, developing respectful relationships, and understanding the importance of positive mental wellbeing. They showed maturity and sensitivity when discussing these important topics.

In Spanish, the children learned how to give and follow directions, building their vocabulary and confidence in speaking and listening. Their enthusiasm and willingness to have a go have been brilliant to see.

Overall, it has been a wonderful half term of learning, and the children should be extremely proud of everything they have achieved.

School Attendance

So far the school has achieved 95.2% 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
Monday 23rd February – New term starts (Spring 2)
Monday 23rd February – World Thinking Day (Information sent home)
Friday 27th February – FOF Swap Shop
02/03-06/03/2026 – Reading Week
Thursday 5th March – FOF Comedy Night
Friday 6th March – World Book Day
09/03-12/03/26 – FOF Mother's Day Gift Shop – Information to follow
Friday 13th March – Inset Day
Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day
Thursday 26th March – Rocksteady Concert – Invites to be sent
Thursday 26th March – Year 6 Parents meeting – Residential 16.30
Friday 27th March – FOF Swap Shop
30/03-10/04/2026 – Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April – New term starts (Summer 1)
Thursday 4th June – Hallett Class Photos
Wednesday 24th June – Hallett Year 6 Photo

<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 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 outgrow their school uniform ALREADY???
"Dreading the bank to school shop?"
The FOF swap and shop has got you covered!

Drop off your unwanted school uniform, swap items 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)

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.

Give 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.

SWAP

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!

Dates for your Diary
16/02-20/02/26 – February Half Term

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Important Reminders

Reporting Absences



Absences

Please could all absences be reported via the phone and not

email. When leaving a message please include the following details;

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

No Drive Zone

08:20-08:45

15:00-15:25



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

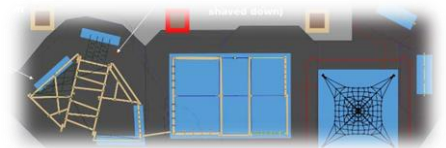
Road safety

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

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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 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>

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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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