The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year. As always, I encourage you to look through the whole newsletter so you get to see all the wonderful opportunities that the children across our schools have been able to access. Already this year we have seen local trips to St. Andrew's Church alongside visits further afield to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. We have celebrated Harvest with our friends from 'Open the Book', and we have seen Greek Days and French Days to name just a few of the exciting learning experiences our children have taken part in.

It has also been great to welcome our new children and families into our Nursery and Reception classes - they have settled in really well, although I am sure you are now seeing some tired children at home. A well deserved half-term break will help to refresh and revitalise us I am sure. My thanks to all the staff across our schools who regularly go above and beyond to provide all our children with such a rich and broad curriculum.

We will look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 4th November for what will be an exciting second half to the Autumn term - which also includes the build up to Christmas!

Best wishes,

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2024

News from Nursery

Settling In

We have been focusing on supporting the children to feel comfortable in a new setting, to explore independently and we have been helping them to learn new routines and expectations.



The children have shown great interest in our school values and through whole class discussions we have discussed each value and what they mean. The children now recognise that our school values help to make our Nursery a happy and safe place for everybody.

Many of the children are now demonstrating some of those values and we have been very proud each time we have awarded a sticker for this.

Also, our “choose it, use it, put it away” slogan is being well used by the children and hopefully, you’ve heard this used at home too!

Expressive Arts

We have been having lots of fun exploring many different art and craft opportunities.

Autumn brings some amazing colours and the children have enjoyed exploring these through various activities such as apple printing, paper tearing, fork printing and conker rolling!

Engaging children in creative activities allows them to express themselves and fosters mental growth by providing opportunities for them to try their ideas and to problem-solve. They use their sense of touch, sight and sound and develop their motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination.








Nursery Rhymes and Singing

Nursery rhymes play a vital role in early childhood development and education. At Nursery we make sure that we incorporate plenty of nursery rhymes into everyday activities to support our children’s learning and development. The children are singing along and/or joining in with the actions as we sing some familiar and some new songs. The children have enjoyed learning our Days of the Week song and another favourite is The Setting Boundaries Song by Hopscotch.










We will be taking part in World Nursery Rhyme Week (11th to 15th November 2024) and hope that you get involved too!

News from Reception

Star Learners

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their visits to The Co-op this half term. As part of our Harvest celebrations the children went to the shop to experience buying something; this term it was flour. They have used the flour to make bread rolls to take home and playdough to use in school. I wonder what they will do next term?





Harvest Celebrations

This term we have been learning about the festival of Harvest. As part of this learning we have talked about how farmers gather crops from the fields. We were very lucky to have a visit from a farmer and his tractor. The children had the opportunity to ask questions and sit in the drivers seat! The children sang our Harvest song, Big Red Combine Harvester, to the farmer.



Developing Gross Motor Skills

The children have been using the gross motor resources to develop their co-ordination, strength and perseverance. Activities that support the children's physical development provide the opportunity for new challenges and build their self-esteem. They are also crucial in preparing the children to hold a pencil effectively and correctly form letters. Mr Ross has been supporting the children to develop movement control and exploring moving using different parts of their body. The children love to explore the equipment in the Reception outdoor area, whilst practising balance, control and co-ordination.











News from Year One

Our Visit to the Church

The children visited St Andrews Church as part of our Christianity studies. We learnt about a Baptism - welcoming a baby into the church. Rev. Hood talked to the children about his role as a Vicar and the special clothes that he wears at different times of the year. Rev. Hood praised the children for their focus and the great questions they asked. Children were particularly interested in how long it took to build the church, discovering it took 5 years to build!







It has been lovely to hear the children talk about their own church experiences.



Autumn Celebrations

The children have been exploring seasons in Science and have seen first-hand the wonderful changes in nature. We have enjoyed studying the weather and watching the deciduous trees begin to change colour as their leaves prepare for autumn. We have studied Diwali—The Festival of Light (an autumnal Hindu festival). We have also looked at fireworks to celebrate Bonfire Night. Children have been creating firework themed artwork and Rangoli patterns.







News from Year 2

Marvellous Matheticians

The children have loved working practically with resources this half term to explore place value, number bonds and their addition and subtraction facts. The children have developed their strategies and learnt to use resources within the classroom independently.











Super Scientists

This term we have been learning about living and non-living things. We have been learning about animals and the seven life processes, their habitats, what they need to survive, minibeasts and microhabitats. We have spent time exploring our school grounds to make observations and to record and present data. We are looking forward to exploring The Grove for minibeasts on outdoor classroom day!















PSHE

We have been learning about the zones of regulation and what the different emotions look and feel like. We have been thinking about what we can do when we feel in each zone to help us get back to green so that we are safe, calm and happy. They have loved learning about what these feelings can do to their bodies so that they can recognise which zone they are in. They are encouraged to put their face on the chart each morning to check in with us on how they are feeling.





News from Year 3

A great start!

The children have settled well at Colneis. We know that it is a big step up from Fairfield in terms of independence and the children being responsible for things like changing their books, quizzes, homework etc. They have made a great start and are making a lot of effort to not only improve their English and Mathematics, but to also experience a wider curriculum. There have been new learning experiences for them to enjoy and we hope you like seeing some of their experiences.

French Day



We had a great day pretending to travel to France. The children were engaged with learning about the landmarks of Paris, learning to speak French, using Euros in Maths and creating some fantastic artwork of the Eiffel Tower. They also had fun at the 'airport' and used their money to purchase food and an item from the French market. They also enjoyed some crêpes, strawberries and honey for a snack and the adults secretly liked dressing up too!















Computing

Year 3 children have been using Chromebooks for the first time. They have been learning to log into sites we use such as Accelerated Reader, MyOn and Times Table Rock Stars. We have been supporting them with their reading quizzes and more recently they have been exploring the use of Purple Mash to begin coding.

History



We have been learning about the Stone Age and the Bronze Age. The children have learnt about what it was like to live in the Stone Age. They have seen pictures of cave paintings from caves in France and Spain and have tried to recreate their own designs using natural colours.

Outdoor Learning and Hedgehog experience



In Outdoor Learning, the children have been learning about the open spaces we have around the school site. They have planted bulbs for the spring, carried out insect and plant/tree investigations and learnt how to create hedgehog homes. We also had a special visitor to speak to the children about hedgehogs.

News from Year 4

R.E.

In our R.E. lessons this term we have been learning about the Christian faith and what the term 'Salvation' means to Christians. We were fortunate to have a visit from Major David Squirrell on the 25th September. The children were able to ask questions about The Salvation Army and find out about the variety of ways that The Salvation Army are able to help those in need.



Our visitor from the Salvation Army





Ancient Greece: Greek Day 2024

What a fabulous day we had when Leeza, from History of the Page, came to work with us. We all looked amazing in our Greek costumes and there was a buzz of excitement when we arrived at school.

The morning was taken up with a visit to an Ancient Greek marketplace where there were was a plethora of activities to take part in. Whilst visiting the various stalls we asked questions and learnt about different aspects of the Battle of Marathon.

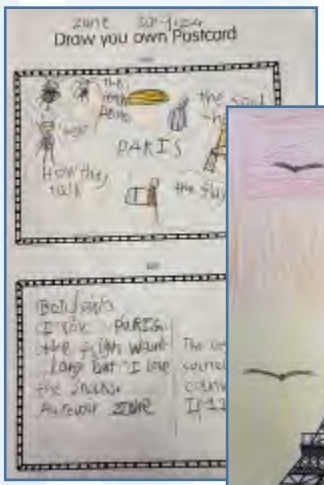
In the afternoon we moved on to the Ancient Greek amphitheatre. Each class had a different performance to put on. There were plays including one telling the story of Odysseus and the Cyclops and a group performed a dance with others providing the music on authentic instruments.

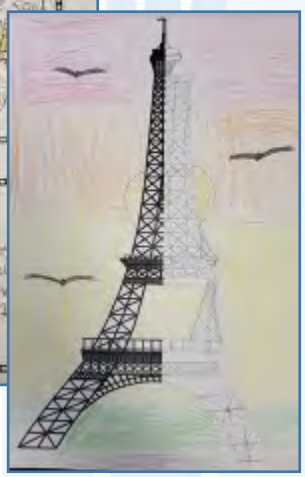
French Away Day 2024





What a wonderful trip to Paris we all had! The flight was a little bit bumpy and quite noisy, but we arrived safely. We took part in various activities including: Lego Paris Landmarks, Eiffel Tower Art and we wrote a postcard home about our trip.





News from Year 5

Art: Alberto Giacometti

This term, in Art, the children have been studying the work of sculptor Alberto Giacometti. They began the project by thinking about their body, their joints and how it moves. They then used wire to make the base for their sculpture. The wire was then covered in Modroc, before finally being painted in a choice of metal colours.







French: A Trip to Paris

On Monday 30th September, the children boarded their flight and departed for Paris. They experienced the checking-in process at the airport, including showing their boarding passes and having their luggage checked through the scanner. As part of their day, the children were able to use Euros to buy a souvenir, and then they made some traditional French crêpes, which they ate with their choice of topping. Finally, the children wrote a postcard home — in French.









The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

To support their historical understanding of Ancient Egypt, the children enjoyed a day trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to see the Egyptology collection. They were provided with a specialist tutor-led tour of the Egyptian galleries, in which they explored life in this ancient civilization.







News from Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy and exciting start to the new school year. Our topic for this half term is 'Rivers' and next half term we will be learning about 'Coasts'. The children are enjoying their swimming lessons at the Felixstowe Leisure Centre and have taken part in a number of sporting events this half term such as football and Paarlauf.

Language Day— French Airport Day—Monday 30th September

As part of European Language week, the children experienced an airport role play session and visited a French market. They arrived at the airport where they had the opportunity to practise the vocabulary they had learnt, had their passports checked, went through security and enjoyed some inflight entertainment including singing songs, and a drink and biscuit! The friendly faces of the airhostesses, pilots and airport staff settled any preflight nerves and made the experience even more enjoyable. Although we never took off, the children loved the experience and enjoyed spending their euros on a souvenir magnet.






House Captains

The school have been busy electing Year 6 House Captains and Vice Captains. All candidates made a speech to their house. Congratulations to this term's winners.



Art: Picasso

We produced 3 different pictures in the style of cubist art by Pablo Picasso. This abstract method allowed us to place features in unusual positions and we used bold colours and geometric shapes.




Outdoor Learning

On the 18th September, Year 6 took part in the National Education Nature Park challenge. It was all about growing in confidence in learning outside, and developing observation and recording skills. The classes went outside and discovered hidden nature on our school site. The children uploaded their findings to the online map.





PE

Event 1 - Paarlauf - Wednesday 25th September

One of our traditional Felixstowe pyramid events that we have now moved over to Felixstowe School who are doing a fantastic job at running these events and providing young leaders to support.

This is always an exciting event and it is never easy to know who the winner is by the end. We get to take up to 48 children to this event and it really helps us to show off the wonderful sporting talent that we have across all year groups.

This year the children ran hard, with big smiles on their faces. They must have worked really hard because they were the overall winners of the competition!

This is a trophy that we have not had in our cabinet for a few years so it is nice to welcome it back! Well done everyone! What a team!



PE

Event 2 - Hockey Enrichment - Monday 30th September

One of our main aims as a pyramid of Felixstowe schools is to look at ways that we can support the local sports clubs too.

Felixstowe Hockey Club were able to support this event with some coaches and children from across the town were given potentially their first look at hockey as a competitive sport.

Unfortunately, the morning event was rained off but it brightened up in time for the Year 5 children to attend. A very fun afternoon was had by all!

Those interested in hockey can access some free sessions and the club would love to see some new faces!





PE

Event 3 - Under 11 Football - Development - Thursday 3rd October

One of a few football events leading us into the autumn months. School Games work very hard to secure us high quality venues and provide us with fixtures against a number of schools across the south and east of Suffolk.

This team was a mixture of children from Year 5 and 6 at various stages of their footballing journey. The development events are designed to be competitive but fun, with all the children leaving feeling that they have achieved something and improved.



Our team worked really well together and played wonderfully. They snatched a last minute equaliser in game one. This was followed by another draw, a win and two losses. In all the games they held their own and definitely left having enjoyed their morning!

Event 4 - U11 Football - Competitive - Tuesday 8th October

This was a competitive football event and the level of football is always extremely high. The boys played really well throughout the competition, also having to battle some questionable conditions too! Fortunately they didn't get too wet!



They played 5 matches, winning two, drawing one and losing two - they only missed out on qualification through to the knockout phase by 2 points! There will hopefully be a lot more opportunities for this team throughout the year to try and improve upon this result. Their effort and desire could never be questioned and they represented the school beautifully. Well done!

PE

Event 5 - Under 11 Football - Development - Thursday 10th October

A cold and windy Thursday morning but the girls did not let this deter them! They embodied the spirit of the competition and Colneis school values. They played five matches and they were five of the closest matches I have ever seen. We were on the losing side four times but only ever 1 - 0. The game they did win was a 1 - 0 victory. It was so lovely to see the school games values embodied - one girl from another school even came to congratulate our goalkeeper on her performance in one of the games.



In goal, Gracie was immense! She was everywhere and she, along with all of the girls, should be so proud of their performances across the morning. It is always a real pleasure taking children to events like this and even more so when they are just so lovely!

Well done to all involved!

Event 6 - U11 Football - Competitive - Tuesday 15th October



Our last football event of the half term. This one was a competitive event. The girls played really well and again did so with a smile on their faces whilst embodying everything about fair play and school games. I sometimes think our children are a little too nice at competitions like this and need to find a bit of a mean streak!

They represented the school beautifully as ever and should be incredibly proud of being part of our school team.

https://www.felixstowefootball.co.uk/juniors/sse-wildcats-girls-football



PE

Event 7 - Area Suffolk Schools Cross Country - Thursday 17th October

This event was open to children that finished in the top 10 of the Royal Hospital School event last year. We were very fortunate to have some high performing teams last year, winning overall in the Year 5 girls and Year 6 boys categories and finishing no lower than 8th in the other 4 categories.

Our Year 5 girls team had a 3rd, 4th and 5th place finish - it was incredibly exciting!

These girls were invited back to Royal Hospital School to represent our area in a trials for the final. Finishing in the top 50 gets an invite to Woodbridge School in January for the final with a possibility of going on to represent Anglian Finals and then English Schools!



What an amazing race from all three of them. Competing in a race that was mostly Year 7 children, we had a 44th, 45th and 62nd place finish. All three did incredibly well and I was so proud of them. Renae and Ivy-Rose will qualify automatically for the final in January and Eliza may gain an invite for an incredibly strong performance. They outperformed many children in the year above and should be so proud of themselves.

What a fantastic afternoon of racing! Onto the next one!

Quick reminder that there is a cross country club Wednesday lunchtimes for those who are interested in doing a bit more running. I would love to have some company!

https://www.parkrun.org.uk/felixstoweprom-juniors/ - or you can join Felixstowe Parkrun on a Sunday morning!

Term Dates

Academic Year: Term dates for 2024-2025

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term:	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Half term:	Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024
End of Autumn term:	Friday 20th December 2024
PD (non school) days:	Monday 2nd September 2024
	Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Spring term:

Start of Spring term:	Tuesday 7th January 2025
Half term:	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025
End of Spring term:	Friday 4th April 2025
PD (non school) day:	Monday 6th January 2025

Summer term:

Start of Summer term:	Wednesday 23rd April 2025
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 5th May 2025
Half term:	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025
End of Summer term:	Tuesday 22nd July 2025
PD (non school) days:	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
	Friday 23rd May 2025

Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2025-2026

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term:	Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Half term:	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025
End of Autumn term:	Friday 19th December 2025
PD (non school) days:	Monday 1st September 2025
	Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Spring term:

Start of Spring term:	Tuesday 6th January 2026
Half term:	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026
End of Spring term:	Friday 27th March 2026
PD (non school) day:	Monday 5th January 2026

Summer term:

Start of Summer term:	Monday 13th April 2026
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 4th May 2026
Half term:	Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026
End of Summer term:	Friday 17th July 2026
PD (non school) days:	Friday 22nd May 2026
	Monday 20th July 2026