The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis

Dear Parent/Carer,



Welcome to our final newsletter of the year - it is hard to believe that 2025 is nearly upon us! Once again, please do take the time to look through all year group pages and see the huge range of exciting activities and opportunities the children have had access to. On the subject of opportunities, I am sure you will join me in saying a huge well done to all our children who took part in a range of Christmas performances this year. Not only did every one of our year groups have the opportunity to perform to an audience, we also took a number of children to sing and perform outside of our schools. We are very proud of them all.



I would also like to say a thank you to the fantastic 'Friends of Fairfield and Colneis' committee and volunteers who have helped to raise a huge amount of money for our schools this year. There is information further within this newsletter about the various events that have taken place as well as the significant amount that has been raised. We really do appreciate all the effort that goes into making these events happen.

As you are aware, we will be saying a sad farewell to Kathy Spurgeon after 26 years of amazing service to our schools. Kathy will be moving to Felix Primary School to take up an Assistant Headteacher/SENDCo position. I know she will do an amazing job - they are lucky to have her.

Finally, I hope that you all have a happy Christmas and a restful break over the holidays (as much as you can do over Christmas!). We will look forward to seeing the children back into school on Tuesday 7th January.



Best wishes,

Mr Mark Girling

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Friends of Fairfield & Colneis

Friends of Fairfield and Colneis would like to thank the parents, carers, staff and volunteers for your amazing support of our events this year.

So far we have provided the following events:

- Fairfield cake sales
- Preloved clothes and toys table top sale
- Colneis school disco
- Afternoon with Santa
- Presents from Santa for Fairfield children

And we have been able to donate:

- £200 for an assembly and workshops by Suffolk Prickles Hedeghog rescue at Colneis
- £500 for an Interactive whiteboard in the Reception hall
- £1200 for in school pantomimes for Fairfield and Colneis
- A £500 grant from Felixstowe Town Council for play equipment for Reception
- £3000 to pay towards the costs of coach travel for school trips for Fairfield and Colneis
- £1500 to Fairfield as an annual donation (Colneis to follow).

Fairfield and Colneis Quiz Night

We hope to see you all at our next event, the quiz night on Saturday 8th February. Tickets are selling well and can be purchased from: **https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fairfieldandcolneis/**



Have a wonderful Christmas and happy new year.

News from Nursery

World Nursery Rhyme Week 2024

We enjoyed another fabulous World Nursery Rhyme week in November. The children enjoyed exploring some well-known rhymes as well as learning some new ones. As you know, we are all very keen to promote the value of nursery rhymes and the huge benefits they bring to your child's development.

The week's highlight was meeting Betty, the curly-haired tarantula. She wasn't exactly the 'Incy Wincy' spider from our rhyme but the children delighted in being able to see her up close. Special thanks to Mr Cook for bringing her in and supervising her visit.







Christmas kindness

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year." Charles Dickens.

The true spirit of Christmas is about giving without expecting anything in return.

This year, we have been visited by two kindness elves, Tap and Stitch. They arrived with their own story to share and we have been thinking of ways that we can show kindness too!

Tap and Stitch are leaving notes for children who demonstrate kindness in some way from sharing a smile, gifting a drawing or helping a friend who has fallen down. The children are delighting in receiving recognition of their acts of kindness but also celebrating their friends acts too!











Don't forget you need to apply for a full-time reception school place by

15th January 2025





News from Reception

Road Safety

We had a visit from Eurovia who taught us how roads are made and how the workmen keep themselves safe. The children had the opportunity to try on their PPE. They taught them how to stay safe and kindly donated Hi-Vis jackets that will be used by the children for school trips .





Christmas Crafts

The children have been enjoying exploring the creative area creating a range of Christmas crafts. They have used a range of media to create Santas and snowmen.







Visit from Coach Larry from Rugby Tots

We were very lucky to have a visit from Coach Larry from Rugby Tots.

The children absolutely loved their session with him learning pre rugby skills. Coach Larry was very engaging and the children responded brilliantly to him.

We are hoping we may be able to have him visit us again in the summer term.







News from Year One

Our visit to the church

The children visited Felixstowe Fire Station as part of our PSHE studies on keeping ourselves safe. We learnt about the equipment used by fire fighters and the protective clothing that is worn. The children leant how to make a 999 call and had the opportunity to explore using the hose. During our visit there was an emergency call out and we saw the firefighters in action!













A prickle of hedgehogs

We have been using our creative skills to sculpt hedgehogs from clay (art) and dough (DT). The children explored rolling and manipulating the clay/dough in to a body shape with a snout. The children then used a range of sticks to create the spikes.









News from Year 2

Outdoor Learning at The Grove

Our recent outing to The Grove was a huge success and we were incredibly proud of the children's behaviour and engagement in the activities we had planned for them. Leaf kebabs were a hit as were the leaf and bark rubbings, which the children completed in pairs. Helping one another was all part of the learning process and the children's genuine enjoyment as well as their kindness towards each other was lovely to see. We were really surprised to find so many insects during our mini-beast hunt and we learnt that The Grove is the perfect habitat for them. Running up and down muddy slopes and grassy banks and playing games on the field, was the perfect way to end our morning. Thankfully the children weren't too tired to walk back to school and enjoy their playtime before lunch!

Thank you to our volunteers on the day!

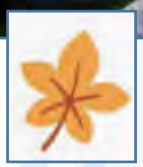














History and Art in Year 2

The Great Fire of London

The children have shown a real interest in our history and art lessons this term, learning about the significant events during The Great Fire of London. We have been really impressed with their art work, recreating scenes from the fire. They have used collage, sketching and water colours to produce beautiful works of art that they are right to be proud of.

News from Year 3

A great start!

The children have continued to settle brilliantly at Colneis. It has been great meeting those who attended the parents evening, in person or online to discuss your child's progress. So far we are pleased with the attitude and manners across the year group and look forward to a busy Spring term.

Carol Concert at St Andrews

Year 3 recently performed with Year 5 at St Andrews church. The children worked incredibly hard







Art and DT (Design and Technology)

In Art this term, the children have enjoyed creating collages in the style of Kurt Schwitters. They were able to incorporate their knowledge and understanding of both complementary and contrasting colours well and created some lovely artwork!

In DT the children have been getting in the festive spirit by designing, sewing and decorating Christmas stockings.

Outdoor Learning

The children have been taking on the Wild Challenge over the past few weeks completing various tasks such as building hedgehog homes, pond dipping, a minibeast safari and making a bug hotel. The children are always enthusiastic about their outdoor learning sessions… come rain or shine!





Science

The children have been learning about the human body and skeletons of animals. They have also been planning investigations and predicting what they think could happen in their science experiments. We have been measuring our femurs to see if people with longer femurs can jump the furthest.





Congratulations!

Well done 3C on a fantastic assembly. We look forward to seeing the other classes chance to shine next...





News from Year 4

Rotary Club Visit

We gave a warm welcome to the Rotary Club this half term as they generously gave us individual, illustrated dictionaries. They were very kind, explained how we can use them and shook our hands as we received them.

We got to use them in class to explore vocabulary we have not yet seen or used before taking them home to use.







Ancient Greece

We have had great fun learning about Ancient Greek life following our Greek Day last half term. We have learned how to use primary and secondary sources of information, explored different Greek myths and legends, gods and goddesses and discovered the origins of the Marathon and the Olympics. We can't forget about making the Phalanx formation to truly understand how the Athenians won the Battle of Marathon!





R.E

In our RE lessons, we have been learning about Hinduism and the faith's belief of Dharma.

We enjoyed learning about the story of Rama and Sita and how it inspires Hindus to follow their Dharma. We made puppets and re-enacted the story to explore Hinduism further.



News from Year 5

Premier Dance Showcase

This term 5ST have been working to learn a choreographed dance routine in their Friday PE lessons.

All the children worked exceptionally hard, and a large number of them were able to then preform the routine, at Felixstowe High School, in the Premier Showcase. It was a fantastic evening and all the classes involved did an amazing job. Opportunities to perform in front of an audience are such a boost to the children's confidence and the performers were so proud of themselves , as they should be. The teachers were incredibly proud too.



Carol Concert

The Year 5 and Year 3 students took part in the recent Christmas Carol Concert at St Andrews church. The event was a true and traditional celebration of the season, showcasing the wonderful talent and enthusiasm of our children. All pupils sang beautifully, performing seasonal songs both old and new. Several children from both year groups also took to the stage to read parts of the Christmas story. It was a valuable and slightly daunting experience to stand up and read in front of so many people and they did a truly amazing job. A number of students donned their nativity costumes to bring the story to life and illustrate the readings. The atmosphere was warm and festive despite the winter weather.







Making Mummies!



One of the most fascinating parts of our History topic this term has been learning about the process of mummification. As part of this lesson the class worked in groups to go through the process step by step and created their own mummies. They learned about the organs being removed and placed in canopic jars, the brain being pulled out through the nose and the heart being kept due to its importance in the afterlife. Each group created a miniature death mask and everyone was very pleased with the end result.

News from Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy term learning and enjoyed 2 trips out to Crucial Crew and Flatford Mill. They have been praised for their behaviour and conduct whilst in the community.

Design and Technology

In DT, Year 6 have been designing and constructing their own Jack in the Box. They have accurately measured the card and wood, and are now beginning to saw and hot glue the frame.



Dance



6J have worked hard to learn their showcase dance. They performed brilliantly at Felixstowe School in front of an audience. 6RW and 6S will have their turn later in the year.

Science

In Science this term, we have been learning about Micro-organisms. We set up a bread experiment to investigate where mould grows



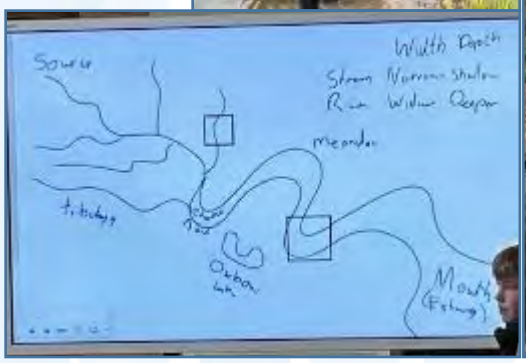


Flatford Mill

Despite the rain, we enjoyed a great day out at Flatford Mill; our river learning was brought to life. The children measured a stream and river, and were able to draw conclusions from their data. They also had the chance to pond dip and use a classification key to identify the invertebrates.









Crucial Crew

The children learnt about: fire safety, online safety, electrical safety, sun safety, boundaries and consent, drug and alcohol awareness, first aid and water safety. The sessions were interactive and informative.



PE

Event 8 - U9 development dodgeball

We took a team of year 3 children to this event. They were part of a dodgeball team last year too so it is lovely to try and continue their development and enjoyment of this sport.

This was a development event, so no winners. The idea is about the children having fun, learning to represent the school properly and hopefully developing a few new skills along the way too.

An exceptional group of children who all worked really well as a whole team, supporting each other well whilst also showing good sportsmanship to the other teams involved in the event.

They were clearly listening carefully to some tactics from Mr Ross in the picture!



Event 9 - Tag Rugby @ Felixstowe School

A very exciting evening at Felixstowe School. It was incredibly cold and we took three teams along to this event. It became a festival due to lack of attendance from other schools, which was disappointing but allowed our children to play a lot of games and develop their experience.

We had a year 6 team, and then a couple of mixed year 4/5 teams. The children representing us from year 4 demonstrated some fantastic skill improvement across the games that they played.

I was also very pleased to see our year 6 team supporting the younger children, with some even agreeing to swap teams when we had to play each other! Such compassion on show!

www.felixstowerufc.co.uk/



PE

Event 10 - KS2 Panathlon

What a fantastic afternoon! We have supported the panathlon events for a number of years now and they provide fantastic opportunities for children in equal opportunity sport. The children always have a wonderful time, although I think a lot of this is the medal that they get to bring home with them at the end of the event!



The most important part for me is the smile on their faces and how happily and confidently they are able to talk about the events that they took part in!

Thank you to Mr Ross, Miss Jeffery and Miss Lawrence for supporting!



Event 11 - Bowling

Another SEND focused event - TenPin @ Martlesham was hired out for children to come and have a lovely afternoon bowling! There was a lot of great individual performances throughout the afternoon and even a couple of strikes!



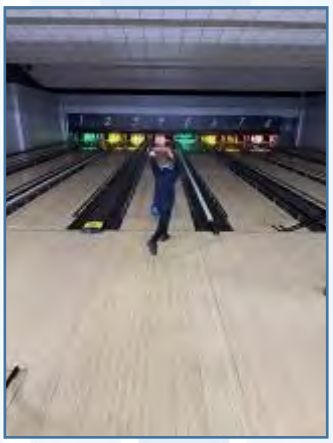
They set the event up to ensure it is quieter and darker and ensure that it supports the requirements of the children attending. Colneis had a wonderful time!











PE

Event 12 - KS1 Panathlon

A rare but fantastic event for KS1 - another Panathlon event, a SEND focused afternoon that provides all of our children an opportunity to represent their school. There were a number of different activities that everyone had access too and they really enjoyed the opportunity. Probably had more to do with being out of school however!!









Event 13 - U9 Dodgeball - Competitive

A brilliant afternoon! The children went into this with limited dodgeball experience and it is always one of my favourite ones. Where else can you tell the children to throw something as hard as they can at someone else and try to hit them!

They really developed their skills over the tournament, improving in all areas. There were some excellent dodges, some even better catches and they got more and more confident with their throws too. Overall, they were not able to finish in the top two places in their league so missed out on the semi finals but represented the school wonderfully as ever. Lots of good sportsmanship and they all remembered to shake hands at the end of each fixture. I can't really ask for any more!



PE

Event 14 - KS2 - Xmas Cracker

A fantastic event. At a very busy time of year in school, it was so nice to be able to take these children to an event for the afternoon. There were a number of different activities to access, from cricket to archery, from corn hole to circus skills and even a bit of dance thrown in too! All of the children were incredibly well behaved and enjoyed both the games and the music that kept us going throughout the session!





Another fantastic term of sport and pe comes to an end - a very big thank you to all at School Games for their efforts to provide us with such a wide variety of events!





PE

Event 15 - Premier Dance Show

Another incredibly successful dance performance from classes across our Federation. The children work so hard to make this happen and I am always so impressed with what they are able to put together. A big well done and a huge pat on the back for all your hard work everyone.











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