The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our end of spring term newsletter - as always, time seems to fly by in schools. Our newsletters are a great way to capture all of the amazing learning opportunities that have taken place over the last half a term. We have new play equipment in Reception, rockstar days in year 2, a tractor visit in year 4, Dr Bike visiting some of our children in year 6 all on top of world book day and the huge range of sports events that take place too. My continued thanks to you all for your continued support as well as the staff team who go above and beyond to make these opportunities happen.

We are currently in the process of finalising our new home/school agreement - please watch out for this in the new term. The partnership between home and school is so important in helping children to flourish and we hope this new agreement will support this. Thank you also for your support with helping your children to achieve positive and regular attendance at school. Our attendance rates have risen rapidly over the last 18 months - ultimately, the more that children are at school, the more likely they are to succeed.

Finally, I hope you all have a good Easter break and we will look forward to seeing the children back into school on Wednesday 23rd April.

Best wishes,

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2024

News from Nursery

Beep, Beep Day 2025

Road safety is a subject that even the youngest children know something about because road danger affects everyone. Danger from traffic is a big factor in whether families are able to walk and cycle safely in their community. It affects their ability to be healthy and socially active.

At Nursery we explored lots of road safety activities and games, all designed to support the children's understanding and awareness of road safety.










Red Nose Day 2025

Our whole school values include empathy and kindness and Red Nose Day provides us with the opportunity to instil these values in our children whilst having fun and supporting a great cause.

We loved seeing each child's splash of red and were able to discuss and compare our red items at carpet time. The children enjoyed exploring all things red including button placement ladybirds. Red Nose Day also gave us the opportunity to explore our own feelings. Children were able to add features to our face templates and choose an emotion to depict.







Spring has arrived!

The children have been sharing their own knowledge and experiences of the natural world whilst spotting signs of spring, in and around the Nursery garden. The recent sunshine and rise in temperature has brought a smile to all of our faces. Though it may be short –lived!

Please remember to provide the necessary clothing and footwear to allow your child/children to explore the outside area comfortably and safely whatever the weather.







News from Reception



The Reception children had an exciting delivery of some brand new outdoor climbing equipment to support them with developing their gross motor skills. The set is designed to be moved about to create different trails to climb and balance on. Safe to say the children absolutely loved it! We took a few perceptions of their experiences and here's what they said:





"I think it's great. It's just the right 'tricky' because we can practise and get exercise"

"It's so much fun and will help me get strong"

"We can move it around to make it easier"

"It will help with my balance and to get stronger"

"I love jumping and the grass means I don't hurt myself"

"I have to use my muscles to move it around"

"We have to work together to move the big parts"

"That's really hard, but I did it"

We would like to thank Felixstowe Town Council for their grant towards this equipment.





Reception Children Explore the Joy of Gardening

The Reception children have been having a wonderful time getting their hands dirty in the garden! With excitement and curiosity, they have been busy planting seeds, carefully placing them in the soil and eagerly waiting to see them grow. This hands-on experience has sparked a love for nature, encouraging the children to care for their plants and take pride in watching them grow. Gardening has not only been fun but has also helped develop their understanding of how things grow and change over time.

As they explore the garden, the children have also been learning to identify different plants and spot the difference between flowers, vegetables, and weeds.

They have enjoyed discussing the shapes, colours, and textures of leaves, making great observations about what makes each plant special.

We can't wait to see the beautiful plants and flowers that will soon appear, all thanks to the hard work of our little gardeners!

A special THANK YOU to Katie's Garden Plant Centre for their generous donations.

News from Year One

Music

The children have really enjoyed music this term. We have been discussing pitch, volume and tempo when describing a piece of music. Children have been developing their performance skills by playing the song 'Round and round' on the glockenspiels. This term children have studied different genres of music with a favourite being pop music.







Measuring

The children have been measuring and collecting data in maths and science. They have been measuring lengths and height using cm rulers and non-standard units, including cubes and classroom objects. Children enjoyed their class height investigation, talking about the outcomes of the oldest and youngest children and whether that linked to the tallest and shortest children.





Visiting St. Andrew's Church

We had a lovely visit to see Rev. Chris Hood at the church. Children explored Easter symbols including the cross and eggs. Children then had the opportunity to use some of the spring and Easter symbols to decorate their wooden heart ornament. Children gathered at the alter to listen to Rev. Hood explain how the church helps the local community. We looked at the church architecture, furniture and the stained glass windows.









News from Year 2

Rockstar Day

The children had a super time on Rockstar Day. Everyone look fantastic as they came in dressed as rockstars, complete with blow-up guitars and microphones. It was fantastic to see so many parents join us for the launch of Times Table Rock Star. TTRS is an exciting and engaging way for children to improve their times table recognition. It is cleverly designed to personalise questions for each individual child. The children had a great time exploring the website, creating their avatar and jamming with their friends. Rock on, Year 2!













Library visit and World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day , Year 2 visited the library to share our love of reading. The children enjoyed sharing a story and taking part in a quiz before having time to explore the library. We are so lucky that Felixstowe Library is in our community and we love that we can encourage the children to go there in their own time.

The children very much enjoyed dressing up on World Book Day! They all looked amazing in their costumes — well done everyone! The children enjoyed the book swap and loved sharing their favourite stories too. They had time to read these books during ‘Drop Everything and Read’. We all had a lovely day celebrating reading, books and our favourite characters.

Becoming Historians!

In History the children have been learning about Mary Anning. They have enjoyed finding out about the rocks, fossils, animals and bones found in the clay cliffs of Lyme Regis. They were excited to discover that she uncovered the most famous fossil ever found and that scientists from all over the world travelled to see it! In art the children enjoyed sketching fossils and are all really looking forward to creating fossils out of clay.









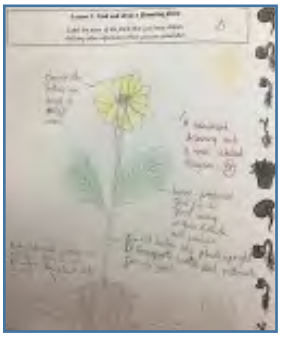


News from Year 3

This has been a very busy term for the children which has been full of fantastic experiences. We have finished our History topic, Invaders and Settlers, and we are now starting our Felixstowe and Rainforests topics. In our assemblies, we have focused on kindness and have been rewarding those showing kindness and compassion towards others. Finally, we would like to thank you for supporting our Year 3

In Science, we have been learning to draw and label diagrams and we have dissected flowers to learn about the role each part plays in pollination. We have also played the pollination game which was great fun!





In music, the children have been learning to appraise songs and have learnt to read music. We can play some songs using the notes B, A and G.

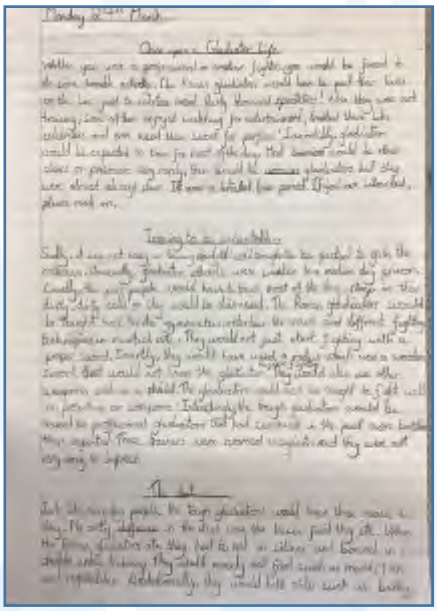


In PE, the children have been learning to move and balance using the gymnastics apparatus in the hall. They have also been learning cricket. The Year 3's are working really hard to perfect their catching, bowling and batting techniques.





In English, the children have been writing about a poor Hedgehog called Horace. They have been trying to incorporate adjectives, adverbs, similes and metaphors to describe his perilous journey. They have also written an information text about Roman Gladiators.





Art- Every class has a fantastic gallery of their version of Starry Night by Van Gogh.

Well done to 3M on a fantastic assembly. There was a great selection of learning that parents, Year 3 and Year 5s could see. It is nice to see the children growing in confidence with their speaking and listening.

Some of the children have also been acting in our 'Open the Book' assembly. They were given acting and speaking parts with support of the team.



News from Year 4

Tractor Visit

Earlier this term we had a visit from a local farmer. She brought along one of the tractors that she uses on her farm. The farmer explained that the farm was a mixed farm (arable and livestock) and talked to the children about the jobs the tractor did around the farm. It was a great opportunity to get a closer look at something that we often take for granted.





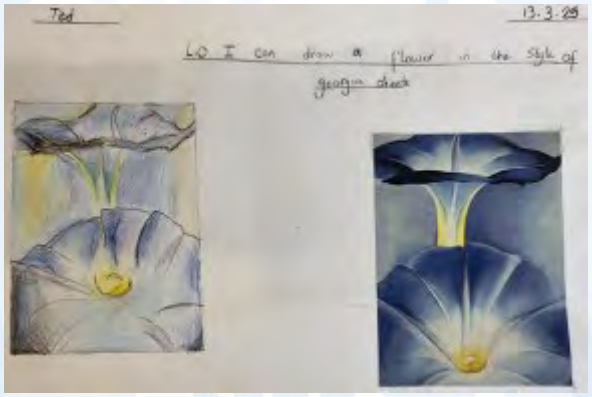




Outdoor Learning

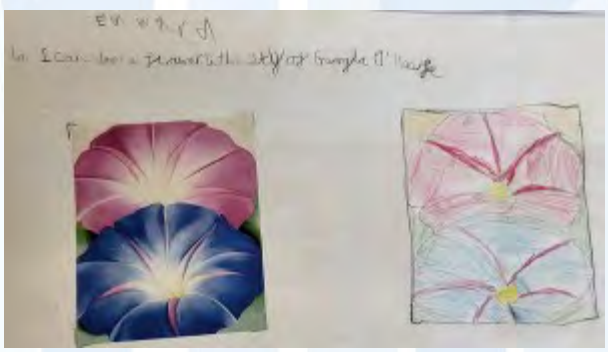
In our outdoor learning sessions we have been busy. There have been studies of plants found on the school field and we have planted some 'pants' in various locations in the wildlife area! We talked about natural and man made materials and what the pants might look like when we dig them up in about eight weeks. We also planted some leek seeds which they will harvest in Year 5 and make Tudor pottage with in a Food Technology lesson.





Art

We have used our Zaka masks and Frogs/Lizards to create a beautiful display in our Art Gallery. We have also been looking at the beautiful flower art work produced by Georgia O'Keefe and have created our own version in Art lessons.



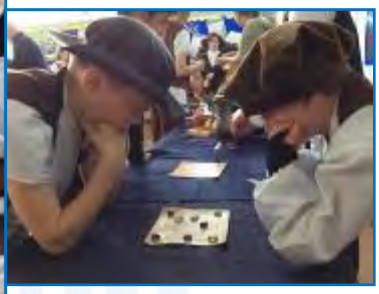
News from Year 5

History: Tudor Experience Day

We were delighted to welcome 'History Off the Page' into school on Tuesday 11th March to provide the children with a real Tudor experience. The setting was May 1536: the final days of Anne Boleyn. During the morning, the children participated in a variety of tasks including: limning (painting lockets), ink making and writing with quills, sewing, apothecary, scent bag making and candle making. During the afternoon, the children experienced a Tudor feast, which was accompanied by entertainment rehearsed and performed by the children. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our adults at home for providing the children with Tudor costumes, with a special thank you to the parent helpers who supported so efficiently during the day.







Design and Technology: Cooking and Sewing

Continuing with the theme of the Tudors in their Design and Technology lessons, the children designed and made a Tudor bag, and prepared and cooked a Tudor potage (vegetable stew).






Outdoor Learning

In our outdoor learning sessions this half term, the children have considered the life cycle of birds and amphibians, using the pond to identify how a frog develops. They also dug up the leeks and turnips which they had planted whilst in Y4, and used them in their Tudor potage.






News from Year 6

This half term, Year 6 have continued to work hard. In English, they have loved using their history knowledge to write for a range of audiences and purposes. They have written an autobiography as a WW2 pilot and are now using the Chromebooks to write a news report on the Blitz. The children have emersed themselves in the WW2 topic and we have been really impressed with the quality of their writing.

World Book Day 2025

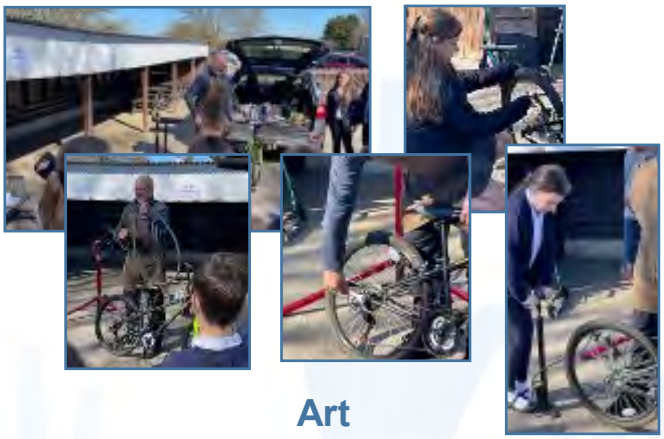
The children enjoyed dressing as their favourite book character or as a character from Treasure Island. We loved the creative costume ideas and hope they enjoyed the day.





Dr Bike

We had the privilege of hosting a 'Dr Bike' event at Colneis. The children were able to book their bikes in for an 'M' service and all of Year 6 were able to observe and learn from 'Dr Bike'. They were taught how to check their bikes following the 'M' shape of the bike frame using ABC (Air - tyres/ Brakes/ Chain and Cables).



DT

Over the last few weeks, the children have designed, sculpted, painted and glossed their own clay desk tidy.



Art

The children displayed some excellent artistic skills when they created still life drawings after observing fruit.




House Captains

After delivering speeches to the rest of the school, these children were successfully voted in to lead their houses this term.



6RW Showdown

On Tuesday 18th March, 6RW performed their showdown dance –

'I always wanted a brother'.



PE

Event 25 - Felixstowe Swimming Gala



A hugely competitive event every year. Our children always seem to raise their game when they are against the other Felixstowe schools.

There were 33 year 6 children that were able to represent our school at this event which is always what makes me most proud. Sport is not everything but providing as many of them as possible with the opportunity to represent the school is so important.

They all worked hard but were met with significant competition, finishing 4th overall. Well done to all involved and we will try to get the trophy back next year!



Event 26 - U8 Girls Football @ ITFC

This event lines up with an FA sponsored event aimed at getting as many girls to play football as possible. Although there are significantly more opportunities for girls now, it is still massively under-represented and so vital that we play a role in supporting change.

The girls played 4 v 4 matches, with the emphasis on having fun, scoring some goals and leaving with a better understanding of the game. They definitely enjoyed themselves.

Event 27 - U10 Girls Football @ ITFC

Another event at ITFC for our older children in the school. The emphasis of the event was the same as the previous one. Get girls playing football, enjoying it and playing in a supportive context.



They all did really well and returned to school looking very pleased with themselves.

These sort of events are as important as our competitive events. Whilst it is important to celebrate winning and learning to both win and lose correctly, friendly, more relaxed events ensure that we can provide opportunities for all children who might not enjoy high levels of competition but still want to develop a healthy lifestyle.

Well done to all involved!

PE

Event 28 - U11 Dodgeball - Competitive



Dodgeball is always one of my favourite events of the year. It brings real meaning to controlled aggression and our children were amazing. They competed well, earning plenty of victories along the way. What impressed me the most was their honesty. Dodgeball is so fast paced it is not always easy to see when they have been hit but Colneis displayed the required honesty in every game. Unfortunately, we did not get enough points to qualify for the semi finals but left with our heads held high after a frantic and energetic morning!



Event 29 - Bowling

A wonderful afternoon of bowling. Our School Games Organisers always do a fantastic job for our schools, offering us numerous events to attend but their SEND provision has really grown over the last few years.

Competition is important but so is learning to represent the school and this can be done in a non-competitive and supportive environment.

The children always really enjoy the bowling events and regardless of how well they do individually or as a team, leave with a medal and a sense of pride for representing our school!

Event 30 - Swimming Panathlon



A wonderful afternoon of swimming. Mrs Jacobs and Mrs Hall took these children off to Crown Pools to represent us in a swimming gala. There are a few 'sprint' races and then a few more that are fun, like the slam dunk relay and treasure hunt. The children did really well. Swimming confidence was varied but they all committed to every event and all left with a smile, a medal and a sense of pride!

Well done to all involved.

PE

Event 31 - U11 Dodgeball - Development



An excellent morning of dodgeball. This was not quite a 'development' team - this was more like our B team and they performed as such. They worked really well as a team supported each other well from the side. Something all of our children have in common is their honesty and this is so important in dodgeball. The game moves so quickly that we do need children to tell us if they get clipped and our children are always the first to step off. Definitely makes me proud to take them to events and they represent the school beautifully!

Event 32 + 33 - Football @ Felixstowe School

A really busy morning of football. We were well supported by the staff and young leaders from Felixstowe School and were 'sponsored' by the Felixstowe Rotary Club who very kindly donated medals, awards and a trophy for the B team event. This was a highly competitive event. We sent a Year 6 team and a year 5 team. The Year 6 event was highly competitive and we were caught out a few times, eventually finishing 4th. The Year 5 children came together as a really good team and were able to win all of their games on the way to collecting the trophy. A highly successful event for them!



PE

Event 34 and 35 - U11 Futsal - Girls competitive and development

The start of a very busy couple of weeks of school sport. We sent two teams to this event. One competitive and one development. They played really well with both teams coming together to cheer each other on a support each other when they could. They all worked well as a team. The competitive side were able to win a few games and score some goals but unfortunately did not pick up enough points to qualify for the semi finals. The development team gradually improved with each performance and they really grew in confidence as the event went on. They should all be really proud of their efforts across the whole afternoon!



Event 36 - U11 Futsal - Boys Competitive

A very competitive afternoon of football. The boys started their group winning 3 out of 3 games and played beautiful football. It was a mix of a few year 5 and 6 children and they came together well. They lost their final game but had done enough to make the semi final. The lost the semi final 1 - 0 on a fairly dodgy referring decision and a retaken corner but picked themselves up to win the 3rd place playoff. A highly successful afternoon and showed real potential for next year too!



PE

Event 37 - U11 Futsal - Boys development

A real mixture in our 'development' team. I picked children that all played football and we had a mix of year 6, 5 and 4 children. They all came together really well and you would never have known that they were a mix of ages. The year 4 children especially stood out with both ability and confidence and helped hold the team together.

The future of Colneis football looks bright!





Event 38 - U9 Hockey enrichment

We were very lucky with this event. Hockey appeared to be doomed with the U11 event cancelled earlier in the term and this one was on the ropes with disrupted transport! Luckily, we sorted the bus issues and were able to get lots of year 3 and 4 children to RHS for an enrichment session. They thoroughly enjoyed the session and hopefully inspired a few of them to want to experience more of the sport. I know Felixstowe Hockey Club would welcome some new faces!

Event 39 - U11 Hockey - Competitive

This event was initially planned in for the start of the term but had to be cancelled. We were fortunate enough that a few schools were able to take some year 6 children to the U9 event, meaning we could still have a competitive event. They played really well and really tried their best. Hockey is not a sport that lots of our children play outside of school anymore which is a shame but they certainly didn't let us down. They competed really well, earning themselves a 3rd and 5th placed finish.



PE

Event 40 - Cross Country @ RHS

That an exceptional morning of running! These children have worked so hard over the last few months to get themselves ready for this event and they did not let themselves down! Drenched in sunshine but a very strong wind, they were all able to get round the course in good times and supported each other beautifully. They all made me very proud! Some very special mentions for Monty finishing 5th, Finn 14th, Rose 13th, Elsie 19th, Renae 10th, Ivy-Rose 21st and Eliza 22nd. There were lots of performances to be proud of. Especially our Year 3 children running in the Year 4 race! Well done all!











PE

Event 41 - Premier Showdown

Another wonderful performance. It always makes me incredibly proud to watch what these children are able to both remember and the confidence that they show to be able to perform in front of an audience of over 200 adults. They have all worked so hard throughout the term and thoroughly deserve the applause that they receive. Well done to all of the children involved and a big thank you to Premier for all their hard work with rehearsals.













PE

Felixstowe Cross Country Champions!

As promised from a previous newsletter, we have finally got the trophy back in its rightful place!

The children were very proud to see Colneis on there as champions again and hopefully acted as a little bit of inspiration for the children attending the RHS event this week!

Again, a very big well done to all of the children involved in this event. They certainly deserved the victory!



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