The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the school year. I'm sure you will enjoy reading about the wide range of exciting opportunities that have already been taking place. Life in school is very busy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their tireless commitment to providing children with such rich and varied learning experiences.

During my assemblies this term, I have been talking to the children about the importance of reading. We are very proud of our libraries at both schools, and of our reading provision in general, and I am asking for your support in helping your child with their reading at home. By developing a love of books and reading every day, children open the door to wider worlds and to the broader school curriculum. There is a direct link between children's ability to read fluently and with comprehension, and their future success.

At both Fairfield and Colneis, we ask that all children read at least four times a week at home with an adult. Currently, around 75% of our children are achieving this at the most (and for some classes this is under 50%). We need to see this increase. If you need any support in finding books your child will enjoy, please visit our school website, or contact your child's teacher or local library — they will be more than happy to help. Thank you for your support in this important area of our work.

Have a lovely half-term break.

Best wishes,

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

July 2025

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!

Exploring Autumn

Autumn brings some amazing colours and the children have enjoyed exploring these through various activities such as making blackberry paint, apple printing, leaf hedgehogs, autumn wreaths and taking a close look at Autumnal objects in our investigation tray.

They have been using their sense of touch, sight, smell and sound to explore these natural objects and they have been learning new vocabulary to describe their findings.

We have explored seasonal stories such as, Owl babies, Farmer Duck, Ten Little Pumpkins and enjoying songs such as Incy Wincy Spider and Dingle Dangle Scarecrow.








Nursery Rhymes and Singing

Nursery rhymes and counting songs 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.









News from Reception

Settling into Reception

The children have had a brilliant start to school! They have been playing lots, getting to know their environment and the new routines. We have started phonics, been to the school library, and mixed paints to make different colours. During maths we have been singing lots of number songs and learning to count and recognise numbers to 5! We've been learning about Harvest Festival and the changes that happen around us at Autumn time. Whilst playing on the back green, we've been creating leaf art using the leaves you've collected on your autumn walks.








Developing Gross Motor Skills

Children have been using the gross motor resources to develop their coordination, 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 coordination.









News from Year One

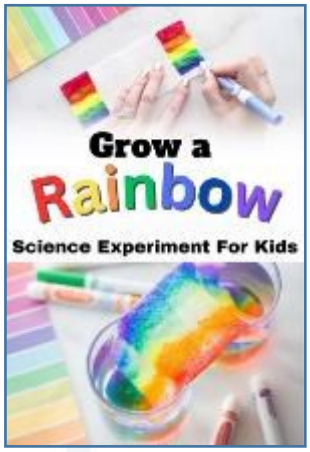
Rainbow Challenges

In Year One, curriculum work is taught as whole class lessons or through Rainbow Challenges. Tasks are completed independently or supported by staff in small groups. In Science, we have been exploring rainbows with a range of investigations and colour explorations. We have enjoyed studying the weather and searching the sky for rainbows on a rainy day!

















Colour has also supported our work in PSHE, exploring the zones of regulation. We thought about a time where we have felt happy (green), low (blue), wobbly (yellow) or angry (red) and tried to describe how our bodies feel at these times. Children are learning to understand their own bodies and emotions. When we understand how we are feeling and can name those feelings, it is often easier to be able to regulate our own emotions.

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 enjoyed preparing for the visit by re-enacting a Baptism in class.







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



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 learned 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!









Reading and Phonics Open Afternoon

We really enjoyed our open afternoon and the children were proud too show off their progress in reading and phonics this year! They introduced their grown ups to the different ways that we learn sounds and the ways that we make reading fun. Keep up the hard work and aim for that 4x a week reading for the chance to win a Golden Ticket!







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 are in each zone to help us get back to green so that we are safe, calm and happy. We have set up regulation stations in each classroom with different resources to support the children.





News from Year 3

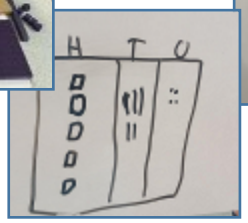
A great start!

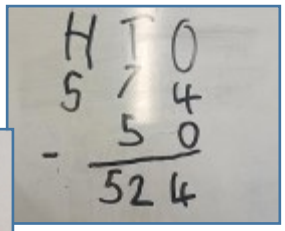
The children are beginning to settle well at Colneis. We know that it is a big step up from Fairfield, in terms of independence and the children being responsible for things like changing their books, quizzes, homework etc. They have made a great start and are making a lot of effort to not only improve 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.

Maths

In maths, we have been learning the value of 3 digit numbers and using different methods to add and subtract .











Outdoor Learning

In Outdoor Learning, the children have been learning about the open spaces we have around the school site. They have enjoyed learning about the trees at Colneis and have even planted their own seeds.









Hockey enrichment

The children loved going on the coach to Felixstowe School to enjoy a hockey session with some of the Sports Leaders. They rotated around 6 stations and developed their hockey skills.







History

We have been learning about the Stone 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.



Computing

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

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 Wednesday 17th 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.

Also, in RE, we read some stories from the bible and created freeze frames to show the moment of ‘Salvation’ in them.





Outdoor Learning—Pond Dipping

On Tuesday 23rd September we had our first Outdoor Learning session of Year 4. We looked at pictures of how the pond in the wildlife area had developed over the past few years and then did some pond dipping to discover if any new species could be found in the pond. We used magnifying glasses and identity cards to help us find out what creatures we had found.



Science

In science this term we have been learning about sound. We have investigated how sound is made, what pitch and volume are, how sound changes when played through different media and how it changes over distance.

We were lucky enough to have a visit from Dan at the School of Sound. He brought in lots of activities and equipment for us to work with. Amongst these were a musical instrument called a theremin (which was used to create the original Doctor Who theme), a morse code machine and a beat box made from fruit and vegetables. Ask your child what happened when they tapped the orange.



News from Year 5

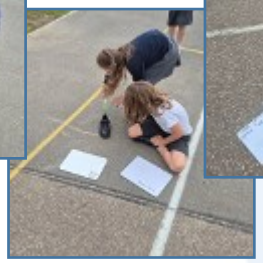
Year 5 have had a very busy term learning. They have enjoyed swimming at Felixstowe Leisure Centre, celebrating National Poetry Day and bringing history to life.

Science

In Science this term, we have been learning about Forces. We have completed experiments to investigate friction, air resistance and gravity.








National Poetry Day

To celebrate National Poetry Day we thought about Performance Poetry. We watched how Michael Rosen performed his poems. We used the same skills to read the Haikus we had written.





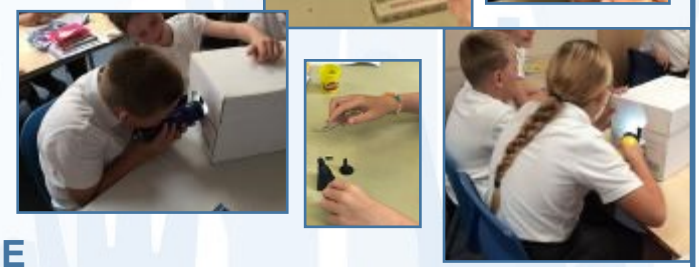




History

We have enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt and especially the pyramids. We made our own pyramids from play dough. We also brought the topic of mummification to life with our visitor Ray Crump.

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PE

In PE, Year 5 have been working towards their Water Safety and 25m badges at Felixstowe Leisure Centre. These skills enable the children understand what to do if they accidentally fall into cold water.



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'. We had a great time at Bawdsey and wanted to share some more pictures of the week.











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.

There is also some artwork that children who did not attend PGL.



PE

Event 1 - Paarlauf - Thursday 2nd October @ Felixstowe School

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!

They retained their title from last year and I have it on good authority that there was quite a large gap between us and the next school. It definitely showed in the effort that they put into all of the races!





Event 2 - Development football - Thursday 9th October @ Whitton Sports Centre

The first of our many development events that we will enter throughout the year. These events help to provide opportunities to children that either aren't quite at or interested in the competitive level yet. Well run and organised by our School Games Organisers, who work tirelessly to ensure there are enough events for schools like us!

Well done girls - an excellent effort all round!



PE

Event 3 - Competitive football - Tuesday 14th October @ Whitton Sports Centre

This group of girls were amazing. They worked so hard and they showed great commitment across the event. A couple of very good wins ensured they finished third in their group, not quite enough to get into the playoffs but with a large number of Year 5s in the team, I am excited for what this team could be next year! Well done girls!











Event 4 - Hockey enrichment @ Felixstowe School - Thursday 16th October

A wonderful full day event at Felixstowe School - we were very lucky to be able to send all of Year 3 to this event. Two classes attended in the morning and 1 in the afternoon with a variety of other schools across Felixstowe. The team at Felixstowe School, along with their brilliant sports leaders ensured that our children got to utilise some great facilities and experience Hockey, possibly for the first time. The children had a great time. If anyone is interested in Hockey, then please feel free to contact Felixstowe Hockey Club. It would be wonderful to see more of our school represented in their youth teams!

https://www.felixstowehockeyclub.co.uk/



PE

Event 5 - Development football - Tuesday 21st October @ Whitton Sports Centre

Development events have changed over the years. All schools take fairly competitive teams to these events and so I have used it as an opportunity to take a mixed year 4/5 team to an Under 11 event.

The boys did such a good job. They were competitive and played with great enthusiasm in every game. They managed 2 wins, 2 draws and a loss. In their loss, they hit the post twice and were incredibly unlucky.

I was so proud of their efforts and it definitely gives me confidence of what our football team will look like for the next couple of years!

Congratulations to Reuben who was our fair play player of the tournament.



Term Dates

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

Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2026-2027

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term:	Thursday 3rd September 2026
Half term:	Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2026
End of Autumn term:	Friday 18th December 2026
PD (non school) days:	Monday 1st September 2026
	Tuesday 2nd September 2026

Spring term:

Start of Spring term:	Tuesday 5th January 2027
Half term:	Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027
End of Spring term:	Friday 27th March 2027
PD (non school) day:	Monday 4th January 2027

Summer term:

Start of Summer term:	Monday 13th April 2027
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 3rd May 2027
Half term:	Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027
End of Summer term:	Wednesday 21st July 2027
PD (non school) days:	Friday 12th April 2027
	Friday 28th May 2027