The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another incredibly busy and successful term, filled with a wide range of exciting opportunities for our children. As you read through this newsletter, we hope you enjoy seeing just how much has been happening across the school and the many ways in which we strive to provide a rich and varied curriculum. We are always keen to ensure that our children benefit from a broad range of experiences that support their learning, creativity and personal development.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support this term, particularly around our Christmas performances. The children were fantastic — they showed confidence, enthusiasm and teamwork, and we are very proud of the way they took part and represented our school. A huge thank you also goes to all of our staff for their dedication and hard work throughout another busy term. Finally, thank you once again for your ongoing support, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 6th January. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Best wishes,

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

July 2025

News from Nursery

The Elves and the Shoemaker

We have enjoyed sharing this traditional tale and highlighting the gift of giving. Tap and Stitch visited our Nursery and were pleased to send notes to children who they 'caught being kind.' The story inspired us to create some beautiful cards which we will be sending out to our local community to spread some Christmas kindness.









Christmas Crafts

We have been exploring a variety of Christmas crafts such as making paperchains to support our fine motor skills and dexterity and creating paper plate snowmen to support visual recognition, focus and language skills. There is so much value in exploring creative opportunities and they are often over-looked. It's important to give children lots of opportunities to be creative and to get messy too!







Nursery Christmas Performance

This year, we were inspired by the children's own interest in a well-known story and enjoyed our special performance of 'We're going on a star hunt.' We re-told the story of the Three Wise Men, who travelled very far, following the star, to the town of Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus.

The children used new vocabulary including prepositions of movement and mathematical language (size, sequencing etc). Re-telling stories is a really important skill which supports the children's literacy, comprehension and oral skills.



The children created their own beautiful star headbands by printing star shaped biscuit cutters.



It was a wonderful performance and We were extremely proud of all of the children.

News from Reception

Trip to St Andrew's Church

We were very lucky to be able to visit Rev Chris Hood at St Andrew's Church. He and his volunteers welcomed us into the church. We were able to have a look around the church and we made a Christmas tree decoration to take home.

Rev Chris took us into the front of the church and told us the Nativity story. We ended our visit by thanking Rev Chris and the volunteers. The children were a credit to the school with the behaviour during the visit and walking sensibly to and from the church. We hope to visit again at Easter.







Christmas, Christmas, Christmas!

The children were fantastic in the Christmas Nativity performance, They showed courage and did their very best. They have been enjoying exploring the creative area creating a range of Christmas crafts including a Santa sleigh and holly wreaths. They have made paper chains to help decorate the provision.















News from Year 1

Christmas in Year One

In Year One, the children have been learning the Christmas story in preparation for the KS1 Christmas performance. They worked incredibly hard to learn the songs and actions ready for their performance. All children did a wonderful job and should be extremely proud of themselves!





In English, the children have focused on retelling the story by sequencing and writing the events in the correct order. The children have participated in a number of Christmas activities. They have enjoyed helping to decorate Christmas trees, practising to draw Christmas pictures, making candy canes out of pipe cleaners and beads and sharing stories of their cheeky elves at home!






Mathematics in Year One

The children have enjoyed learning the names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They have been exploring the similarities and differences between shapes as they play. Children have thought about the key features of each 3D shape and used this to sort and group the shapes. Their work made some fabulous buildings!




They have been recognising and creating a repeating pattern on paper and using computer games. Children have been printing with 3D shapes to explore the 2D shape flat faces.





News from Year 2

Outdoor learning at The Grove

Our 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. 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. 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 lessons this term, learning about the significant events during The Great Fire of London. We have been really impressed with their art work during provision time, such as 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.










Outdoor learning with Mrs Churchyard

The children enjoyed learning about our school environment with Mrs Churchyard and searching for habitats and key features around our grounds.



News from Year 3

A great start!

Year 3 have had a busy end to the Autumn Term. They have now completed their outdoor learning sessions as well as attending a local area visit to The Salvation Army to learn about what Christmas means to Christians. It has been great meeting those who attended the parents information morning. The teachers are really pleased with how the children have settled in.

Dance

All classes have been continuing their learning on Prehistoric Britain. Children have been learning a Stone Age Dance.





Carol Concert at St Andrews

Year 3 recently joined Year 4 to perform at St Andrews Church. The children worked incredibly hard to learn all the songs in preparation for the concert, and their effort truly shone through. A number of pupils also had the opportunity to read a passage during the service and did so with confidence and clarity. Every child played their part wonderfully — they should all feel very proud of their fantastic singing!

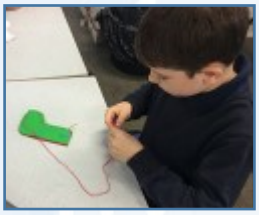
DT (Design and Technology)

In DT this half term, the children have been getting in the festive spirit by designing, sewing and decorating Christmas stockings. We displayed these at the Salvation Army Christmas Tree Festival.













Science

The children have been learning about the human body and the skeletons of different animals. They have also been planning their own investigations and making predictions about what they think might happen during their science experiments. One of our enquiries has involved measuring our femurs to explore whether people with longer femurs can jump the furthest. It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic in their scientific learning!







Salvation Army Christmas Experience









News from Year 4

Rotary Club: Dictionary 4 Life

We were delighted to welcome three members of the Rotary Club into school on Monday 10th November, to present each Year 4 child with an Usborne Illustrated English Dictionary. The 'Dictionary for Life' project, which is now in its 20th year, supplies illustrated dictionaries to Rotary Clubs to donate to local primary school children. To date, well over a million books have been donated to primary school children as a personal aid to improve their literacy.






PE: Dance

This half term, the children have been creating a dance inspired by the Ancient Greek story of Troy and the Trojan Horse. They developed their skills of timing by clapping in time to the music and identifying the eight beats within a musical phrase. They then learnt a series of movements which they were able sequence into their own dance.








Christmas at Colneis

The children have very much enjoyed their Christmas preparations which have included a trip to the 'Experience Christmas' event at the Salvation Army, designing and making their Christmas Hoop for display in the school hall and finally the Christmas Concert at St Andrew's Church. The staff in Year 4 would like to wish all of your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas.









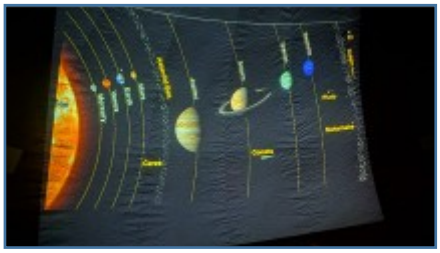
News from Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy term. They have enjoyed a trip to Cambridge to further understand the Ancient Egyptians, a planetarium visit to school and lots more!

Science - Space

We had a visit from Starlinc on Thursday 13th November. They brought with them a mobile planetarium, showing us the wonders of the night sky without having to go outside or stay up late!

We learnt all about the moon and and also the name and position of lots of constellations.







History









We had a fantastic trip to The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge this half term. We had a tremendous taught session in their permanent exhibit but were also very lucky that they currently have a temporary 'Made in Ancient Egypt exhibit too.

Outdoor Learning

We had an excellent couple of sessions throughout the day in our outdoor area. This half term we were thinking about insects and providing them a safer space. This included replenishing the bug hotel, building twig towers and 'stumping' - building an artificial tree stump to encourage stag beetles to our area.







Homework

We would like the children to have a nice break over the Christmas holidays so there is no homework. When the children return in January, we will be focusing homework on Doodle Spell / English so they may want to make sure they have this downloaded on a device.

Have a wonderful holiday!



News from Year 6

Year 6 have continued to enjoy another busy and exciting term. We have learned all about fractions in maths, written a third person story, an explanation about the 1953 Flood in English and we found out about Coastlines in Geography.

Crucial Crew



At the beginning of the term we went to Crucial Crew. It is a personal safety program for Year 6 children. There were a series of interactive workshops that showed the children how to stay safe. It provides crucial life skills including: fire safety, water safety, online safety, online safety, healthy relationships and emergency response. It helps them to prepare for High School and develops greater personal independence.



Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning with Mrs Churchyard supported our Science. It focused on food chains and how animals and plants are adaptable.





River Projects

The quality of the projects that the children wrote and produced was excellent. We spent several Geography lessons listening to the children describe the geographical features of their river. We saw a range of posters, PowerPoints and even a life size Congo river crocodile.



6P Class Assembly

The children in 6P decided that they wanted to focus their class assembly all about Pablo Picasso. They wrote their own play and created original artwork inspired by the Spanish artist.



PE

Event 6 - Badminton - Thursday 6th November - Inspire Suffolk

A new one for us. This was an enrichment opportunity and a chance for 10 children from our school to have a go at something that they have never done before.

They all had a lovely time and gave all of the activities a really good go. It can be tricky going to new places and trying new things but they did so with lots of confidence and represented our school beautifully.

Well done everyone!







Event 7 - Bowling—Wednesday 19th November @ Martlesham

Another wonderful SEND event - Our school games organisers do a fantastic job to offer some specific events and we try to attend as many of them as possible.

A huge thank you to them and their efforts to ensure every child gets a great offer!



PE



Event 8 - Competitive Football - Thursday 20th November @ Whitton Sports Centre

A brilliant effort from our competitive football team. They worked really hard, winning their group and making it through to the semi final without conceding a goal.

It was a very closely fought semi final, resulting in a penalty shoot out which we unfortunately lost. These boys have been a fantastic team coming through the school and they will have a few more opportunities later in the year to come together again.

Event 9 - U9 Dodgeball - Friday 21st November @ Ipswich School Sports Centre

This was a development event and this is roughly the same team that attended a dodgeball event in Year 2. I have never had such a consistent dodgeball team - they have the right mix of skill and aggression and this is always my favourite event to send children too. They had a fantastic time there and are always desperate to know when they can go again!





Event 10 - Xmas Cracker - Thursday 11th December @ Inspire Suffolk

Another of our SEND specific events. The children accessed a variety of events including pickleball, running, circus skills, archery and cricket. They also rehearsed a dance throughout the morning with the aim of all coming together to dance together at the end of the event.

PE

Event 11 - Xmas Cracker - Showdown - Tuesday 9th December @ Felixstowe School



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



What a wonderful evening. Once again, the children completely blew me away with their skills and confidence. To perform in front of such a large crowds at such a young age is something that they should all be really proud of and they did a fantastic job. Well done to all of the children involved!

Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

Firstly, we wanted to say thank you to Mr Girling for letting us add a new section to the newsletter about our work.





About the Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

We're the registered charity that fundraises to support the incredible work being done across both Fairfield and Colneis. Even if you haven't heard of us, you've likely seen our work – such as the afternoon with Santa, the discos, the cake sales, the summer fair, and plenty more!

Last year, you helped us raise an incredible **£11,425,** supporting things such as:

- Physical resources: such as an interactive whiteboard and new outdoor play equipment
- Subsidising costs: such as contributing to coach travel and zoo visits
- Student workshops: such as learning more about hedgehogs and Holi

All that work is thanks to parents – like you – volunteering their time.

Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

We need volunteers

Everything we do is run by volunteers.

We're all busy parents juggling young kids, jobs and the things life throws at us (especially in the run up to Christmas!), but we're also keen to give back to the school and staff who do so much for our children.

We really need more parents who can volunteer just a little bit of their time.

That might be helping out at an event. It might be popping along to a meeting (usually just once a term). Or it might be as simple as forwarding messages onto your class WhatsApp group.

No matter how small your contribution might seem, they all add up to a stronger community – and some invaluable fundraising for the school.

If you're interested in potentially helping – with no commitment – drop us an email to friendsfandc@gmail.com.



Thanks all, and happy new year!

The Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

Felixstowe Rotary Club

You may have seen a few of us went out to support the Felixstowe Rotary Club in raising money for Save the Children.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It was wonderful to represent both schools within the community. Everyone was so complimentary, and seeing some of our children's faces light up — especially when Santa gave them a special hello (with a secret whisper of their names in his ear!) truly warmed our hearts.

Once we have confirmation of the total amount raised, we will share it with you.





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