The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another great and action-packed half term, with lots going on and many exciting opportunities for our children, as you will see throughout this newsletter. We work hard to build these experiences into school life — from trips to Piper's Vale and Colchester castle, to World War 2 day and outdoor learning. We know that these experiences all add real value to children's learning.

This has also been our first half term as part of the Eko Trust. While there may not yet be many obvious outward changes, we are already appreciating the support, collaboration and shared expertise that being part of a wider family of schools brings. It is an exciting step for our federation, and we look forward to the opportunities this will continue to provide for both staff and pupils.

We were particularly proud this week to take a group of children from Fairfield and Colneis to London to perform at the Trust's AGM. They represented our schools brilliantly, and it was a wonderful opportunity for them, as well as a special way for us to introduce ourselves to our new Trust community. Our Fairfield children sang beautifully and Colneis children performed a high energy and high quality dance.

We hope that you have a good half term break and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 23rd February.

Best wishes,

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FEB 2026

News from Nursery

Magnificent Mark Making

Mark making in the early years is crucial for developing fine and gross motor skills, fostering creativity, building early literacy skills and numeracy foundations. It allows children to express their emotions, explore exciting materials and understand that marks hold meaning, paving the way for writing and communication.

In nursery, we explore mark making using various materials and tools. We investigate marking in the environment, large-scale painting and individual mark making.








One particular way we encourage all children to explore and grow confidence in mark making is through ‘Scribble Club.’

Scribble club can happen anywhere at any time. All you need are some mark making tools!

The focus is on the act of scribbling and imagination rather than the final picture. Adults can model exciting ideas and adventures, encouraging children to explore alongside them.






Imaginative play: Dolls

We have had some new editions to our nursery families with more on the way!

The children’s own interest has led us to adding dolls to our role play area.

The children are enjoying caring for the dolls and pretending to feed, bathe or take them to the doctor. Through role play, the children are able to process emotions, build empathy, improve their social-emotional skills as well as safely rehearse social scenarios, develop language and act out daily routines. It’s wonderful to see the children developing storylines and build nurturing habits.







News from Reception

National Storytelling Week

This half term we celebrated National Storytelling Week. In Reception we love reading and retelling stories. We have a lovely new reading arch that the children love to snuggle under to look a books. And retell familiar stories.

We have had a focus on traditional tales. We have explored how they are lots of different versions of these stories but the main themes of the story remain the same. We have used story stones to retell theses stories and explored using the outdoor provision to support story telling.

We are very lucky to have Yoto's in school, so the children are able to engage in listening to a story, developing better listening skills.

The children have been sharing their favourite stories with us, giving us all lots of ideas of new books to read!



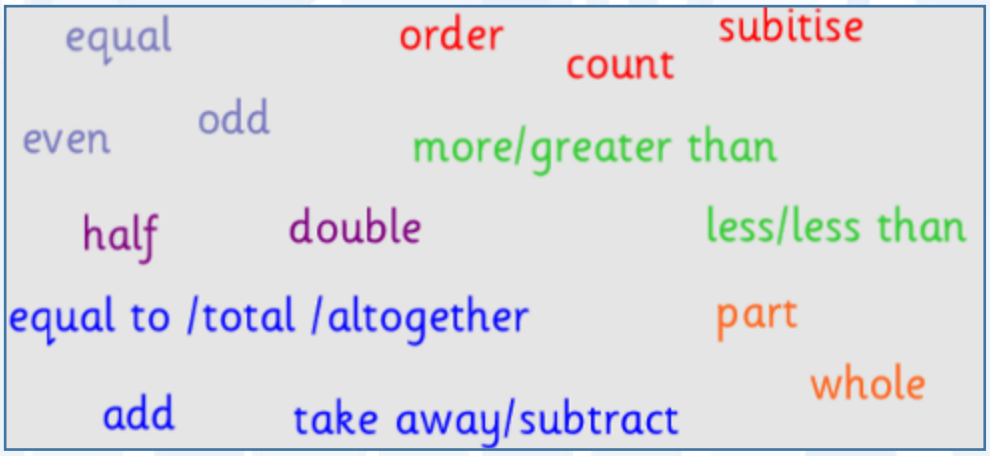


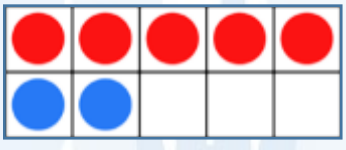
Maths in Reception

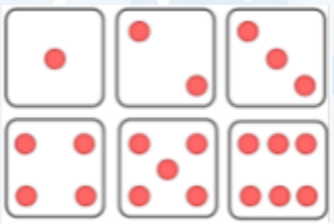
This half term we welcomed in our parents to see how we teach maths in school and the resources we use. The children had the opportunity to model using these with their parents. We explained the important of mathematical language and explained all the terminology the children will be introduced to over the course of the year.

During this session we also introduced the children and parents to Numbots. The children had the chance to set up their individual accounts with their parents and start their Numbots journey. The children are now enjoying using this at home.











News from Year 1

Painting skills

The children have been exploring their colouring mixing skills when painting. They looked closely at Georgia O'Keeffe's large flower paintings, focusing on scale and tone. Children used their own paintbrush strokes to add depth and texture.









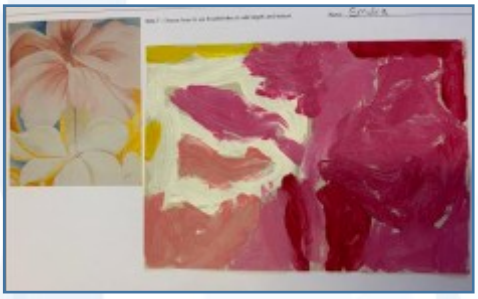
Children have used mixed media in their Rainbow Challenges and morning work too.











Ch

Pentecost

In RE, children have been learning about Pentecost linked to our previous work on Baptism. Children have been exploring the story and the associated symbols including a flame and dove. There have been some lovely crafting opportunities to embed the Pentecost story.





News from Year 2

Our Trip To Piper's Vale Gymnastics

The children absolutely loved our trip to Piper's Vale Gymnastics Centre to celebrate the start of our new gymnastics PE lessons. The children showed bravery, resilience and courage when trying things that were new to them and out of their comfort zones. They had some specific work with coaches and then enjoyed time exploring the gymnastics centre with their friends. We had very happy but exhausted children on the buses home!










Australia Day

To celebrate their learning on Australia the children tried Australian food such as tim tams, Vegemite and fairy bread. They learned about how to stay safe in the sun. They also played some Australian sports and watched some sports clips.

Becoming Scientists!

The children have absolutely loved learning about materials this half term. During this topic, they worked in groups to plan and carry out an experiment. They came up with ideas such as 'Which material is best at holding a heavy object?' and 'Which material is best for flying?'. They loved watching each others experiments and seeing if their predictions were correct based on what they had learned this half term.







News from Year 3

The children have been working extremely hard this term to develop their Literacy and Numeracy skills. They have continued our Invaders and Settlers topic, learning about how the Romans changed Britain, which they are thoroughly enjoying.

We kindly ask that you continue to support your child at home with regular reading, revision of times table facts, and spelling homework. Finally, thank you very much for your generous contributions in helping to provide the children with the recent learning experiences they have taken part in. Without your continued support, these valuable opportunities would not be possible.

Colchester Castle

We had great fun exploring the museum, where we investigated the displays, looked closely at artefacts and learned what they were used for. Each class visited the castle foundations and discovered how the castle was built on top of a Roman temple, as well as learning about the Romans and the story of Boudicca.












Science

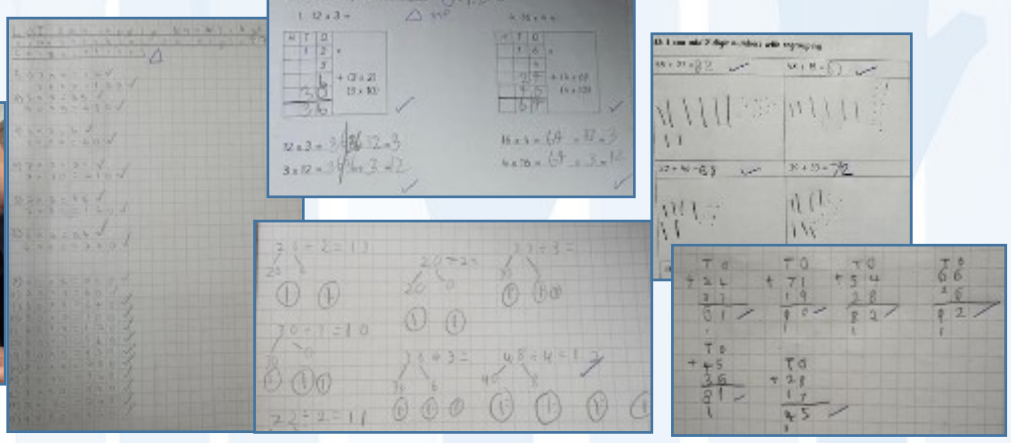
In Science this term, we have been learning all about forces and magnets. The children have enjoyed a variety of investigations including how to use different forces (push, pull, twist) and the strength of a magnet.

Maths

Some of the children have been very busy developing their strategies and skills for multiplication and division. We have taught them how to use partitioning to multiply and divide, and then write the fact family.

In Miss Piotrowski's group, the children have been learning to add and subtract tens and ones to a 2 digit number.



News from Year 4

Outdoor Learning



This term in Outdoor Learning, Year 4 have been exploring the topic “Wildlife Detectives.” They learned how to categorise and identify living things, investigating the plants and animals in their environment. The children also developed their skills in recording data and understanding ecology and food chains. They explored how producers, predators, and prey are connected and discussed ways to care for wildlife through environmental stewardship.



R.E– Islam

Year 4 have been learning about Islam this term. In lesson 4 they looked at the Mosque and community practice linking to their key enquiry question ‘Why do Muslims call Muhammad the ‘Seal of the Prophet?’. This unit helps the children to learn about the way that key figures can provide inspiration and guidance for believers of different religions.





St Lucia—Art

The children this term in Art, have been developing their painting skills. They have been learning how to create artwork inspired by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai, exploring his techniques and distinctive style. They have been learning how they can add white to primary and secondary colours to produce a range of tints. Children have also loved experimenting with thick impasto paint by adding flour to create depth and thickness to their artwork.







News from Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy and exciting term across the curriculum, including exploring the Tudors in History, studying the artwork of Frida Kahlo in Art, investigating the properties of materials in Science and playing hockey in P.E.!

Maths - Fractions

This term we have been developing our understanding of fractions. We have learnt how to find equivalent fractions, add and subtract fractions, and convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions. We used packets of sweets to support these conversions in a fun, practical way.






Outdoor Learning

In our outdoor learning lesson, we worked in groups to build bird nests using only one hand, which was a fun challenge. We learned about different types of nests, where birds choose to build them, and explored the lifecycle of a bird from egg to adult.






P.E.





Science

In Science, we have been exploring the properties of materials and

learning how to separate them. We have practiced choosing the right equipment carefully to carry out our experiments accurately.







News from Year 6

Year 6 are continuing to work hard and enjoying their learning, especially our World War Two Topic.

World War Two Day

The children began their day with a long walk to the train station. On the train journey, they enjoyed chatting to their friends and playing games whilst they gazed out of the window at the beautiful green countryside, and even spotted some funny looking black and white creatures… cows! When they arrived at the village hall, they were warmly welcomed by the local residents and given a drink and biscuit.





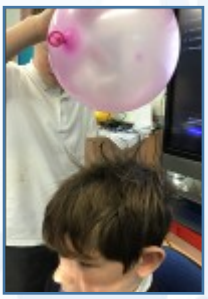
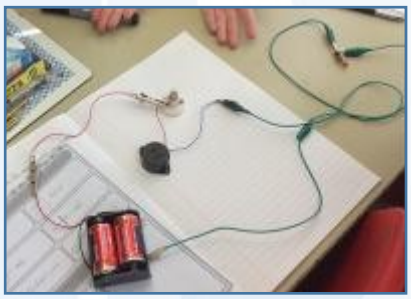
The school day included arithmetic, handwriting, dictation and reciting a poem. When an adult entered the room, the children were expected to show respect by standing until told to sit. At the end of the day, the children participated in 'drill' - exercises in lines. Throughout the day, there were a number of air raid warnings sounded.






Science—Electricity

In Science this half term, we have been investigating electricity. The children have enjoyed exploring static electricity and learnt about different symbols and drawn their own circuits. We have also used the equipment to create our own circuits with a buzzer and a switch.




DT

Four our latest DT project, the children have been making a Jack in a box. They have been designing their models, measuring and cutting their wood and assembling the framework.

Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

We're already planning the Summer Fair (yes really!)

It may be cold and rainy outside but we're already thinking about this year's summer fair.

Last year it was the biggest event in our calendar by far – raising an incredible £4804!

This year's Summer Fair is happening on **Saturday 20th June – so save the date**!

Fancy volunteering?

For all the effort that goes in behind the scenes, the on-the-day volunteering is actually pretty casual. The day is designed to be fun, after all!

You can just pop in for an hour or two planned around when you're going to be there anyway.

And there are plenty of simple tasks like helping at the game stalls, selling cakes and drinks, or just making cups of tea.

It's very much a sense of many hands make light work.

Team up and make a day of it!

Why not get a group of your parent friends and volunteer together?

Let us know and we can pop you on the same stall so you can have a laugh with friends while raising some funds for the schools. We'd say that was a pretty good day!

Got some wider family who want to volunteer? We'd love to have them!

Why not ask the wider family if they want to help, too?

Grandparents, aunts and uncles, *great aunts and uncles… if you've got someone who want to be part of the fun, we're more than happy to have them.*

If you're interested (or know someone who might be) drop us an email to friendsfandc@gmail.com.

Let's see if we can make this year even bigger!

The Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

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:	Monday 12th April 2027
	Friday 28th May 2027