The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, it has been wonderful to reflect on the many experiences and opportunities the children have enjoyed across the school.

We have seen great enthusiasm for events such as World Book Day, where children across all year groups embraced the joy of reading, sharing stories and celebrating their favourite books. It was fantastic to see such a wide range of costumes too! Alongside this, the many trips and visits that have taken place this term have really enriched the children's learning and helped to bring topics to life.

A particular highlight this term has been the wide range of PE and sporting opportunities available to our pupils. We are incredibly proud of how many children have had the chance to represent the school across a wide range of events. Wearing the school kit and competing as part of a team is always a special experience, and our pupils have demonstrated not only skill and determination, but also excellent sports values. Through these experiences, they are learning valuable lessons about competition—how to win with humility, lose with grace and, most importantly, how to support one another as part of a team.

We wish you all a happy and restful Easter break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 13th April.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAR 2026

News from Nursery

World Book Day



What a fantastic day we had exploring our favourite characters from Julia Donaldson books. We had some great discussions about the characters and events in these ever popular stories.



The children thoroughly enjoyed a scavenger hunt, challenging themselves to spot well-known characters from the books which had been hidden both inside the Nursery and out, in the garden.

We were thrilled that children joined in at home too, sharing their World Book Day fun on Tapestry.



British Science Week: Curiosity……..What's your question?

We had a brilliant time igniting the children's curiosity whilst exploring science, technology, engineering and maths. The children enjoyed a variety of activities and experiments too!

We watched flowers change colour over time, became palaeontologists and created fossils, used technology, made a rainbow, watched a volcanic eruption, used our engineering skills to build bridges and balance bears, discovered non-Newtonian fluids and observed a fizzy geyser!



















Sunshine and smiles!

We have enjoyed some beautiful weather recently and it is lovely to see the children enjoying the Nursery garden. They have been spotting signs of spring and sharing their own knowledge of this exciting season. We have noticed some wonderful friendships developing and it is a joy to watch the children play and explore together. Being outside allows them to develop friendships with children that they may not usually seek out. They are demonstrating excellent social skills; sharing, taking turns, cooperating, listening to each other and managing friendship difficulties. This shows that the children feel a real sense of belonging which is a wonderful feeling for all of us.













News from Reception

World Book Day 2026

In Reception we love books and story telling. The children had a thoroughly great day on World Book Day, dressing up as their favourite book characters. It gave us a chance to talk to the children about their favourite books and giving an opportunity to practise engaging in a back and forth conversation.













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!

News from Year 1

Maths: Place Value using tens and ones

We have been exploring place value in maths, teaching that the position of the digit in a number determines its value. Children used the arrow cards to represent the “tens” and “ones” then used concrete objects (straws, base-10 blocks etc.) to visualise the numbers. The children used their knowledge of place value to navigate around a 100-square, recording the missing numbers.





RE: Pentecost

In preparation for our Easter visit to church, children have been learning the Christian story of Pentecost—often described as the “birthday” of the Church. We explored the arrival of the Holy Spirit and children familiarised themselves with the symbols associated with the story.





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 Easter egg ornament. Children gathered at the alter to listen to Rev. Hood explain the symbols and events from the easter story. We looked at the church’s architecture, furniture and the Pentecost inspired stained glass windows.





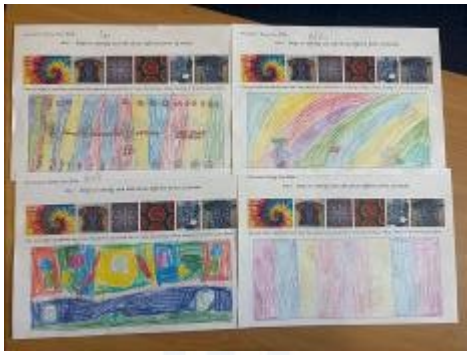


News from Year 2

Design and Technology

One of our projects this half term has been our tie-dye and sewing project linked to our Australia learning in Spring 1. The children designed their tie-dye piece and predicted what it would look like. They then had a go at tie-dying their fabric and they loved looking at how different everyone's pieces turned out! They then practised their sewing skills by adding an Australian animal onto their material, practising threading their needles and completing some simple stitches to join the two pieces together. They added embellishments with beads and metallic pens and we are so proud of their final pieces. They also had a go at creating a range of Australian art work including an Aboriginal style dot painting.








Telling the time

Over the last few weeks in Maths we have been learning to tell the time. The children have been fantastic at learning o'clock, quarter past, half past and quarter to. We then had a go at telling time to five minute intervals such as five past 10, 20 past 5, 25 to 3 and 10 to 6. It would be great if you could continue practising this crucial skill with your children over Easter and encouraging them to tell the time using their own clocks and watches.



Amazing artists!

In Art this half term the children have enjoyed learning about Henri Rosseau. They learned about the style of his art work and where he got his inspiration from. They developed their sketching skills and brushstrokes before building up to their final piece. They created a jungle background, added animals and then their final details using everything they had learned. I am sure you are as impressed as we are!








News from Year 3

It has been another busy half term in Year 3. The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and dedication, working hard across all areas of their learning. 3J and 3P have produced excellent class assemblies and should feel very proud of themselves. All of the children have enjoyed showing their creativity in music, DT and drama.



World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March, the children enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters and completing World Book Day activities. They were able to have a book swap where they could trade an old book for a new one, watch a live lesson where the children could think about what makes a great story and DEAR (drop everything and read). It was a great day—thankyou to all parents for their support with the costumes.







History

Using their drama skills, the children were able to re-enact daily life as an Anglo Saxon.







Music

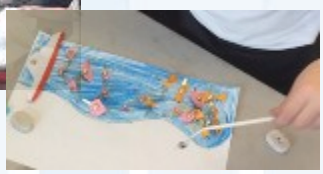
The children have loved learning to play the recorders this half term. They have learnt how to play B and A.



Science

The children have continued their learning on forces and magnets. They tested different surfaces to see how far a car would travel and created their own magnetic games.





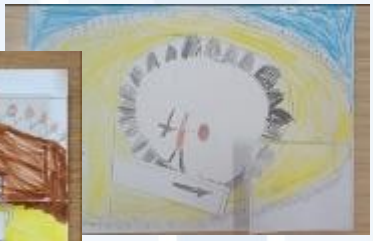
DT

In DT, the children have designed and made an amphitheatre with moving mechanisms, including a hinge flap and slider.







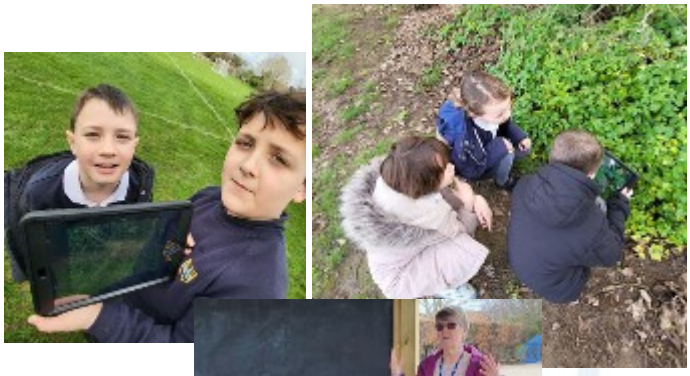


News from Year 4

Art - Final Display

In the last newsletter we showed you how the children explored called Katsushika Hokusai. They learnt how to add white to primary and secondary colours to produce a range of tints and loved experimenting with thick impasto paint. Here is a photo of a finished display which shows the process the children went through during the sequence of lessons to produce their final piece of art.







Outdoor Learning

Our first outdoor learning session of this half term involved looking very closely at new plant growth. We looked at a website called iNaturalist where photographs are uploaded and people help each other to identify the species of plant. We took some very close up pictures and then selected our best shot for Mrs Churchyard to upload onto the website.

Landguard trip

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Landguard. The morning was split into two sections—one to explore the dangers and impacts that plastic and litter have and the other to identify grasslands and the beach. We couldn't believe how long plastic lasted in the oceans!







Tractor and Farmer Visit

We were also lucky enough to have a local farmer bring a tractor to school for us to look at. This was to support our Food and Farming Topic next term.

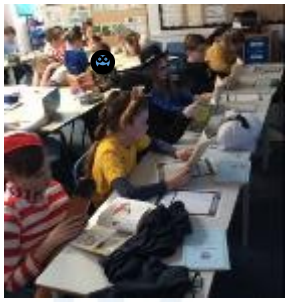


News from Year 5

Year 5 have had another busy and exciting term across the curriculum, including exploring the Tudors in History, designing and making Tudor bags before using them on Tudor Day and celebrating World Book Day!

World Book Day

We had a fantastic World Book Day celebration! We enjoyed Drop Everything And Read time, dressed up as our favourite book characters, shared and discussed our choices. We also created wonderful acrostic poems all about the joy of reading.



Outdoor Learning

In preparation for our Tudor Day, we harvested the leeks we had carefully grown and later used them to make our Tudor potage. We also explored traditional Tudor techniques by dyeing fabric using natural materials such as beetroot and onion, discovering how people in Tudor times created colour from plants.










Tudor Day









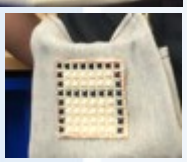
Tudor Bags

We had a great time making our Tudor bags! We practised sewing back stitch and cross stitch, learnt how to plait, and carefully sewed on buttons. We were very grateful for the parents who kindly helped us.









News from Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed a busy and exciting term. We have learned all about: building electric circuits in science, area and perimeter in maths, and written an explanation about 'Operation Dynamo' in History and English.

Youth Forum

Some of our school councilors and Year 6 pupils went to the Town Hall and made hedgehog houses and bird boxes to bring back to school. As part of the school council meetings, it was decided that the children wanted to provide homes for wildlife. This will add to our thriving Wildlife area at school.





Year 6 World Book Day Costumes







Science

In science, our focus has been to make complete circuits. The children were asked to design and test the brightness of a lamp and associate it with the number of cells/voltage used in the circuit. They designed fair tests and used the equipment to prove their theory.



Design Technology

Year 6 have spent the term planning, designing and building a Jack-in-the-box.

They have used their designing skills to make the box and developed their woodworking skills to make the frame.

Here is one of the excellent products that were created.



PE

Event 13 - Sportshall Athletics @ Suffolk One - Thursday 15th January



This is always a highly competitive and noisy affair. With 'track' events happening down the middle of the hall and 'field' events happening around the edges there is a lot happening at every point of the afternoon. Children compete in a variety of running, throwing and jumping events, with every child accumulating points for our team. A very big well done to our team who were able to finish in 12th place overall.

Event 14 - FXS Cross Country

Our local schools cross country event. Know organised and run at the high school, this event is one we always go into with high hopes of doing well. We were the defending champions and in our Under 11s A team, we had a year 4 and a year 3 child running. They performed beautifully on the day, with our boys team finishing first overall and the girls team first too but in a three way tie ! Thanks to all of their efforts, we were able to bring the trophy back to Colneis for another year!



PE



Event 15 - U11 Basketball @ Inspire - Tuesday 3rd February

This was a development competition but they still go into these events with fierce competition and a desire to win. They all performed really well, working hard as a team and definitely improving their skills as they went through the morning. Well done to all children involved.

Event 16 - U9 Basketball Festival

Another development event, with a little more focus on the skills required to play the game. Supported by young leaders, who were doing it as part of their coursework, all of the children visited a number of different stations to develop their understanding of the game and then were able to put some of those things into game based scenarios. Every child left with an improved knowledge of the game.



PE

Event 17 - Bowling @ TenPin, Martlesham - Wednesday 11th February

A fairly hectic afternoon of bowling. The arcade provided a lot of interest for the children but they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and it got quite competitive towards the end!

This event had a SEND focus to it - something we are really proud as a school is our ability to ensure that all children are provided the opportunity to represent the school in a variety of different ways.





Event 18 - KS2 Panathlon - Friday 27th February

Another SEND focused event - these events are always very busy and full on but the children have a really lovely morning of activities. They have a go at a number of activities that are fully accessible by all children and our children showed a good competitive nature, eventually finishing in fourth place. Every child that attends gets a medal and leaves with a smile on

Event 19 - U11 Rotary Football @ FXS school— Tuesday 3rd March

This is hugely competitive every year. 5 local schools gathered at Felixstowe School for our annual football competition. We played 8 games in total, each team twice.

We went unbeaten, winning 7 games and drawing one 0-0. Goals were shared around, with Monty and Matt scoring 3 each and Jasper, Taigo and Lucas picking up a couple each too. Charlie kept a clean sheet in every game, helping us on our way to regaining the title and returning to fill up our trophy cabinet!

We need a bigger one!



PE



Event 20 - Clip and Climb - Wednesday 4th March

Another one of our SEND focused enrichment events. We are very lucky to have dedicated School Games Organisers who are able to put on such a variety of events for our children to have access to.

This ensures that I am able to offer out lots of opportunities to a number of different children, some competitive, some just for fun.

Event 21 - U10 Girls Football - Monday 9th March

Girls' football continues to be a real strength of ours and the local offer is still an exceptional one. At this particular event, around 25 schools were able to bring a team along to Ipswich Hockey Club, to an event that is backed by Suffolk FA and supported by ITFC women too. The girls had a fantastic time and as ever, represented the school beautifully.



Event 22 - Rotary Clip and Climb - Tuesday 10th March

Another regular event, made possible through sponsorship from the Felixstowe Rotary Club. This started a few years ago and has continued with some real dedication and commitment from them to provide different opportunities to the children in Felixstowe.

I hope that our links and our close work can continue for a good few years to come!



PE

Event 23 - U9 Hockey - Thursday 12th March

We were lucky to have this event put on so close to us. Hockey is getting a real push and with an excellent local club that was willing to support and with help from Felixstowe School too, we were able to take 24 children from Year 4 to this event.

We hope that the games and challenges that they took part in might inspire a few of you along to their training sessions!

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



Event 24 - KS1 Panathlon - Friday 13th March

A fantastic morning – we don't get to take KS1 to a lot of events so it was lovely to be able to have the opportunity to take these children along to this event.

The activities are all accessible but with in built challenge. The teams score points for a variety of different challenges and this goes towards an overall total. Every child leaves with a medal regardless of where they finish but these children performed exceptionally well, finishing third overall!

Well done and thank you for your excellent behaviour all morning!





PE

Event 25 - Panathlon Swimming event - Friday 20th March

A massive well done to all of our Panathlon swimmers who worked their socks off for the morning, competing in some traditional races, as well as a few fun activities to earn our school points. They showed a lot of confidence in the water and both supported and encouraged each other well.

Event 26 - Swimming Gala - Friday 20th March

This was the first time that a gala has been held in Ipswich for many years and we were very excited to be a part of it.

18 schools attended, with each school providing 8 children to compete in a backstroke, breaststroke and 2 front crawl races.

They also then had to come together to compete in a medley relay and a freestyle relay.

All round an absolutely fantastic team of children who I couldn't have asked more from. They varied in experience but Noah, who swims competitively for Felixstowe, was able to add his experience and support to the team, winning every race he was involved in, pulling back a 12 metre gap in both relays to win his races.

All those points earned us a 2nd place finish, just two points behind the eventual winners!



Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

Fun Runs

The end of the Spring term has seen pupils pushing themselves in our Fun Runs to help raise money for the school – and they all did such a brilliant job!

We want to say a massive thank you to Mrs Smith for leading on these and making them a huge success.

If you want to add a sponsorship you can:

https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QCED9SNP

Cake Sales

Our regular cake sales are always a popular way to raise money while getting the weekend off to a lovely start. So much so that we've started running them at Coleneis too!

If you're at school pick-up on a Friday anyway and may be able to help out for half an hour or so (even if it's not your class), we can always use an extra pair of hands.



Summer Fair prep continues

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

We've got some exciting new additions that will add even more magic to the day (more will be revealed later…) so we're eager to get more volunteers so we don't have to cut back on any of the stalls on the day.

The more of us there are, the more we can do, the more fun we can have, and the more we can raise!

Join Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

You can read more about volunteering on the school website.

https://www.fairfieldandcolneis.co.uk/our-federation/friends-of-fairfield-and-colneis/

If you want to find out more about volunteering, email us at: friendsfandc@gmail.com

Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

Cake Sales

Our regular cake sales are always a popular way to raise money while getting the weekend off to a lovely start. So much so that we've started running them at Coleneis too!

If you're at school pick-up on a Friday anyway and may be able to help out for half an hour or so (even if it's not your class), we can always use an extra pair of hands.

Fun Runs

The end of the Spring term has seen pupils pushing themselves in our Fun Runs to help raise money for the school – and they all did such a brilliant job!

We want to say a massive thank you to Mrs Smith for leading on these and making them a huge success.

If you want to add a sponsorship you can: https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QCED9SNP











Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

Summer Fair prep continues

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

We've got some exciting new additions that will add even more magic to the day (more will be revealed later…) so we're eager to get more volunteers so we don't have to cut back on any of the stalls on the day.

The more of us there are, the more we can do, the more fun we can have, and the more we can raise!



Join Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

You can read more about volunteering on the school website.

https://www.fairfieldandcolneis.co.uk/our-federation/friends-of-fairfield-and-colneis/

If you want to find out more about volunteering, email us at: friendsfandc@gmail.com

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