Together we're better

# The Federation of Fairfield and Colneis



As we come to the end of another successful school year, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on everything our children have achieved. Looking through this newsletter, you will see just how many exciting experiences they have enjoyed over the past year. From educational visits, sporting competitions and performances to outdoor learning, enrichment activities and our much-loved Happiness Festival, our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, confidence and pride. These experiences are such an important part of school life and help to create lasting memories alongside their learning.

At this time of year, we also say goodbye to those moving on to the next stage of their journey. We wish all of our Year 6 children every success as they leave Colneis for high school and know they will continue to flourish in the years ahead. We also wish our Year 2 children the very best as they make the exciting transition from Fairfield to Colneis. We know they are more than ready for this next step.

We are also saying farewell to a number of valued members of staff. At Colneis, we say a special thank you to Mrs Churchyard, who is retiring after an incredible 23 years of dedicated service. We wish Mr Scott every success as he takes on a new challenge at The Bridge School in Felixstowe, and Miss Gadsden as she begins her new role at a school in Ipswich. We would also like to congratulate Miss Piotrowski, who is getting married over the summer, and wish her every happiness for the future.

At Fairfield, we say goodbye to Mr Vite and thank him for all he has contributed to the school. We also wish Miss Hudson and Mrs Lewis every success as they take on exciting new training opportunities. Finally, we send our very best wishes to Mrs Smith as she begins her maternity leave and look forward to meeting the newest member of her family in due course.

Thank you to all of our families for your continued support throughout the year. Your encouragement, partnership and commitment make such a difference to our school community and are greatly appreciated.

Have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming all of the children back to school on **Thursday 3rd September** for another exciting year of learning.

Compass Eko Trust

https://www.fairfieldandcolneis.co.uk

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAR 2026

# News from Nursery

## Moving Up!

It is a bittersweet time in Nursery as we support the children with their transition into Reception whilst celebrating a wonderful year together.

The children continue to thrive and show us that they are well-prepared for their next adventure. We couldn't be prouder of this group of children who have grown so much in such a short time. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know them and being part of their journey.

Good Luck to all of our Nursery stars!






## Happiness Festival

The children had the best day exploring a range on activities within the Nursery. To start the morning the children made and decorated festival wristbands







As it was such a hot day the children enjoyed a range of water based activities including: paddling in water, refreshing face flannels and a toy car wash!







The children had great fun exploring tie dye by decorating t-shirts. In the afternoon the children cooled down by sharing a book and then made their own musical instruments! What a fabulous day!





# News from Reception

## What a fantastic first year of school!

This year the children have made huge progress across all areas of the curriculum and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them!

They have:

- built friendships,
- learnt to share and take turns,
- learnt and followed the Fairfield Values,
- explored new activities,
- visited the church, twice!
- learnt to read by blending,
- learnt to write by segmenting,
- become mathematicians,
- learnt a range of songs,
- learnt some basic Makaton,
- performed in the Christmas show
- raised money for charity,
- carried out experiments,
- developed creative skills,
- developed imagination skills,
- cared for ducklings,
- taken part in Sports Day,
- developed gross and fine motor skills,
- designed fabulous constructions,
- enjoyed sensory play,
- visited the local library,
- enjoyed the Happiness Festival,
- went on a train
- enjoyed Pirate Day with Nursery!
- performed class assemblies
- played interactive games on the smartboard as well as board games,
- learnt about religious festivals including Christmas, Easter and Diwali













And so much more!

# News from Year 1

## Space day

This term we have been learning all about space travel and the moon landing. We have explored key historical figures such as Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Dr Mae Jemison and Maggie Aderin. We have then learnt about the most recent space exploration, thinking about how space travel has changed but what we have learnt from these important life events. The children really enjoyed dressing as astronauts and completing astronaut activities. We finished our learning with some arts and crafts to complete our learning on space.










## Felixstowe in Flower

As a year group we have been working on a team project that will be entered into the Felixstowe and Flower competition. The children have made little Fairy statues, fairy houses and washing lines, bee watering stations among other creations.

They have also entered some flower sculptures too. The children first learnt about the artist Yayoi Kusama and her artwork. We learnt that she takes inspiration from nature particularly flowers. The children then created a salt dough flower sculpture, painting and decorating this with spots in the same style.

## Science

In science we have been learning about the different parts of plants. We have explored how to look after plants and what they need. The children have also documented the lifecycle of a plant while growing our own. It has been really exciting to see which seeds have grown and to predict what they will look like when they flower. The children have been very good at reminding the adults to water the plants and keep them alive!





# News from Year 2

## Swimming and Buddy Days at Colneis

The children have been brave, beautifully behaved and so supportive of one another during these new experiences. They have shown great independence and organization when changing and made excellent progress in their swimming lessons because they have listened carefully to the instructors. All of the children have enjoyed meeting their Year 3 buddies, who will be in Year 4 in September and ready support the new Year 3 intake. We are really proud of the children's conduct when visiting Colneis and can see they are ready for the next step in the school journey!










## Ipswich Transport Museum

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Ipswich Transport Museum and were fascinated with the Suffolk's vehicles from the past. They enjoyed sitting on the trams, buses and fire engines and loved listening to all of the volunteers facts. The children managed to get their very own ticket from the past. The children particularly enjoyed learning about the history of bikes and got to see Penny Farthings, folding bikes and Laufmachines.







## Happiness Festival

The Happiness Festival has become a yearly event where the children have the freedom and creativity to choose their own activities throughout the day, which helps then develop independence. Lots of fun was had by all!









# News from Year 3

## Colchester Zoo

On Tuesday 19th May, Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic day at Colchester Zoo. We explored the different animals and learnt facts about them, travelled around part of the zoo on a land train, and even got to walk through a lemur trail where we had the chance to see them close up. One of the highlights of the day was going into an aviary where the birds were flying free. They drank some nectar from a little pot and even landed on our heads! It really was a great day out.

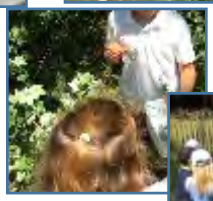






## Buddies

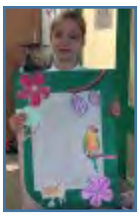
For the first time, our Year 3 children had the exciting opportunity to become buddies for the Year 2 pupils who will be coming up to Colneis in September. Following a busy transition morning, it was wonderful for the children to meet their new buddies and begin getting to know one another. During the afternoon, the children took part in three activities together: an outdoor learning challenge, a 'Getting to Know You' activity, and some free-choice fun. Our Year 3 pupils were fantastic role models, demonstrating their kindness, confidence and maturity. The Year 2 children thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and we know they can't wait to return in September as members of Year 3!









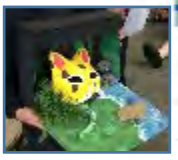




## Rainforest Projects

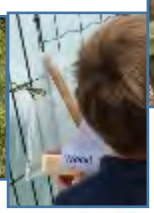
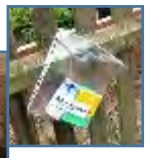
As part of our learning all about the rainforest, the children have bravely presented their projects, created animal masks and participated in some rainforest themed outdoor learning activities. It was lovely to see the range of presentations—dioramas, posters, poems and sculptures. Thank you for all of your support.





## Rainforest Outdoor Learning

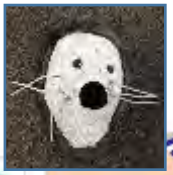
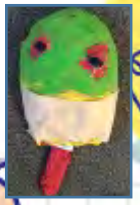
The children enjoyed a special rainforest outdoor learning session where they learnt facts about rainforest animals and what foods come from the rainforest.

## Rainforest Masks

As part of our art learning this term, we studied an artist called Lubaina Himid and created 3D rainforest animal masks. To create the base of the mask, the children worked in pairs to cover a balloon in gummed paper. Then they used cardboard to build up the facial features before they used a variety of artistic skills and materials, including painting and adding fur and other details to bring their masks to life.



# News from Year 4

## Happiness Festival

The whole school had a wonderful time taking part in this year's Happiness Festival, enjoying a wide range of exciting activities including chalk art, pond dipping, junk modelling, positive affirmations, chess, dancing, mindfulness colouring, and the bike and scooter track, along with many more. This year's theme, *'It Begins With Me'*, linked to RSE Day, focused on developing self-esteem and confidence. Throughout the day, the children took part in activities designed not only to be fun but also to help them recognise their own strengths, celebrate their achievements, and appreciate what makes them unique. Every child was encouraged to try something new, build confidence, and feel valued, creating a positive atmosphere where everyone could flourish. It was a fantastic day filled with smiles, laughter, and opportunities for every child to feel proud of who they are.







## Stowmarket food museum

Year 4 had a fantastic day on their recent school trip to Stowmarket Food Museum. During their visit, the children enjoyed exploring the farm trail where they discovered a variety of animals . They also learned about the fascinating history of food and how it has changed over time. One of the highlights of the day was taking part in interactive workshops about school dinners, where the children found out how meals are planned, prepared, and cost. It was an engaging and educational experience that brought classroom learning to life, and everyone returned to school with lots of new knowledge and happy memories.







## Suffolk Cricket

Year 4 were also fortunate to take part in a cricket coaching session led by Suffolk Cricket this term. The children began by working in pairs to develop their hand-eye coordination through a series of quick, engaging drills. They then worked in small groups to practise their teamwork and cricket skills by taking part in a range of fun, game-based activities. Throughout the session, the children showed great enthusiasm, cooperation, and determination as they developed their batting, bowling, and fielding skills. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were grateful for the opportunity to learn from the Suffolk Cricket coaches.

# News from Year 5

What an incredibly hot but successful end to Year 5. It has flown by in an instant and we will be sad to see this year group move onto Year 6. We have enjoyed this last half term immensely. We have been busy with our sports day, our Geography trip, a visit to Felixstowe School, a tremendous Happiness Festival, creative writing in the style of 'The Final Year' and consolidating our maths skills ready for Year 6.

## Geography Field Trip

On what was the hottest day of the year, we braved the temperatures to complete our traffic and town survey and 5WT even made it to the beach for a paddle!





## Outdoor Learning

Last lesson, we learnt about different ways for seeds to disperse. We went around the school to find some of the plants that did this. Lastly, we dug up the garlic that we had planted earlier in the year.





## Mission to the Moon

We were invited up to Felixstowe School to work with some mathematicians on problem solving puzzles. The children had a fantastic morning and were even complimented by members of the public for how nicely they walked to and from the school!

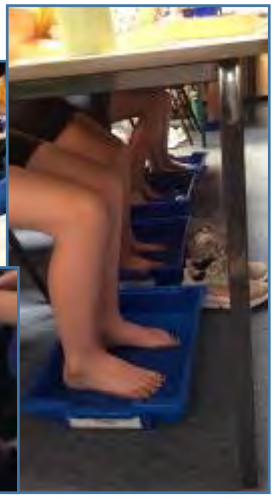




## Keeping cool!

With the temperatures in school rising to volcanic levels, 5WT found a novel way to keep themselves cool, making their own ice cream and utilizing their trays (after they had cleared them of all their rubbish) as mini foot baths!





# News from Year 6

Year 6 have had another busy half term; they have been preparing for their production, enjoyed learning outside, and even been on a couple of trips.

## Year 6 production—WOZ

The children have done an amazing job this year! They have auditioned, been selected and learnt lines and songs in preparation for their end of year 6 production. We have been very impressed with their acting skills, singing, support with the scenery and props. A real team effort! We're sure you felt as proud as we did as you saw them perform on stage. Great job Year 6!











## Duxford

The children had a great day visiting Duxford. Whilst we were there, we were able to explore different hangers (full of  a variety of planes including a Concorde), watched a Battle of Britain display where Spitfires, Hurricanes and Messerschmitt's fly by whilst eating our lunch, played on a the play park and even managed to eat an ice cream. This visit really brought their learning to life.







## Outdoor learning

We have been really lucky this half term as we have had lots of outdoor learning sessions. We planted potatoes in the Autumn and they were ready to eat! We made a delightful potato salad which we all enjoyed!





# PE

## Event 31 - U11 Cricket - June 2026



We have been able to enter a number of cricket events this term. We had a an U11s boys team and managed to get both a development and competitive girls team to an event too.

All of the teams did extremely well and demonstrated both skill and fair play against the teams they were up against.

Although ultimately unsuccessful in progressing beyond any of the group stages, they all played their hearts out and grew in confidence as the events went on. Well done to all involved!



## Event 32 - Tennis Panathlon - June 2026

The children selected for this event went off to Ipswich School Sports Centre for an afternoon of Tennis. They always really enjoy these events because everyone gets a medal and they are always highly competitive.

I am really pleased to say that on this occasion, the children finished second and were able to come back with a silver medal!

Well done to all of them. A super morning of tennis!

## Event 33 - Futsal U11 - June 2026

We finally managed to get this event underway! This has been postponed twice due to weather and the boys were desperate to have the opportunity to compete.

On the day, we played against a number of schools and were involved in some really tight games. It was incredibly hot but they worked really well together.

Winning all but one of their games but remaining unbeaten, they were able to secure 1st place in the league and were crowned U11 Futsal champions 2026. This is an outstanding achievement and something that they should be really proud of!



# PE

## Event 34 - U11 Rounders - July 2026

We travelled over to Trimley St Mary for a friendly rounders event.

Rounders is always one of our most controversial events as each school plays slightly different rules. This year was no different.

Our team played really well and as ever, grew in confidence across the afternoon, saving their best game until the end.

There were no 'winners' from this event as it was a development event however on results, we were able to finish third overall.



## Event 35—Trampolining - July 2026

Another enrichment opportunity developed through our relationship with Felixstowe School.

We are very lucky that they are always willing to open up their resources to support us and we were able to take 30 year 6 children along to this event.

Although not all of them will be transitioning to the High School next year, it does give those that are an excellent opportunity to see the school in a slightly different way, to meet some teachers and some of the older children too.



## Event 36 - U11 Quad Kids - July 2026

Quad Kids is always a source of great competitiveness every year and this year was no different. The children have to be able to sprint 75m, run 600m and complete a standing long jump and vortex throw.

This was an incredible team. They worked so hard and were there at every event to cheer each other along. We had some excellent individual performances with Matt finishing as the 3rd highest ranked boy, Taigo the 5th and Noah the 11th.

Overall, they were able to finish in 5th place, agonisingly close to a top 3 finish.

They were 'representing' Barbados this year as each year we always take part in an opening ceremony and it makes it a little more interesting to have all the flags and the colours.

What an incredible team!



# PE

## Event 37 - U9 Quad Kids - July 2026



Another superstar team - representing Barbados again, our U9 team at Quad Kids worked so hard in all of their events.

They all cheered each other in all of the events and again, we were supported by some incredible individual performances. A big congratulations to Archie, 4th overall ranked boy in the whole event, Monty, 3rd overall and David, 2nd overall. Excellent performances!

A big shoutout to Phoebe as our only year 3 in the team too!

## Event 38 - Area Sports- July 2026

Where do I start with this one???

I try to down play this but it does mean a lot to me and the school. We have an outstanding record in this event and in my time at the school, we have only not been successful in two years, 2015 and 2025. So it is quite rare to go into this event and not be the defending champions.

The team started slowly, with a few mixed results in the sprints. I also asked a lot from some of children with Archie and Monty from Year 4 competing in the Year 6 300m race and Phoebe from Year 3 competing in the Year 6 long jump event. We came into our own in the relay races and were able to produce some exceptional results. Phoebe also managed an exceptional long jump, finishing 2nd overall! Definitely gets me excited for next year!

As you can see from the photo, we were able to put together enough points to be crowned champions again, although I missed the exciting part because Mr Girling called me for a quick chat at the wrong moment!!



# PE

## Premier Showdown - Summer 2026

Another fantastic event for us at Felixstowe School. Years 1,2,5, 6 and our musical theatre after-school club were all able to perform on the stage at the school to a room packed to the very last chair of their adults. This was a truly special evening and one of the better shows that we have been able to put on over the last few years.

A very special congratulations goes to all of the children and their efforts over the term. A big thank you to Kaci at Premier too and all of her hard work to put the show together!











# PE

## Wimbledon 2026

For the last few years we have been very lucky in the schools ballot and secured tickets to Wimbeldon. We always have a lot of interest in these tickets in what could be a once in a lifetime opportunity for some of these children. I know there are some very jealous adults who would love to come along!










The 8 children that we took were amazing all day. Starting at 7:30, we had no issues on our journey at all, arriving in time to tour the site and collect some Amex freebies courtesy of Miss Fuller and her knowledge! We watched some excellent tennis on Court 1, before visiting the shop and the museum. Eventually embarking on our journey home and arriving back in Felixstowe at 9:30pm. We even managed to squeeze in most of the England game, watching the winning goal on the London Underground!

A very long but fun day! We will try again next year!!





# Junior Road Safety Awards 2026

On Friday 26th June, three of our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) attended the Junior Road Safety Awards at Endeavour House in Ipswich.

The children were greeted by Holly, the JRSO Lead for Suffolk, and Apple, the Active Travel Lead for Suffolk, before making their way upstairs to the impressive Council Chamber Room. The children found this very exciting as the room was arranged in a circle with each desk equipped with its own microphone!








During the awards ceremony, the children took part in a Q&A session with a panel of experts. Darcie very bravely put her hand up to ask one of the experts a question. All of the children received a certificate in recognition of their hard work and commitment throughout the year and proudly stood to receive their award from Councillor Chris Hudson.

Holly and her team congratulated all of the JRSOs and spoke about the fantastic work they had achieved, as well as sharing other exciting road safety initiatives that they could become involved in.








One of the highlights of the day was having fun with the props in front of the green screen and receiving a goodie bag.

The children were exceptionally well behaved throughout the day and represented our school impeccably. It was a pleasure to spend the day with them.

When we returned to school, I shared the exciting news with Sofia and Lilliana, who were unable to attend because of the Year 6 production.







Well done, girls! We are incredibly proud of all your hard work, enthusiasm and commitment this year.

# Gardening Club

## Suffolk Show garden update

Following the newsletter piece last half term, we attended the Suffolk Show with our show garden.

The children spoke really well to the judges and later, at the presentation ceremony with Radio Suffolk, we were lucky enough to be awarded a bronze certificate. Unfortunately, the garden had to be dismantled after the show, but we did plant many of the plants in one of the raised beds on the school field, so that the whole school has been able to enjoy the flowers this half term.



# Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

As we come to the end of another fantastic school year, we would like to say a huge thank you to every member of our Friends of F&C Committee. Their time, energy and commitment make such a difference to our school community, and we are incredibly grateful for everything they do.

In these increasingly challenging financial times, fundraising has never been more important. The money raised through Friends of F&C helps provide opportunities and resources that simply wouldn't otherwise be possible. It would be such a shame to lose much-loved events like the Summer Fair or Afternoon with Santa, but these events can only happen if enough parents are able to give a little of their time to help organise and run them.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is the perfect time. Whether you can help at an event, join the committee, or take on a small role, every contribution makes a real difference.

Here's an update from our Friends of F&C Committee:

**A huge thank you to everyone who came to the Summer Fair — we raised £4,519!**

That money goes directly towards subsidised school trips, outdoor equipment, and resources that make a real difference to our children's learning and play. Thank you for making it possible.

**But we need your help to keep it going.**

Many of our current volunteer team have children in Year 6, which means we'll be saying good-bye to some brilliant people. Without new volunteers, events like Afternoon with Santa and next year's Summer Fair simply won't happen.

We're looking for:

🙋 General volunteers — helping at events (no experience needed)

📋 A Secretary — or someone who'd like to share the role

The PTA raises over **£10,000 a year** for our school. It's only possible because of people like you giving a little of their time.

Interested, or just want to find out more? Drop us an email: **friendsfandc@gmail.com**

## 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 |

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## 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 |