Together we're better

The Federation of Fairfield and Colneis

It has been wonderful to see the children make such a positive start to the school year. They have settled into their new classes and routines really well, and it has been lovely to see them growing in confidence, embracing new challenges and enjoying the many exciting opportunities that school brings.

I hope you enjoy reading through this newsletter and would encourage you to take the time to read it all! There is so much happening across Fairfield and Colneis, and it is a great opportunity to see just how much the children have been learning, experiencing and achieving this half term.

Alongside all of these exciting activities, we continue to work hard to maintain high expectations and build a really positive school culture. We talk regularly with the children about *"this is what we do here"* – how we treat one another, how we look after our environment, how we approach our learning and how we take pride in being part of our school community. By being consistent in these expectations, we are helping to ensure that Fairfield and Colneis are happy, respectful and ambitious places where every child can flourish.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a lovely, restful half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 2nd November**.

Compass Eko Trust

https://www.fairfieldandcolneis.co.uk

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAR 2026

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 paper cutting hedgehogs, leaf collage and cotton bud tree printing 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: Little Acorns, Seren’s Harvest and Don’t Hog the Hedge.

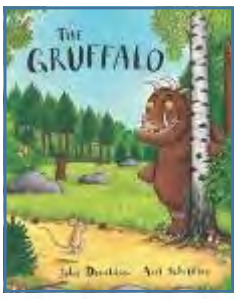
As part of out Harvest celebrations the children have been learning the song ‘Big Red Combine Harvester’ and Makaton signing it too!

Nursery Rhymes and Stories

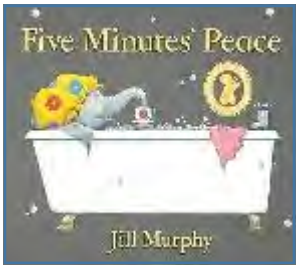
Nursery rhymes and counting songs play a vital role in early childhood development and education. At nursery we make sure that we incorporate plenty of nursery rhymes into everyday activities to support our children’s learning and development. The children are singing along and/or joining in with the actions as we sing some familiar and some new songs.

This half term we have read the same five stories every week during snack time. This has enabled the children to become very familiar with each story and are now beginning to join in and retell he story themselves. The stories are:











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, enjoyed PE lessons with Mr Ross 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 1

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 were particularly interested in how long it took to build the church, discovering it took 5 years to build!

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









Autumn celebrations

The children have been exploring seasons in Science and have seen first-hand the wonderful changes in nature. We have enjoyed studying the weather and exploring Autumn leaves, conkers and pinecones. The children have loved making Autumn wands and learning how to create rubbings of leaves.







Rainbow challenges

The children have loved the introduction to Rainbow challenges during our play and explore sessions. For every challenge completed they earn a stamp. When they complete all the challenges they earn a 'doing your best ticket'. They have been very enthusiastic so please do ask them which ones they have completed over the week.

Some recent challenges have included drawing maps or building them out of junk modelling. They have been developing their independent writing skills and embedding their maths skills within their play. Autumn arts and crafts and many more!







News from Year 2

Marvellous Mathematicians

The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring maths through practical, hands-on activities this half term. Using a range of resources, they have developed their understanding of place value, number bonds, and addition and subtraction facts. They have also grown in confidence, developing their own strategies and becoming increasingly independent in selecting and using resources to support their mathematical learning.






Wonderful Geographers

The children have enjoyed exploring the world around them this half term, learning to identify and understand the differences between physical and human features. They have developed their geographical knowledge by recognising natural features, such as rivers, mountains and beaches, as well as human-made features, such as buildings, roads and bridges .






PSHE

In PSHE we have been learning about the zones of regulation. As part of this, we have been thinking about how the different emotions look and how they make us feel. We have also been leaning about what we can do when we are in each zone to help us get back to the green zone. We have set up regulation stations in each classroom where children have access to a range of 'tools' to help us reregulate ourselves when we are feeling out of the green.



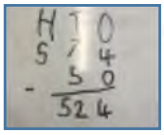


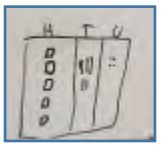
News from Year 3

The children have settled into life at Colneis really well and are making a fantastic start! They have embraced the increased independence and responsibility that comes with moving up from Fairfield, from changing their reading books and completing quizzes to using DoodleSpell for their homework. They are also enjoying lots of exciting new experiences, from exploring our bigger field, mud kitchen and MUGA to joining in with Play Leader games, attending clubs, taking part in sporting events such as Paarluf and hockey, and learning French.

Maths

In maths, we have been focussing on place value, addition and subtraction. The children have been learning the value of 3 digit numbers and using different methods to add and subtract.

History Off the Page—The Stone Age

The children enjoyed a fantastic hands-on day with History Off the Page, trying their hand at soap carving, making coil pots, weaving and cave painting. We hope you enjoyed seeing their creations when they came home! These activities brought their Stone Age learning to life, as they explored what everyday life was like thousands of years ago.











PE Enrichment

This half term, some of the children have enjoyed taking part in additional sporting events, including Paarluf and hockey. The weather wasn't on our side for Paarluf, but the children kept going with smiles on their faces! We were incredibly proud of their resilience and determination despite the rain.

On Thursday 15th October, 30 children visited Felixstowe School for a hockey session led by their Sports Leaders. They rotated around different stations, developing their hockey skills and enjoying the opportunity to try something new.

In PE lessons this term, the children have been enjoying gymnastics, particularly using the apparatus to explore different ways of travelling, balancing and moving.

The 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, Times Table Rock Stars and Purple Mash . Remember all their log ins and passwords can be found in the front of their reading diary.

News from Year 4

Greek Day—Part Two

At the beginning of this term, we were visited by the team from History off the Page. Everyone that wanted to, dressed in their Ancient Greek finery for the day. The children and adults looked incredible.

In the morning the hall was set up as an Ancient Greek market place. There was a myriad of activities for the us to engage with. Some of the things that that we could choose to make included a pendant, make medicine, create a wax tablet and try extracting oil from olives to keep a lamp lit.







Greek Day—Part One

In the afternoon, we all met in the hall to find out what our roles would be for the great victory celebration. Some of us were tasked with putting on plays, some of us had to devise a dance and some of us were selected for the special task of serving the feast.

The performances were memorable but special mention must go to the dancers, ably accompanied by Grayson provided the backing track.

We enjoyed being waited on and have our snacks served to us. It was a very memorable day.

Outdoor Learning

We have had our first lessons out in the wildlife garden. It is something that we really enjoy doing because it is an opportunity to explore our outdoor spaces. We used magnifying glasses and identity cards to help us find out what creatures we had found. 4RA were very excited about finding a newt.





News from Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy first term of learning. They have enjoyed weekly swimming at Felixstowe Leisure Centre, creating and performing haikus to celebrate 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.

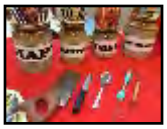








History



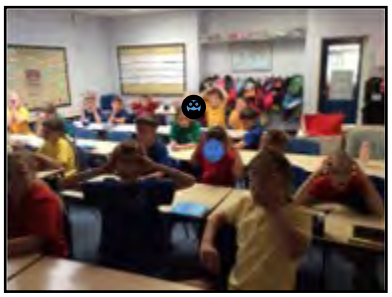



We have enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt and especially the pyramids. We made our own pyramids from play dough. We also brought the topic of mummification to life with our visitor Ray Crump.

National Poetry Day

To celebrate National Poetry Day we thought about Performance Poetry. We watched how

Michael Rosen performed his poems. We used the theme of Wonder to write and perform our own haikus.














In PSHE, Year 5 have been learning about the importance of listening respectfully to others and valuing different opinions. They have been practising how to disagree politely and express their own views in a considerate way.

News from Year 6

Activities Week Away: PGL Residential in Bawdsey

September 7th arrived, and finally the wait was over! Many of the Year 6 children made their way to Bawdsey, on foot and by ferry, and began their residential trip at PGL. With the nervous wait as to which group and which bedroom they would be in over, the activities began. Working in groups of 10, the children had the opportunity to participate in: Archery, Jacob's Ladder, Trapeze, Aeroball, Giant Swing, Zipwire, Fencing, Problem Solving and Sensory Trail. The children proved themselves to be adventurous, courteous, ambitious, resilient and independent. A great week was had by everyone that attended, as well as the children that remained in school











Activities Week at Home: Felixstowe

For some, activities week was spent in Felixstowe, where the children participated in: art classes, design and technology tasks, a visit to the beach, toasting marshmallows, and time in the wildlife area.







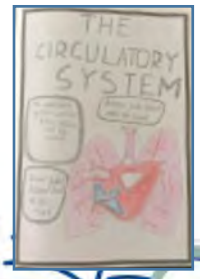
House Captains

On Friday 4th September, some of the Year 6 children put themselves forward to be House Captains. The process involved them having to prepare and deliver a speech, in which they had to explain to their peers why they would be a good choice. All of the children in the relevant house then cast their votes. The adults were incredibly impressed by the effort, enthusiasm and courage shown by those children who had been willing to stand. Well done to everyone.

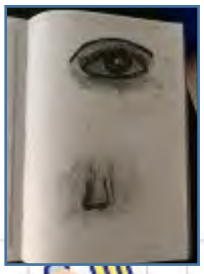


Sharing Some of Our Work

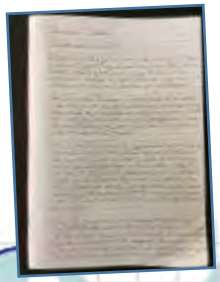
Science



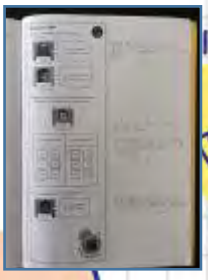
Art



English



Maths



Friends of Fairfield and Colneis

Friends of Fairfield and Colneis – Update

In September, we held our annual general meeting. We had a mix of teachers and parents – including some new faces we were very pleased to welcome.

While here, we were excited to elect our committee members:

- Inge Paulsen-Liddle was re-elected as Chair
- Daniel Cobb was elected at Treasurer
- Laura Calver and Rose McMullan were elected as co-Secretaries

We want to pass on a special thanks to Katie South as she stood down as Treasurer. The impact she's had – both in person and behind the scenes – really can't be overstated. Also a very big thank you to Craig Beagle for his immeasurable contribution as Secretary this past year.

Your impact

Last year you helped to raise more than £13,000!

That means you've already contributed some big donations to the schools this year, including:

- £1000 for outdoor equipment at Fairfield
- £600 for microbit computers
- £500 for reusable dance costumes so that parents don't have to spend to get their child on theme each time

We're also supporting the pantomime. We're asking parents who can to make a small £3 donation per child. We'll cover any shortfall so children don't miss out, but that means less money for other activities and equipment, so if you can contribute, please do!

Christmas Movie Night

This year we've had to make the tough decision not to go ahead with the traditional Afternoon with Santa day at Fairfield.

The event involves a lot of preparation and on-the-day work, and with fewer volunteers than ever it simply wasn't possible to make the day happen.

Instead, we're trialling a Christmas Movie Night on Friday 4th December. Keep an eye out for more news soon!

Able to volunteer?

As many of our most familiar faces of volunteers are seeing their children advance to high school, we're having to make tougher decisions on what can and can't go ahead.

If you might be able to volunteer in the future and help us to continue delivering some of our big events – and making big contributions to both schools – please drop us an email to friendsfandc@gmail.com

Term Dates

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

Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2027-2028

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term:	Monday 6th September 2027
Half term:	Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2027
End of Autumn term:	Friday 17th December 2027
PD (non school) days:	Wednesday 1st September to Friday 3rd September

Spring term:

Start of Spring term:	Tuesday 4th January 2028
Half term:	Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February 2028
End of Spring term:	Friday 31st March 2028

Summer term:

Start of Summer term:	Tuesday 18th April 2028
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 1st May 2028
Half term:	Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2028
End of Summer term:	Wednesday 19th July 2028
PD (non school) days:	Thursday 20th July to Friday 21st July 2028