



Junior School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1



Friday 25th October 2024

Welcome to Foxhills Junior School's end of Autumn Term 1 Newsletter.

It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year and we have been so impressed with how well the children have settled into school life. Here is a roundup of the wonderful things your children have been up to throughout their first half term as well as some important notices and dates for your diary.

Year 3 In Year 3, Students have settled well into the routines and expectations of Junior School life. Some children have been selected to represent the school in sports competitions. Those who haven't yet will have their turn as more opportunities become available. In Maths, children have been learning place value strategies to support working with 3 digit numbers and focussed on addition and multiplication. In writing, the children have applied the use of expanded noun phrases and coordinating conjunctions to writing a fairytale and a Stone Age diary. The children have used their Reading lessons to explore texts in the fairytale and historical narrative genre. A highlight here was the

children retelling a fairytale they had learnt to Year ones at the Infant school. In Science, children have been learning about skeletons and muscles, as well as healthy eating. In History, children have been learning about the Stone Age. In Computing, children have been learning about staying safe online, as well as about computer networks, including a tour of components in school that make up the school network. In Geography, children are learning about the United Kingdom. In P.E, the children have been using maps to complete orienteering challenges, as well as exploring footwork whilst moving. In Spanish, children have been practising the alphabet and applying these to some Spanish words, as well as exploring the location of the many Spanish speaking countries.

Year 4 Year 4 have had an amazing start to the year and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring new topics.

In reading, they've been engrossed in *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo, and have used the story as inspiration to write informal letters, drawing on the writing skills they've developed this term.

In geography, the children have been putting their map-reading skills to the test, exploring the countries within Europe. They've worked hard on creating posters and Non chronological reports about different European countries, and they should be very proud of their work!

In science, the children have been investigating animals including humans, and have completed a fascinating experiment using eggs to represent tooth enamel. They explored how different liquids affect our teeth, and were amazed by the results!

During RE, we celebrated Diwali by creating beautiful Diwali lamps. The children showed great creativity and really enjoyed learning about the festival's significance.

In PE, Year 4 have been practicing their teamwork and navigation skills through orienteering activities, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence and teamwork skills grow throughout the term.

We are incredibly proud of all their hard work and achievements so far and look forward to the exciting learning ahead!

Year 5 Over this half term, we have linked our Writing with the story 'The Light in Everything' by

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Katya Balen, which we have been studying in Reading, to produce a creative and descriptive narrative. The children applied thoughtful figurative language in order to produce an enjoyable and engaging alternate version of the story.

The children also explored the features of letters in the form of 'Agony Aunt' letters, to produce their own written replies focusing on giving advice to those with their own concerns such as homework issues.

In Reading, the children have read the fictional text 'The Light in Everything' by Katya Balen, which makes excellent use of figurative language to support their understanding of the impact of language and its role in visualisation.

We further finished off this half term by revisiting the children's comprehension skills, with a focus on both retrieval and inference questions to develop a fully comprehensive understanding when reading a text.

In Maths, students have continued to use concrete, pictorial and abstract strategies to solve and show their understanding of different mathematical concepts. Our topics this half term have been

place value, negative numbers and Roman numerals. The children have worked towards reading, writing and comparing numbers up to 1,000,000, rounding numbers up to 1,000,000 by 10, 100, 1000, 10,000 and 100,000. They have also then applied this learning to solve both number and practical problems.

In Science, the children have been learning about materials and change in properties. They have explored changes of state, including processes such as evaporation and condensation. The children also investigated change in temperature of boiling water using a thermometer and a number of different container materials, such as metal, plastic and ceramic.

In Geography, the children have researched the human and physical features of South America. They have collated notes from their own online research and looked at maps to help build their knowledge, whilst reflecting on how best to display this learning and knowledge on their own map. The children have really enjoyed this topic and are proud of the outcomes they have achieved.

This term we have learning about the concept of 'Belonging'. We are studying Islam with focus on the

Shahada (the profession of faith) and Salat (the daily prayer ritual). The children have explored what the concept of 'Belonging' means to them and its importance in the Islamic faith community.

In Music, the children have been learning how to compose and record music using written notation.

As part of our ongoing PHSE curriculum, Year 5 children have been exploring conflict resolution through a variety of learning activities. The 'Give & Take' module allowed children the opportunity to understand and use negotiating skills to reach decisions and compromises. Additionally, they have enjoyed talking together about the qualities needed to be a good friend to enable them to support others when necessary. Exploring how to identify what might be considered healthy and unhealthy relationships allowed the children to discuss and 'bake' a metaphorical healthy relationship cake. They decided which ingredients are needed for a healthy relationship and how to implement the 'recipe' for meaningful and helpful connections.

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Year 6 Year 6 have had a great start to the year and have really enjoyed exploring new topics.

In reading, they have loved Clockwork by Phillip Pullman and have used some of the engaging vocabulary to write their own suspense stories. They are excited to start the new text, Secrets of a Sun King, which lends itself perfectly to our history topic of Ancient Egypt.

They have been using their geography skills to explore North America, focusing on the countries within and have created research pieces that they should be very proud of.

In science, the children have been investigating living things and have looked closely at micro-organisms and their impact. They are intrigued to find out the results of their mouldy bread experiment!

During DT, they have been researching seasonal foods and have used their knowledge to create a seasonal pizza that combines different fruit and vegetables grown in the UK.

The children have also written and delivered their House Captain speeches to the school and we were very excited to announce the successful candidates. Well done to all of those that went forward, we were very proud!

Important Notices

No Drive Zone

08:20-08:45

15:00-15:25



Please could we remind families that the drive way is a 'No turning around' zone. We must insist on this for the safety of our visitors on site.



We have been informed of near misses on the drive way. As you can agree the safety of our children is paramount. Therefore please can we ask that families **walk** on the pavement and not our school drive way. Can we remind families that we **do not** ride scooters on the school footpaths or on our drive way. The drive way is for cyclists and drivers only.

Parking outside the school

Parking outside school continues to be problematic. Please could we ask that you are considerate towards our neighbours and other road users when parking.

We have been informed of overgrown bramble bushes anlong

Foxhills Lane. Please could we ask you to be mindful when parking near by as children often move out from the bush to avoid being hurt. This is private land and we are unable to cut them back.

Voluntary one way system

To help with congestion at school pick up and drop off we have adopted a voluntary one way system during these times. Please could we ask you to help by following the one way system (flowing from the A326 towards Whartons Lane), this will ensure traffic travels in one direction and hopefully eases congestion.

Year 3 Media Consent

Please could we remind year 3 families if they have not already, please complete and return the Media Consent form.

PE Days

Please note we have some changes to the PE timetable for the next half term.

Year	Day
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Monday
Year 5	Wednesday
Year 6	Thursday

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TT Rock Stars

If parents are having issues with TTRS at home, it may be that they are playing on an out-of-date version. We have been advised to ask parents to; Visit play.ttrockstars.com/reset to load the latest version on their device's browser or update the Times Tables Rock Stars app from the app store.



BBC 500 Words Competition

It's not too late to enter this brilliant BBC writing competition! Visit the link below to find out how you can submit your own amazing story!

"Write a story you would love to read". BBC's 500 Words, the UK's largest children's writing competition for children aged 5-11, is open for entries now! Submit before the competition closes at 9pm on Friday 8 November 2024.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>



Family Advice from FACE

Please follow the link for more information;

<https://foxhillsfederation.ovv2juniperwebsites.co.uk/page/?title=Mental+Health+and+Well-being>



Foxy Fireworks

We are excited for Foxhills Fireworks (Friday 8th November) and, if you've attended the event before, you will know we serve hot food-burgers, hot dogs and jacket potatoes.

In the past, we have been grateful to have the services of a professional chef, so, to continue this provision, we are asking if any parents or relatives have the skills to cook our BBQ? If you feel you could support us with BBQ-ing sausages and burgers, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the PTA on friendsoffoxhills1@gmail.com We will supply the BBQ, all cooking utensils and the food, we just need help on the night!



School Uniform

Please ensure your child returns to school wearing the correct uniform:



GIRLS:

- Foxhills sweatshirt or cardigan*
- White or navy polo shirt

- Grey or navy skirt (with or without pleats)
- Grey or navy pinafore (with or without pleats)
- Grey or navy trousers
- Grey, navy or white socks/ tights
- In summer, girls can wear a navy patterned dress.



BOYS:

- Foxhills sweatshirt*
- White or navy polo shirt
- Grey or navy trousers or shorts
- Grey, navy or black socks
- Black school shoes.



PE KIT:

- House coloured polo T-shirt*
- Black or navy shorts / trousers
- Plain trainers
- School logo hoodie or plain zip jacket/hoodie*

We would like to remind you that children must not wear nail polish and jewellery for school, and sports shorts, on non-PE days, are not permitted. Footwear must be school shoes on normal days and on PE days, plain dark trainers are only acceptable.

It is really important that all children adhere to our uniform

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policy and we thank you for your support.

Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name.



Community Policing

Please follow the link below for the next beat report.

<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Community+Policing&pid=109>



Half Term Activities

We have been informed of fun activities that will take place during the school term, please follow this link for more information;

<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Half+Term+Clubs+and+Activities&pid=108>



Oak Tree Lodge Care Home

At Foxhills we work closely with Oak Tree Care home and organise visits throughout the year for the children to meet with the residents this is a great opportunity to develop our community link.

On the 31st October between 4pm-6.30pm Oak Tree Lodge will be opening their gate for any trick or treaters in the local community. They would love if our families

could pop by and say hello to their local residents!



Totton Library

Totton Library offers a range of groups, activities and events for families during half terms and holidays and throughout the year. Libraries extend a warm welcome to children – they're also good sources of information and free activities for families. For many people, the reason they start to spend more time in libraries is because they want to encourage a love of reading in children, but libraries offer much more. For more information, visit the link below:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/kids-zone/events#.Totton-Library>

Did you know that Southampton City Council offer a range of exciting activities for families during half terms and holidays and throughout the year? From inspirational Mini Monet art sessions to wonderful Wizard School, there are so many engaging things to do at the Art Gallery, Sea City and the Tudor House Museum.

Many of the activities are very reasonably priced but book early to

avoid disappointment as they are very popular!

<https://southamptoncityartgallery.com/events/>

Alternatively, have a look at what's on offer at the Mayflower Theatre and MAST Studios including the Mayflower Youth Theatre group and Junior Writer's workshops. Visit this link:

<https://www.mayflower.org.uk/whats-on-classes-and-workshops/>

And more good news, Blue Star buses have extended the £2 bus fare until at least December 2024 meaning that customers will be able to travel on any single journey, on any of the operators' buses, for £2 or less. You can also use any payment method - including tap on, tap off contactless, the app, and cash.

<https://www.bluestarbus.co.uk/>

Dates for your Diary

28.10.24-01.11.24 – Half Term

Friday 1st November – Year R & 3 Admissions open.

04.11.24-20.12.24 – Term 2

Monday 4th November – Choir Club Starts

Friday 8th November – Open Day 2 - Year 3 Juniors am/ Year R Infants pm – Please book online

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Friday 8th November – Foxy Fireworks
13/11 – 18/11 – Scholastic Book Fayre – More information to follow
Friday 15th November – Children in Need – Dress down day
Thursday 21st November – Hallett – Family Portrait – Pre-book only
Thursday 29th November – PTA Dress Down Day – Rainbow Hamper donations
Monday 2nd December - Open Day 2 - Year R Juniors am/ Year 3 Infants pm – Please book online
Friday 13th December – Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13th December – PTA Winter Fayre
Tuesday 17th December – Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 18th December – Books at Bedtime (3.15-4.45) – more information to follow
23.12.24-05.01.25 – Christmas Holidays
06.01.25 – 14.02.25 – Term 3

<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/diary/grid/2023/01/>

Inset Days for the Academic Year 2024-2025

Friday 14th March 2025

Friday 27th June 2025

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