Fordham CE Primary School

17th November 2025

It take a whole community to raise a child, striving for excellence together

A note from Miss. Rankin

I hope you have had a lovely fortnight - a lot happens in those two weeks at school. Unfortunately we had to postpone both the fire drill and invacuation. I will let you know when we plan to have these. I will also introduce the children to the new sounder for invacuation before the actual event.

Remembrance Service: Thank you for your support with the Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion. Pupils at Fordham observed a two-minute silence on Armistice Day after a collective worship led by Year 6. Thank you also to all those who took part in the local Remembrance Day parades on Sunday 9th November.

Chair of Governors: A huge thank you to Laura Cox-Watson for being our Chair of Governors for the past 5 years. She has been a great support to both me and the school. Rob Seal is now our new Chair of Governors with Ben Caves as Vice. Rob is also our Safeguarding Governor. I look forward to working with them both more closely.

Parents' Evening: You will be receiving an email tomorrow regarding the upcoming Parents' Evening which will be open for booking from Monday 24th November at 12pm.
Parents' Evening will take place on Monday 8th December 3.30-6.40pm and Wednesday 10th December 3.30-6.40pm. Please note that Year 2 Raccoons will be on Monday 8th December and Monday 15th December due to staff working days.

PTFA Christmas Fair: Thinking ahead to our Christmas Fayre on Friday 12th December (3:30pm - 5:30pm are there any large companies out there who might be able to donate a gift/hamper/raffle prize? The raffle is our biggest fundraiser so it would fabulous to offer some great gifts this year. As a school, we are registered charity so it would be a tax deductible expense for any company. We can send a formal letter on headed paper out to anyone who needs it and we can shout out your company as a thank you!

Safeguarding Review Update: Last week, we had a Safeguarding Review with the Local Authority, checking our safeguarding processes including health and safety and recruitment checks. We are pleased to share that our report was very positive with all checks marked green but with a few simple actions for me to tweak. On the whole, we are all doing a great job together as a staff so I would like to thank my brilliant team for looking out for our children.

Church Street: We have been informed that we will be getting speed cushions and a raised table on Church Street to slow down the traffic. We will also be getting a flashing school light very soon.

Mobile Phones: A reminder to pupils who bring a mobile phone into school that these should be turned off when they enter the school premises as per our policy. You can read more about the use of mobile phones and other devices in school here.

Amnesty: Please can you check at home if you have any of our school reading books or sports kit that the children may have borrowed. We have a lot missing.

Thank you.
Have a lovely week. Miss. Rankin

Diary Dates

18th November - Y3 trip to Flag Fen
18th November - JTA wear something bright alongside school uniform
19th November - 2pm SEN coffee afternoon *invite sent
W/b 24th November - Pony Academy
21st November - Y5 Forest School
2nd December - Y6 Forest School
5th December - Y2 Forest School
W/b 8th December - Y6 Bikeability
8th December - Parents' Evening *more information to follow
10th December - Parents' Evening *more information to follow
11th December - EY Nativity 2pm and 3.30pm
11th December - Y1 Forest School
12th December - Christmas Jumper and/or festive socks Day + Christmas Dinner Day
16th December - Y4 Forest School
17th December - Christmas Service: Y3&Y4 parents/carers welcome to attend
19th December - end of term

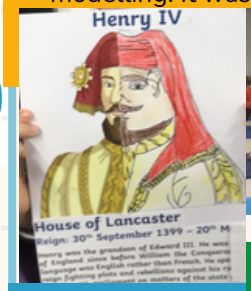
Do you have an old or outgrown Christmas jumper that you will not be wearing this year? The Eco Committee are asking for Christmas jumper donations of all sizes (adult and child) that are clean and in good condition. We will be setting up a preloved shop **after school** on **Thursday 4th December** on the **KS1 playground** where you can browse preloved jumpers and pick something new for Christmas jumper day the following week. Jumper donations can be taken to the front office or to Mrs Archer in Bumblebees.
Thank you!

'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13

Cultural Week

Year 4 had a fabulous time during Cultural Week. We began the week by considering the many different cultures we could celebrate within our Year 4 community. Children researched and shared information about their cultural backgrounds and an overwhelming number of children brought in delicious bakes to share. We then learned about the British monarchy, creating a monarchy timeline reaching from Edward the Great to Charles 3rd. We spent the rest of the week learning about Italian culture.

We researched and prepared a recipe book, learned about the different states of Italy, creating our own jigsaw map, sang opera, discovered who the Romans worshipped, creating Top Trumps card and marvelled at the beautiful landmarks and recreated them with junk modelling. It was a very busy end to the half term!



Early Years:

Owls took part in cultural week and learned about Diwali. On Monday, the children talked about the different countries they knew and if they had family members who lived or were born in different countries. We then looked for these countries using the globe and discussed the different ways we could travel there and how long it might take.

We also talked about the different languages that were spoken and how life might be a little different due to geography and climate. We discussed what the word 'culture' meant. We then had some children share food items with the class which were from their cultures. The children took turns to talk about what they had made and their family culture. We had lots of great discussions points from the children and they were all very engaged with this.

At the end of the day, the children then sampled some the different food items. We also took this opportunity to look back at our previous topic "We are all different" and talked about how our work on Diwali and Cultural week helped us to celebrate our differences.

Throughout the week, we learned about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light and listened to lots of stories, as well as watching video clips. The children made diya pots, created mendhi patterns, made rangoli and took part in some bhangra dancing. We finished the week making our own Diwali sweet treat, coconut barfi. Yum!

Year 6

Our focus for the week was the culture of Brazil, which linked to our PoR text set in the Amazon Rainforest.

Throughout the week, in English, we researched key facts about Brazil and learned about popular sports, music and celebrations in Brazil before producing information leaflets.

Across other areas of the curriculum, we listened to samba music and rehearsed a samba dance; made brightly-coloured carnival masks; created artwork inspired by a Brazilian artist; and researched into the geography of Brazil too.

The children really enjoyed their Cultural Week experience and demonstrated enthusiasm and interest in all of the different elements of Brazilian Culture that we explored.

Pupil voice:

One child said 'My favourite part of the week was performing our samba rehearsal to my buddy.' Another pupil commented, 'I enjoyed making the masks and trying different foods.'

Year 3

In Year 3, we explored the many cultures within our year group and enjoyed tasting a variety of delicious foods from these traditions. Later in the week, we focused on celebrating India and its rich heritage. We learned an energetic Bhangra dance, which was so much fun, and proudly shared our impressive moves with the rest of the school. We also discovered the beauty of Rangoli art, creating vibrant designs using different techniques such as painting salt, tissue paper, and colouring. One of the most fascinating activities was finding out how our names are written in Hindi. To finish, we used iPads to research interesting facts about India and created colourful posters to showcase what we had learned.

Year 5 had an incredible time celebrating Cultural Week with a focus on Japan! The children rolled up their sleeves to make vegetable sushi from scratch and created beautiful cherry blossom art. They learned Japanese greetings and phrases, practised traditional handwriting, and explored the fascinating history of Japan. One of the highlights was comparing a typical school day in Japan to life in the UK, which sparked lots of discussion. The most memorable moment came when Fordham Sake Brewery visited our class. Noriko captivated the children by showing kimonos, traditional Japanese shoes, and photos of the brewery, as well as teaching origami. We were thrilled to receive an invitation to visit the Sake Factory in spring to admire the cherry blossoms—what a perfect way to continue our cultural journey!

Year 2

As part of our Cultural Week celebrations, Year 2 enjoyed a vibrant carousel of activities exploring the cultures of Pakistan, Poland, Spain, Bangladesh, and Thailand. The children immersed themselves in learning about these countries through hands-on experiencesthey tasted delicious foods from different cultures, designed traditional Thai outfits and even created their own shadow puppets inspired by Thai storytelling traditions.

It was a week full of fun, creativity, and discovery and we're so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children were throughout!

Year 1:

In Year 1, we focussed on Spain as our country for Cultural week. We made Spanish and English flags, did flamenco dancing and studied the work of Picasso and Gaudi. We made our own paintings and drawings inspired by both artists. We also learnt some simple Spanish sayings like Hola, Como estas and adios. Lastly, we tried some Spanish food such as olives

Be Safe, Be Ready, Be Respectful

Year 5 / 6 pupils and reading books

We are writing to inform you about a matter that has recently come to our attention regarding the Attack on Titan book and Manga series, which some children may be reading or discussing.
While we encourage a love of reading and support children exploring a wide range of literature, we also have a responsibility to ensure that the content they engage with is age-appropriate and emotionally suitable.
Attack on Titan is a popular Japanese manga and anime series known for its gripping storyline and complex themes. However, it can contain graphic violence, inappropriate language and mature themes. These elements are not always suitable for younger readers, particularly those in Key Stage Two.
We understand that children may be curious about popular media, especially when it is widely discussed among peers. However, we kindly ask for your support in monitoring what your child is reading and ensuring that it aligns with their emotional maturity and developmental stage.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's learning and wellbeing.

CONGRATULATIONS...

A huge well done to Imogen B. for performing at His Majesty's Theatre in the West End, London during the half term. You should be so proud to have performed on such a stage! Well done to you.

Well done to Beau who did a great job with his football team last week, earning Man of the Match!

A special mention to Amelie's Great Grandad Jim, who at almost 101 years old, led the parade at the Cenotaph in London last Sunday along with her Nanny and Grandad, as a Second World War veteran. Thank you for sharing this and to Great Grandad Jim for giving so much for our country.

Well done to James, who this weekend participated in the Eastern Regionals gymnastic competition. James was representing his Huntingdon club and was up against 6 other gyms. James was the youngest there competing in the under 8 age category against 16 other boys. Out of Huntingdon boys he placed: Rings = 1/6; Vault = 2/6; P bars = 4/6; Bars = 4/6
Floor = 5/6.
A great use of your time, James.

My name is Natasha Davidson and lots of your children will know me as I have been a cover teacher at Fordham C of E Primary School for over 9 years.

I qualified as a primary school teacher with maths specialism over 25 years ago. I have a passion for maths and believe that every child has the potential to succeed and make progress, no matter their current abilities. Each child is unique, so their learning journey should be tailored to their individual pace and level.

I am offering face-to-face maths tutoring from January 2026, from my home in Fordham.

I provide a personalised service where your child's needs are met through a wide variety of fun and engaging activities.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for further information.

ARE YOU CONTEMPLATING WHETHER TO GIVE YOUR CHILD A SMARTPHONE AND WHEN THE RIGHT TIME MIGHT BE?

CONCERNED ABOUT THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH INTERNET ACCESS?

CURIOUS ABOUT ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS?

JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION WITH AMY RUFFELL, OUR SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD REGIONAL LEAD, TO EXPLORE WHAT WE CAN DO AS PARENTS AND AS A COMMUNITY, TO NEGATE THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF EARLY SMARTPHONE USE.

Who?

SFC Regional Lead Amy Ruffell

also with special guests parent and daughter Jo and Bella to talk about their lived experience.

When?

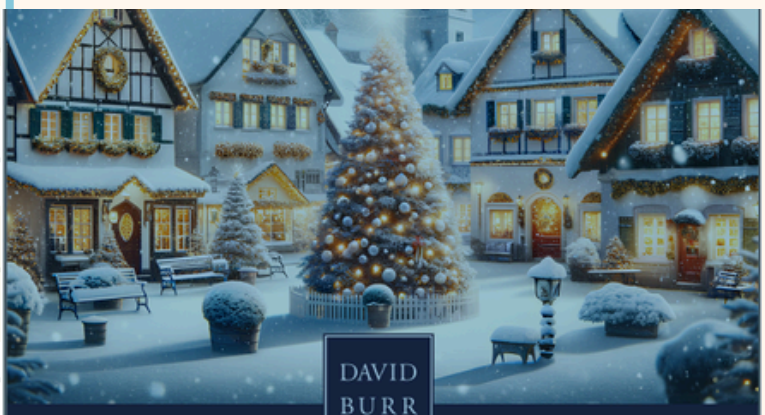
Monday 17th November 2025
7-8pm

Where?

Kettlefield's Primary School, Dullingham.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD | Kettlefields Primary

Refreshments provided!



DESIGN OUR 2025 CHRISTMAS CARD

WINNER RECEIVES £100 JOHN LEWIS VOUCHER

Entries by Wednesday 26th November 2025

Design must fit onto a square and be able to be printed.

Drawings, paintings & digital designs accepted.

Open to all ages groups - though must be submitted by an adult.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES TO NICK@DAVIDBURR.CO.UK

Please contact Michaela on: 07470421512 or strfcdiamonds@gmail.com for more information

Rainbows
Girlguiding

SPACES FOR GIRLS AGES 4, 5 AND 6 AT FORDHAM RAINBOWS

We are the youngest section of Girlguiding, and we have lots of fun! Come and join us on Tuesday evening's at Fordham Scout Hut. We complete badges, play games, do crafts and outdoor activities, learn new things and make new friends. We have a few spaces for girls aged 4-7 to start in January but are also happy to add younger girls to our waiting list. Please email 1stfordhamrainbows@gmail.com to find out more, or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus to register your interest.

Saturday 13 December 2025
The Foundry, Lawshall
10am-4pm
£6 per child & £2 per adult

Scan to book your ticket!

www.greenlighttrust.org/events

SANTA'S GROTTO
CRAFT STALLS
FESTIVE ACTIVITIES
SWEET TREATS

Please pre-book child tickets so Santa knows how many presents to bring!