Fordham CE Primary School

3rd November 2025

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

A note from Miss. Rankin

Welcome back to the the second half of the Autumn term. The weather has definitely turned so a reminder that coats are needed for the children.

Cultural Week - We had a brilliant cultural week. Thank you to all of you who helped make this week such a success including the incredible bakes from across all cultures. We enjoyed a special collective worship on the last day of term. There will be a special 'Cultural Week' newsletter that we will send out.

Modeshift Mode Shift Month November - The Y5 JTAs are asking you to support our Mode Shift Month by walking, heeling, cycling and journey sharing by public transport or car to get to school. The JTAs are challenging pupils to complete a Travel Trail whilst they travel to or from school. The aim of the Travel Trail is to encourage more pupils to travel actively to school and to help them engage with their surroundings as they travel. The Travel Trail can be completed whilst pupils are travelling to and from school in the first week back. They may bring the sheet back into school to share with their class but this is not required.

Lunch Menu - please click here to see the new lunch menu.

Poppy Appeal - Year 6 House and Vice-House Captains will be selling Poppy Appeal items organised by the Royal British Legion this week after school on the school playground.
Friday 7th November - Year 6 will be joining the Royal British Legion at the Fordham War Memorial at 10.50am in a special Remembrance Service and we welcome parents/carers to join us.
On **Tuesday 11th November**, Year 6 will be leading us in a Remembrance Service for the whole school. Like last year, we will be creating a 'Penny Poppy' on the KS2 school playground. If you would like to lay a penny then there will be an opportunity to do this during the morning drop-off that morning.

Anti-Bullying Week - Monday 10th November 2025 marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. Along with schools up and down the country, we are going to be raising awareness by encouraging children and staff to wear odd socks that day and engage in a Collective Worship led by Mrs. Clay.
We teach the children about how to stay safe and happy in school and online, and use the STOP acronym to explain that bullying is: Several Times On Purpose. As parents, there are many positive steps you can take to keep your child safe. The Anti-Bullying Alliance have a great information pack available to download for free via this link, click here.

Friday 14th November - Children in Need. Fordham will be raising awareness for Children in Need by asking children to come into school wearing **spots, stripes and/or yellow or children in need merchandise.** If you would like to make a voluntary donation to this charity, then you can do so by using the official Children in Need link. We will not be taking cash during this awareness day. Thank you.

Spelling Tests - We are moving away from weekly spelling tests in Year 2 and Year 3 because research shows they often promote short-term memorisation rather than lasting learning. Instead, we are focusing on teaching spelling through engaging, meaningful activities that help children understand how words work and apply their knowledge in real writing. Please note that Year 2 and Year 3 will still send home spelling words but there will be no test. However, from Year 4, we will continue with spelling tests as the children are being prepared for the End of Key Stage 2 SATs where a national spelling test is administered testing vocabulary across Key Stage 2.

Holiday Club - Please note that there will be no Holiday Club during the Christmas Holidays due to the end of term being so close the Christmas. Or, during February Half Term due to staffing. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Donations - We continue to receive amazing donations from our families and are truly grateful. Mr. and Mrs, Woricker have kindly donated £300 towards the upkeep of the our school guinea pigs. A huge thank you to them especially from Shadow and Nibbles.
Miss. Rankin

Diary Dates

W/b 3rd November - Pony Academy
11th November - Armistice Day
11th November - Whole School Flu Vaccinations
14th November - Children in Need: dress in spots/stripes/yellow
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

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

Sporting Update

We had a busy few weeks before half term in terms of sporting events in and outside of school!

On the 8th October, we attended the Forest Heath Sports Partnerships mixed football competition. From our 4 group matches, we recorded 1 win, 2 draws and 1 defeat and as a real positive only conceding one goal in those four matches. Unfortunately, this was not enough to reach the knockout stages on this occasion but a great effort from all involved.

On the 14th October, we attended the Forest Heath Sports Partnerships boys football festival. The team took part in four matches against other schools. All matches were played in great spirit and our boys had a great time playing some excellent football along the way.

On the 16th October, three of our children represented the school and the Forest Heath Sports Partnerships team at the Suffolk Cross Country Finals. They reached this stage after qualifying through the initial round which took place in September. It was an incredible effort on the day from the three runners who all achieved very respectable finishing positions.

Well done to Year 6 for taking part in their Tag Rugby intra competition before half term. At the end of each unit in PE, we give our children the opportunity to demonstrate their learning whilst enjoying some friendly competition and promoting the school games values which are self-belief, honesty, passion, respect, determination and teamwork.

Mr Archer and Mr Lycett

Tom Shines at Neate Meet Swimming Gala

Last weekend, Tom L (Leopards) made a splash at the Neate Meet Swimming Competition in Bury St. Edmunds. Competing in 12 different events — across freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly, and individual medley — Tom dominated every race, winning an incredible 12 gold medals. He achieved personal bests in all events, was the fourth most successful swimmer across all ages and secured qualification for two additional County races. A huge congratulations to Tom for his outstanding performance and dedication!

Burwell Community Sports Centre

LAMDA

LAMDA Lessons at Fordham School
Build Confidence & Communication

In-school LAMDA coaching with Hannah (LAMDA for Life). Fun, focused 1:1 sessions developing speaking, acting, and exam skills — held during the school day.

Acting & Verse & Prose Lessons – build expression, imagination, and confidence through performance.

NEW! Public Speaking Lessons (Ages 8+) – learn to speak clearly, structure ideas, and present with confidence.

Fee: £20 for 30-minute lesson
Spaces are limited – book now:
hannah@lamdaforlife.com

MODE SHIFT MONTH

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Fordham Primary School is taking part in Modeshift Mode Shift Month in November.

Mode Shift Month is a month-long celebration dedicated to all things walking, wheeling, cycling, and journey sharing by public transport or car. It provides the perfect opportunity to enable people to choose the way they travel, and present realistic travel alternatives to employees, students, and the wider public.

This will ensure we can all live in happier, healthier, and more inviting communities. Mode Shift Month is all about #TeamModeshift working together, including local, regional and national events, to inspire individuals to try something new, be it cycling to work, walking to school, car sharing, or using public transport for longer journeys, by providing people with the tools and inspiration to make a Mode Shift.

As part of Mode Shift Month, we are challenging pupils to complete a Travel Trail whilst they travel to or from school. The aim of the Travel Trail is to encourage more pupils to travel actively to school and to help them engage with their surroundings as they travel. The Travel Trail can be completed whilst pupils are travelling to and from school in the first week back.

Your child will be provided with a Travel Trail worksheet attached to an email which contains several things which they can look for and tick off whilst they are travelling to and from school, with additional space to record anything else which they find interesting which isn't on the list.

We hope that you will help us by getting on board and choosing to travel actively to school and support your child in completing their scavenger hunt.

Please get in touch If you have any questions regarding this task!

Best wishes,

JTA's and Mrs Laskar