Fordham CE Primary School

2nd September 2025

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

A note from Miss. Rankin

I hope you have all had a restful summer break and managed to enjoy some lovely family times together. It's always great to get back to school, welcoming pupils – new and old – back to school, fresh to start the new year.

COMMUNICATION:
As last term, there will be a whole-school newsletter once every fortnight, sharing key information and helpful reminders including any changes, our Flourishers of the week, updated diary dates and any other celebrations. We always like to include special events or activities that have been happening in school as well as celebrating any achievements out of school. If you have anything you would like to share on the newsletter, please send in an email to the school office.
As a measure to reduce costs and after some feedback from parents last year regarding different communication methods, we will no longer being using 'text messages' as a way to communicate. We will try to keep all communication together but request that you support each other, via Whatsapp groups etc. to remind each other of upcoming events.
I have attached the Communication Policy for the school. Please note that all emails go via the school office and be aware that correspondence by staff can take up to ten school days. If you would like to meet with any staff member, then you will need to make an appointment with the school office. Obviously, we take any major or safeguarding concerns as a priority.

CHANGE TO PD DAY:
The academic year dates for 2025-2026 have had to be changed slightly with one of the PD days cancelled. Monday 13th April will no longer be a PD day and instead, the children will need to be in school.

CHANGE TO LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY:
We have decided to postpone when we change the change of the school day and timings will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

DONATIONS:
Following our request for donations to help with our funding concerns, one of our families has donated ten brand new school laptops, A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs. Custance and their company, VMHosts.

PARENT FORUM:
We would like to invite you to our annual Parent Forum on Thursday 4th September at 3.30-3.50pm, 3.50-4.10pm and 4.10-3.40pm. This is an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, step into their classroom and find out more about what to expect of the year ahead. Mrs Clay, our Assistant Head, will also lead a short session on Attendance at 3.50pm in the main hall and members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available to talk to and answer any questions.

I hope you have a great first week back. Miss. Rankin

Diary Dates

Tuesday 2nd September - Return to school
Wednesday 3rd September - Y3 Forest School
Thursday 4th September - Parent Forums: 3.30pm-3.50pm, 3.50pm-4.10pm, 4.10-4.30pm
Monday 8th September - EYFS stay all day
w/b Monday 8th September - Y6 Pony Academy Group 1
Tuesday 23rd September - Y2 Forest school
Friday 26th September - 'Go for Gold' - dress in gold for Children's Cancer month
w/b Mon 29th September - Y6 Pony Academy Group 2
Friday 3rd October - Harvest Festival - 9.30am (EY+Rabbits) and 11am (Y1+Raccoons)
Wednesday 8th October - Individual Photographs
Wednesday 15th October - Y6 Forest School
Thursday 16th October - Y4 Forest School
W/b 20th October - Cultural Week
Tuesday 21st October - EYFS Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.30pm
Wednesday 22nd October - EYFS Parents Evening 3.30 -6.30pm
Thursday 23rd October - PTFA School Disco
Friday 24th October - PD day - No children in school

REMINDERS:

> We ask that school uniform is clearly named. please refer to our website for expectations about uniform https://www.fordhamprimary.co.uk/Uniform/ See page 2 for reminders about PE kit
> We ask that children do not use any of the playground equipment including items from the KS1 black storage boxes both before and after school
> The school car park is to be used by staff only unless you have had prior permission from the school or have a disability badge
> Please do not include any food with nuts in for lunch or breaktimes (please see page 2) – we aim to be a NUT FREE school

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

Breaktime Snacks

All children in Early Years and KS1 have free fruit and vegetables every breaktime through the government's fruit and vegetable initiative. Milk is available free of charge to under fives and all other children can have milk at breaktimes if their parents have bought it through Cool Milk - click here for more information.

Once children move through into KS2 we would like this practice of encouraging healthy eating to continue. Therefore, the following breaktime snacks allowed are: fresh fruit and vegetables; dried fruit or fruit based snack. From next week, staff will be monitoring this during break time. Parents of children who may not be able to eat fruit and vegetables should discuss alternatives with their class teacher. Other snacks will be allowed to be eaten as part of a healthy balanced packed lunch at lunchtime.

Fordham Primary School aims to be a NUT FREE SCHOOL.

A message from Mr. Archer and Mr. Lycett - PE Leads

The PE team would like to say a big welcome back to all of our fantastic children. This year we will once again be committed to giving all pupils the best possible opportunities and experiences when it comes to PE through 2 hours of fun and engaging lessons per week, inter & intra school festivals and competitions, trips and in school experiences/visitors, extra-curricular clubs and much more!

PE Kit:

- House coloured t-shirt (plain or with Fordham logo
- Plain black/navy/grey shorts (these must be at least mid-thigh length
- Plain black/navy/grey tracksuit bottoms
- Plain black/navy/grey jumper
- Appropriate footwear for indoor/outdoor activities (ideally trainers)

Health and Safety:

Earrings, ear studs and other jewellery (metal or plastic) must not be worn during sporting activities, P.E. or swimming. If ears have been pierced recently and cannot be removed, we will endeavour to make necessary adjustments so that your child can still be active during their PE lesson. If earrings can be removed but children cannot do this independently, please remove your child's earrings before school on PE days. Following health and safety advice, from the H&S PE advisor for Cambridgeshire, earrings cannot be taped for PE lessons.

- Long hair must be tied back before children take part in physical activity
- All watches must be removed before children take part in physical activity

If you have any questions about PE, feel free to get in contact with us.

Mr. Archer and Mr. Lycett

PE Days PE Kit can be worn for the whole day on your child's PE day	
Early Years Barn Owls Snowy Owls	 Tuesday Wednesday
Year 1	Monday & Friday
Year 2	Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 3	Thursday & Friday
Year 4	Tuesday & Friday
Year 5	Wednesday & Thursday
Year 6	Monday & Thursday

Forest School

We are excited to let you know that the children will be continuing to take part in half termly Forest School sessions led by their class teacher as part of our outdoor learning programme.

Forest School is a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore nature, develop confidence and build teamwork and resilience through hands-on experiences in the natural environment. Activities may include den building, nature crafts, campfire songs and storytelling and learning about local wildlife.

Clothing:

Please ensure that your child comes dressed in weather-appropriate clothing including waterproofs and sturdy footwear (wellies/walking boots). Layers are best and clothes that can get muddy are encouraged!

Forest School Dates:

Early Years:
every Wednesday afternoon

Year 1:
21st October & 11th December

Year 2:
23rd September & 5th December

Year 3:
3rd September & 18th November

Year 4:
16th October & 16th December

Year 5:
16th September & 21st November

Year 6:
15th October & 2nd December

Homework

This is a reminder that we do have daily expectations for parents/carers to support for homework. A short burst of focused, quality support with an adult will be valuable to a child's progress.

Reading: Ideally daily, or at least three times a week, either independently or with an adult - whether it's a bedtime story or a few pages of a chapter book. Reading together builds vocabulary, imagination, a love of stories and connection. You can record home reading in your child's Reading Record. Please can these be returned to school daily as your child will be asked for this when reading with an adult.

Maths: In Year 1, children will focus on Number - an overview sheet will be provided at the start of each term of key information. In Year 2, a weekly slip of what they have been learning will be sent home giving you practical suggestions on some maths tasks you can work on. In Key Stage 2, children will focus on times tables. Your child will be provided with log-in details for Times Tables Rock Stars and can practice at home. If you are struggling to access these, additional support sheets may be provided.

Spelling: Year 1 will focus on phonics. The majority of Year 2 and Key Stage 2 children will be provided with a list of spellings following the Spelling Shed scheme. Your child practices these spellings in school but will also bring home a practice sheet. They will sit a spelling test and the sheet is not required to be brought back to school.
***Nessy**: Nessy is a spelling intervention organised by Mrs. Lycett (SENCo) for identified individuals. This can be used both in and out of school.

Year 6: The Year 6 teachers have the flexibility to set specific tasks as and when the children need it to prepare them for secondary school.

Other ways you can support your child with their learning

You can find a curriculum map for each year group by clicking here: **Key Stage 1** **Key Stage 2**. These maps will give you an overview of what your child will be learning this term. Please note that these are updated termly.

Additional home learning can be found at Oak Academy. Click here.

Online Safety:

As we begin a new term, please may we remind you of the importance of staying vigilant when it comes to online safety. With children increasingly engaging with digital platforms both in and out of school, it is essential that we work together to ensure that they are navigating the online world safely and responsibly.

Please take time to:

- Talk regularly with your child about their online activity and the apps / games they use
- Set clear boundaries around screen time and appropriate content
- Use parental controls and privacy settings to help protect your child from inappropriate material
- Encourage open communication so your child feels comfortable reporting anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

We will continue to educate pupils about online safety through our curriculum and collective worship, but your support at home is invaluable.

You can find lots of informative posters and parent guides like the one below which have been created by National Online Safety on a range of topics including Roblox, TikTok and Snapchat. Click here to explore more.