# Fordham CE Primary School

19th January 2026

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

## A note from Miss. Rankin

We have hit this term running... Year 4 had a great Maya day last week and some of the Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed participating in Sportshall Athletics Competition performing really well and coming second.

**Goodbyes:**
On Friday, we sadly said goodbye to Ms. Mansfield who has been working at our school over the past two years as a Midday supervisor and Admin. She has chosen to take some time out to focus on her family. We wish her all the best in the future.
We will also be wishing Miss. Lamb all the best on Friday as she leaves to go on Maternity Leave.

**Year 4 Maya Day:**
Last week, Year 4 had the opportunity to learn about an ancient civilisation, The Mayans, through games and drama. They learned about sacrifices, the game Pok-a-Tok, the creation story, the incredible buildings the Maya built, their different roles in society and their advanced number system. They also enjoyed roleplaying going to the Maya beauticians and making hot chocolate. A brilliant beginning to their topic this term.

**Student Teachers:**
We have two student teachers joining us in Year 1 and Year 4 this week - Miss. Towns and Miss. Faulkes Anske. They will be working alongside our teachers as they complete their eight week placement on their journey to become qualified teachers.

**New Smartphones:**
We are aware that many children, particularly those in Year 6, were given a smartphone for Christmas. Please can we ask that you continue to check the messaging, especially on Whatsapp (which does have an age rating of 13 years old), between the children as we have been made aware of inappropriate language being used and unkind messaging outside of school on a number of occasions.
We will also continue to educate the children on this in school during Computing and PSHE lessons. Every year, we deal with many issues concerning the use of Smartphones and the issues are often being brought into school due to unkind messaging.
Please also check out the Smartphone Free Childhood information on page 3.

**Pupil Premium Funding:**
Mrs. Dennis, our seconded SBM, is offering parents/carers support to check whether your child(ren) are eligible for pupil premium funding. The funding can help your child in school, with funding going towards support in class, receipt of free school meals (especially helpful in Key Stage 2) as well as money towards trips and visitors.
If you would like to take her up on the offer, please contact the school office and a time will be arranged on Wednesday to Fridays.

**Concerns about families outside of school:**
We often have other parents/carers inform us that they are concerned about families outside of school. Although we would willingly help, please can we remind you that you can also make a referral to social care by calling 0345 045 5203 or online https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/concerned/members-of-public-reporting-a-concern/ You can also make an anonymous referral to the Police if you are concerned that a crime is happening by contacting Crimestoppers or following the link: https://www.police.uk/pu/contact-us/what-and-how-to-report/how-to-report/

This week, we are looking forward to a visit from Parliament for our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Some children will be taking part in East Cambs. Panathlon at SVC; whilst some of the girls in Year 5/6 will be taking part in Girls' County Football Finals - we wish them luck and will keep you posted!

Next week, some children from Year 3 and 4 will be participating in the Sportshall Athletics competition in Mildenhall. We will also be holding our annual Christingle Service in school on Wednesday 28th January, with pupils from Year 6 leading us in the service and School Council with their Christingles. A very special thank you to to Mr. Mulato for donating the oranges.

Have a lovely week. Miss. Rankin

## Diary Dates

**14th January** - Y4 Maya Day
**21st January** - Y5 and Y6 Parliament visitor
**23rd January** - County Football Finals
**23rd January** - Peter (Blue) House to wear non-school uniform
**27th January** - Dental survey for EYFS/Y1 - random selection*
**28th January** - Christingle service in school
**10th February** - Y3 Forest School
**11th February** - Safer Internet Day
**12th February** - Year 4 Assembly
**13th February** - Y2 Forest School

~ **Half Term:** 16th February ~

**23rd February** - Children return to school
**2nd March** - KS2 Oral Health workshop
**3rd March** - Y6 Smoking & Vaping workshop
**5th March** - World Book Day dress up theme: dress as an adjective / book character
**9th March** - Science Week
**10th March** - Y4 Forest School
**16th March** - Y2 Parents' Evening
**17th March** - Y6 Forest School
**23rd March** - Parents' Evening
**25th March** - Parents' Evening *(*not Y2)*
**23rd March** - Y5 Forest School
**24th March** - Y1 Forest School
**25th March** - Easter Service 9.30am and 11am. We welcome Y5/6 parents to attend.

**IMPORTANT**

**The School Council decided that the House that reaches the top of the Counter Tube is allowed to wear their Non-school uniform for a day!**

**So, on Friday 23rd January, Peter (Blue) House who won during the Autumn term will be allowed to wear non-uniform for the day.**

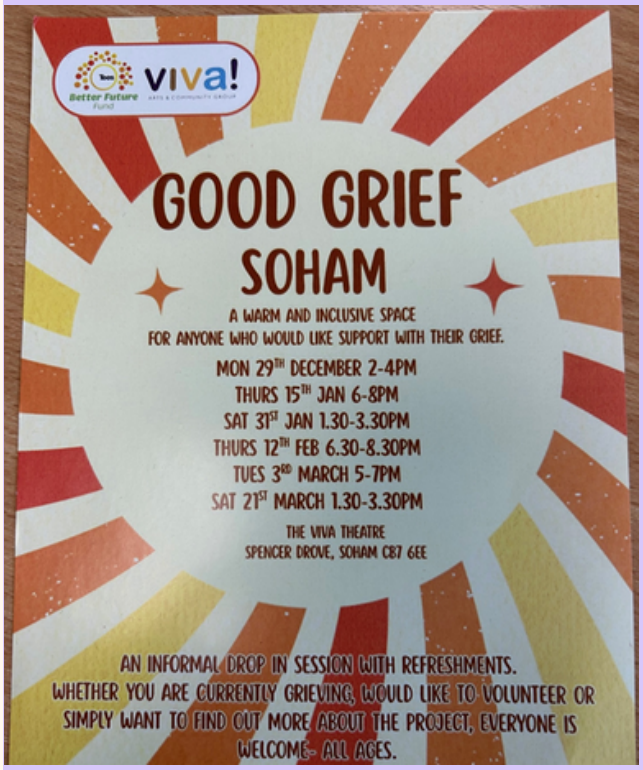
'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13

## Achievements:

Jack D has got into the Ipswich Football Pre Academy.

In this week's Friday Flourisher assembly, Alice B shared a trophy she had earned for Karate.

Congratulations to Phoebe M from Butterflies for her recent achievement in gymnastics. She participated in a gymnastics competition where she achieved excellent results, earning one gold medal and two silver medals. She was the youngest participant in her group, making this accomplishment especially meaningful.




**TELL YOUR MP TO RAISE THE SOCIAL MEDIA AGE TO 16** - it takes 60 seconds

Keir Starmer said he's considering an Australia-style age limit on social media. That means this issue is live in Parliament right now – and parents' voices can shape what happens next.

👉 Email your MP now:

MPs are deciding what to push for today. They need to know how much this matters to their constituents.

✉️ We've made it easy: CLICK HERE.

- A pre-written email
- Takes 60 seconds
- You can personalise it, or just send as-is.

Anyone can send this - parents, carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, young people.

This isn't party-political. It's about protecting children from addictive, algorithm-driven platforms – and making it easier for parents to hold the line together.

These moments don't come around often. Let's make it count.

Team SFC 💚

Thank you to all those who have already handed a winter poem in. There is still time to take part:

## Whole School Poetry Challenge

(open to staff and parents too!)

## Can you write a poem about Winter?

These can be hand-written or typed, include illustrations and/or be emailed into school by Monday 2nd February 2026.

Can you include one or more of the MORERAPS (poetic devices) in your poem? Watch this video from Joseph Coelho to find out more about how to use these devices, click here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=foCVoatLGLgND2nL&v=PAq-yzalTwk&feature=youtu.be

These poems will be shared in collective worship and displayed in the school library that week for everyone to see.

Mrs George and Mrs Bramley
English Leads

## Cross Country Report

On what turned out to be a very wet Thursday 15th January, Nancy I and Emily C competed in the Suffolk Schools Cross Country Championships held at Woodbridge School. Due to heavy continuous rain the start of the race was held up until a section of the course was rerouted for safety.

From the off both girls set a solid pace with Emily initially pulling ahead and looking strong. However over the course of the next two muddy and slippery kilometers Nancy slowly reeled her back in with both entering the final field neck and neck.

After a fierce sprint finish between the two girls Nancy narrowly crossed the line ahead in 60th position with Emily right on her heels in 61st.

Both girls performed admirably in truly testing cross country conditions and against a field containing a main bulk of year 7 students.

Reported by Mr. Irvine (*parent*)