Fordham CE Primary School

2nd February 2026

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

A note from Miss. Rankin

We have made it to February!

Annual Monitoring Visit:
On Wednesday, our School Improvement Advisor visited our school to complete our annual monitoring visit. She was impressed by the general calmness of the school as she toured the school and could see how most of the children were engaged in their lessons. She agreed that our safeguarding procedures were effective. We continue to work to improve our provision. One area she discussed was phonics; we require your support with continuing to hear your children read regularly and practise spellings or Nessy frequently at home as regular practise can make all the difference.

Christingle Celebration: Last week, our school community came together for a truly joyful Christingle service - an event that brough warmth, light and togetherness during this winter season. Our school council, led by Mrs. Bell, proudly created their own Christingle and along with Year 6 and Reverend Stephen, led us in our service in school and explained the symbolic meaning for each element of the Christingle. A special thank you goes to Mr Mulato for donating the oranges.

Parent Curriculum Maps: Did you know that you can find the curriculum maps for each year group on the website. **KS1** - click here. **KS2** - click here.

Reading at Fordham: Did you know that you can find Reading for Pleasure leaflets on the website? We have put together a selection of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books that you could read with your child at home. Click here. These are all brilliant, high quality children's books that will support your child's wider understanding of the theme they will be reading about in school. These books can be found in school in your child's class book corners or school libraries.

Fire Drill and Invacuation Drill: We have timetabled the fire drill for tomorrow morning (Tuesday 3rd February) as part of our termly monitoring. We do warn the children for this drill so they know what to do, especially as some of the children do not like the sound. We will also be completing our termly Invacuation drill on Thursday morning. On this occasion, we will use the same system we have always used and not include the sounder.

Are you interested in being a parent reader volunteer? We are looking for more helpers for support across the school. Please let the school office know either in person or by email. Thank you.

Donations: A huge thank you to Freya and Oscar's grandma for donating money towards our gardening club. What a lovely gesture! Thank you so much.

Parking: We are continuing to get dangerous congestion at the front of our school before school. Parents/carers should **NOT** be parking or dropping off unless they have approval from the school. School staff are starting to arrive and often have resources etc. that they need to carry. It is also dangerous to expect cars to reverse back onto the main road to allow cars to leave the carpark.

Class Trips and Visits: We are currently reviewing the voluntary contributions we receive for class trips and visits, including those from last year. In most year groups, the school has had to subsidise up to 40% of these costs. With the school budget under significant pressure, we must carefully consider whether we can continue to offer these opportunities in the future.
We are extremely proud to provide curriculum enhancements that many children would not otherwise experience, but it is becoming increasingly challenging for the school to continue funding them at this level.
We will keep you updated as this review progresses, and we sincerely appreciate your ongoing support. We would like to thank all families who continue to contribute towards these valuable experiences for your children, while also recognising the financial pressures many households are currently facing.
If you are experiencing difficulties in making payments, we encourage you to contact the finance team in confidence so we can discuss how we might be able to support you. If you have any outstanding payments you wish to settle, or if you would like to contribute towards the cost of another pupil's place, please contact finance@fordham.cambs.sch.uk We thank you for your understanding.

Have a lovely week. Miss. Rankin

Diary Dates

3rd February - Y6 Smoking & Vaping workshop
10th February - Y3 Forest School
11th February - Safer Internet Day
12th February - Year 4 Assembly 9.15-9.45am
13th February - Y2 Forest School

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

23rd February - Children return to school
2nd March - KS2 Oral Health workshop
5th March - World Book Day dress up theme: dress as an adjective / book character
10th March - Y4 Forest School
16th March - Y2 Parents' Evening
***16th March** - Science Week - more information to follow
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 our service at the Church.

IMPORTANT - NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

On Friday 6th February, Withers (Yellow) House will be allowed to wear non-uniform for the day following their close win to the top for this half term.

Donation Request:
Chess Board Sets

If you have a chess board at home that you no longer use, we would welcome sets for our chess club. We are excited to be arranging a friendly tournament with Isleham Primary School in the summer term.
Thank you,
Mrs. Bramley

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

ELY MUSEUM

Whirling Windmills!

Children's STEM Workshop

Suitable for ages 7 - 11 years

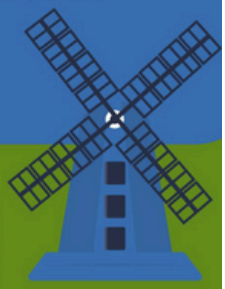
Thursday 19th February

11am - 1pm or 2pm - 4pm

Tickets: £9.50 per child (adults are free)

Build a working model windmill using LEGO® Technic cogs and axels to make the crank that rotates the sails!

Then use your creative skills to make it your own.



Pre-book Online

www.elymuseum.org.uk

Charity number 115 6024

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?
We'd love to hear from you!

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

GOOD GRIEF SOHAM

OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT

THE VIVA THEATRE · SPENCER DROVE · SOHAM · CB7 6EE

SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2026

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM · POETRY STARTS 7PM

A GRIEF-FOCUSED EVENING OF POETRY & COMMUNITY WITH MICHELLE BARRY CELEBRANT

FREE ENTRY

Donations can be given to Good Grief Soham

Bar & refreshments available

Come along and share your own poetry or just come and listen

No pressure to perform, just be part of a warm, supportive evening

All levels of poetry

ALL WELCOME!

CONTACT TO BOOK A SLOT:
contact@michellebarrycelebrant.com

viva!

Free Healthy Relationship courses for parents

All relationships have their ups and downs, but if parents are regularly arguing in front of their children, it can have negative and lasting consequences. Help is available for parents who want to communicate in a healthier way. Family Hubs are running courses to support parents who would like to improve the relationship with their partner or ex-partner.
Courses bookable directly via the QR code.

2026 workshop booking form

****SPRING TERM 2026****

Improve the communication with your partner to support your children

Face to Face Littleport:
Littleport Child and Family Centre, Littleport, Ely Cambridge CB6 1JT. Monday 2nd March, 9:30 - 11:30am

Online via Teams: Monday 26th January and Monday 2nd of February Midday - 1 pm

Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children

Face to Face Soham: Soham Child and Family Centre, The Weatheralls Primary School, Pratt Street, Soham, Ely, CB7 5BH. Friday 20th March, 12:45pm - 2:45pm

Online via Teams: Wednesday 28th January and Wednesday 4th February, Midday - 1 pm

Peterborough Family Hubs · Cambridgeshire Family Hubs · Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centres

The River Snail Community Project ... (A river, not the aquatic invertebrate!!)

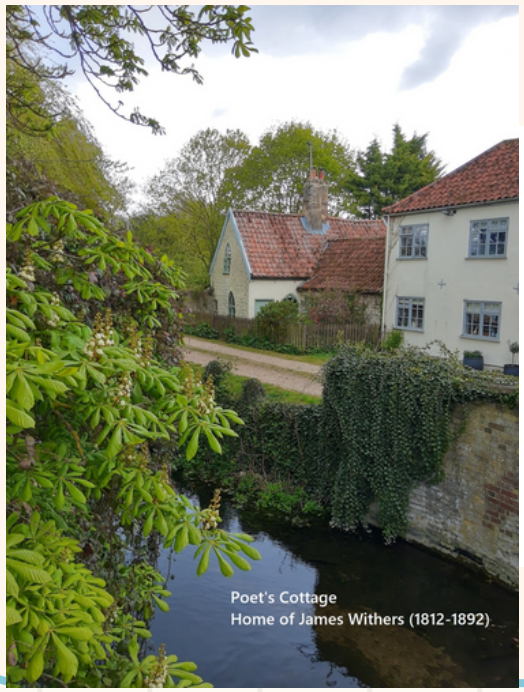
We are a local group working to protect and enhance the unique habitat and wildlife of our river. At the same time, our river is very much part of the history of our two towns and two villages.
The River Snail is a fourteen-mile chalk stream fed by the Snailwell springs, Newmarket Brook and Chippenham Fen ditch. Beyond Fordham it becomes Soham Lode.

Chalk streams are among the rarest freshwater habitats on Earth, with around 85% of the world's chalk streams found in England. Their clear, mineral-rich water supports plants and wildlife found nowhere else, but these fragile rivers are under increasing threat.

Can you help?
We are looking for volunteers and supporters to help care for the River Snail. You could join litter picks, informative talks, practical volunteer days, training days, take part in citizen-science projects such as wildlife or water-quality monitoring, donate, fundraise, help spread the word, or offer skills such as photography, admin, design, teaching or event support.

We are contacting and collaborating with stakeholders including individuals, other groups, local authorities, and landowners.
If you would like to help, or just find out more with no obligation, please contact
riversnailcommunity@gmail.com
Facebook: The River Snail Community Group

Together, we can protect this rare and beautiful chalk stream and ensure it remains a living river for wildlife and people alike.



"Home is home ..... and this is mine,
Nothing grand, not even fine:
A cottage, in a sheltered nook,
Beside an ever flowing brook,
Whose waters having escaped the mill,
Have leave to frolic as they will".
(James Withers 1812-1892)

Smartphone Free Childhood School Working Party Update

With the growing national conversation around children, social media, and smartphones, we wanted to share an update on the Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) community here at Fordham CofE Primary school.

We are a local group of parents who share concerns about the impact of early smartphone use. To support one another, many of us have signed the "Parent Pact"—a commitment to wait until age 14 for a smartphone and age 16 for social media. We've found that these boundaries are much easier to maintain when we act together as a community.

With recent headlines regarding social media age limits and bans, now is the perfect time to get involved:

Learn More: Explore the SFC Resources for Parents:
https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resources-for-parents

Watch: See the Smartphone Dilemma videos for a deeper look at the research.
https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/the-smartphone-dilemma

Connect: Join our Fordham SFC WhatsApp group (we appreciate the irony!)
https://chat.whatsapp.com/JmfasSKm4MdGgoXSLOLws6

Take the Lead:
Locate Fordham CofE Primary school's position on the Cambridgeshire Parent Pact Leaderboard. Let's see if we can climb towards the top!
https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/parent-pact-results?region=cambridgeshire

You can sign the Parent Pact here: https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/parent-pact

Let's work together to give our children a smartphone-free childhood.