Fordham CE Primary School

6th January 2026

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

A note from Miss. Rankin

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a good, restful break and are ready for what 2026 brings us. I am always interested in any goals you have set yourself this year - please do not hesitate to tell me. I do not have any running races organised this year but am always on the lookout for something to get stuck into.

CONGRATULATIONS: A special mention to Mr. Archer and Mr. Lycett who achieved the afPE Quality Mark for Physical Education, School Sport & Physical Activity with a Distinction! This is something to be very proud of. We already know what they provide for the children is exceptional but this is proof! Well done to them both.

PANTOMIME: We are excited to announce that we are having a visit from a pantomime in the first week of Spring Term. The children will be watching the performance of Aladdin on Wednesday 7th January. Many thanks go to the PTFA who have funded this opportunity!

WELCOME: We are welcoming Mrs. Dennis, the SBM from Isleham, on Wednesday who is being seconded this term. She will be working three days a week – Wednesday – Friday at Fordham and remain at Isleham for the other days.

RETIREMENT: Sadly, after many years of dedicated service, we would like to share that Mrs. Bradshaw, one of our most valued and long-standing members of the school, has handed in her resignation and will be retiring at the end of this term. I'm sure you will agree that Mrs. Bradshaw has been an integral part of our school community, supporting staff, pupils, and families with such commitment and professionalism over the past twenty plus years and her smile has greeted us all. I know she will be deeply missed. So let's make sure she enjoys her last term. Her departure also means that the PTFA will be missing a fundamental person who put in so much work behind the scenes and was such a success in raising money for the children in our school. If you feel you may be able to help the PTFA, please get in touch with her via the school office.

READING AT HOME: We are very lucky that we have been able to gain valuable support from volunteers this year and their role often supports the children across the years with extra reading. Any extra reading practise really helps the children progress quicker; with that in mind, we are requesting that you listen to your children read more often as part of their homework. Year 1 will now be taking home a phonics reader and a reading for pleasure book. Reading to them is also very worthwhile as the children will be hearing you model expression and learning about intonation. If you are interested in being a reading volunteer, please get in touch via the school office.

POETRY CHALLENGE: Please see p3 for information about a school poetry challenge.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD: January is a great time to reset. Reducing screen time—even for short periods —can help children feel calmer, develop creativity, focus, and feel more connected. Two ways to make this month more smartphone-free:
1) Create a tech-free Zone - designate one room where phones/tablets are not allowed. This encourages conversation and shared activities.
2) Plan offline activities - board games/puzzles, cooking together or outdoor walks
Children notice what we do. Putting your phone away during family time sends a powerful message.
See page 3 for information regarding an information evening on the 25th February at the Soham Town Rangers football club.

REMINDERS:
> Please can we ask that all children DO NOT use their scooters and bikes when they come onto our school site including on the path up from the Rec. There have been a few near misses and we really want to avoid anyone getting hurt unnecessarily. We, too, will be vigilant and stop children if we see them.
> Please can you also stop any children going on the apparatus whilst you are waiting to collect your child, particularly children who are at pre-school and younger. The equipment is age appropriate.
> Please DO NOT park in the school car parks unless you have had permission. It can become very congested and again, there have been near misses here. Staff are arriving from 7.30am until 8.55am.

Have a lovely week. Miss. Rankin

Diary Dates

6th January - Return to school for the children
7th January - Pantomime in school, 'Aladdin,' organised and paid for by the PTFA
14th January - Y4 Maya Day
21st January - Y5 and Y6 Parliament visitor
23rd January - County Football Finals
27th January - Dental survey for EYFS/Y1 - random selection*
28th January - Christingle service in school
10th February - Y3 Forest School
12th February - Year 4 Assembly
13th February - Y2 Forest School

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

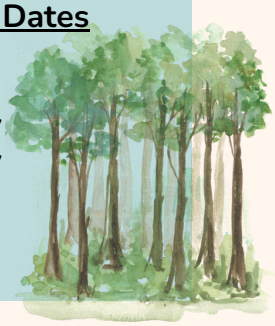
23rd February - Children return to school
2nd March - KS2 Oral Health workshop
3rd March - Y6 Smoking & Vaping workshop
5th March - World Book Day dress up theme tbc.
9th March - Science Week
10th March - Y4 Forest School
16th March - Y2 Parents' Evening
17th March - Y6 Forest School
23rd March - Parents' 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.

afPE QUALITY MARK DISTINCTION 2025 – 2028

association for PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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

Spring 2026 Forest School Dates



Year 1 - 24th March
Year 2 - 13th February
Year 3 - 10th February
Year 4 - 10th March
Year 5 - 23rd March
Year 6 - 17th March

Year Group Class Assembly Spring and Summer Term 2026

We would like to welcome parents/carers into school to attend your child's year group assembly - a showcase of some of their learning so far this year.
The assembly will start at 9.15am and finish 9.45am. Please enter via the front office.

Year 1 - Thursday 7th May 2026
Year 2- Thursday 23rd April 2026
Year 3 - Thursday 16th April 2026
Year 4 - Thursday 12th February 2026
Year 5 - Thursday 30th April 2026

Congratulations

We always like to congratulate children in their outside interests in Friday's Flourisher assembly.

A special congratulations to Clark C who achieved his Red Belt before the Christmas Break.

Well done to Ted and Noah who completed their 1000 hours outside today. They have completed the hours over 18 months and it excludes the hours spent outside at school. They hope to complete the next 1000 hours in a shorter time and have begun already! Click here to find out more about the 1000 hours challenge.

A big thank you to Eoin C, Yr 6 who has been growing his hair since his mum gave him a bad hair cut during Covid. Eoin knew he wanted to donate his hair to The Little Princess Trust, following in the footsteps of his sister Lillie and several of his school mates. At the start of the Christmas holidays, Eoin decided it was time for the big chop. His barber, Janine, from The Barber Lounge in Soham, was happy to stay late and cut off Eoin's 16" plait. Not only is Eoin's hair being donated to make a wig but he has raised just shy of £400 on just giving. What an incredible achievement. You should be so proud, Eoin.

Primary School admissions

Applications for Primary School in September 2026:

If your child will be age 4 by 31st August 2026, you will need to apply for a Primary School place **by 15th January 2026**.
If you have not already submitted an application for your child for entry into primary school in September 2026, please note that applications must be completed and returned to the Admissions Team by the closing date of the 15th January 2026.
There are two ways to make your application for your school place. It can be done either:

- Online via the Cambridgeshire website: Click here.
- On a paper application, available by calling 0345 045 1370. Please note that if you apply on paper, you will need to wait for your postal offer and will not receive an email on the offer date.

Please note that if your child has a statement of Special Educational Needs, you should contact the Student Assessment Team (SAT team) on 01480 372600

Any application made after 15th January 2026 will be considered a late application. Any applications received after this time will be late and only considered in May 2026, after all "on time" applications, so it is very important that you apply by the closing date.

If your application is late, it will likely mean that you will be much less likely to be offered a place at one of your preferred schools. If you have any questions about the Application or online process, please refer to the First Steps booklet. Click here.
You will receive notification of your offer on 16 April 2026.

Faith ◆ Friendship ◆ Flourish

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to present our workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for January. Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Managing Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 13 January 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Managing Challenging Behaviours	Thursday, 15 January 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Supporting Your Child with Sleep	Tuesday, 20 January 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Supporting Your Child with Sleep – Evening session	Tuesday, 20 January 2026, 18:00-19:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings	Thursday, 22 January 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Tuesday, 27 January 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or

Our colleagues in the Targeted Support team are also running the following online workshops:

Improve the Communication with Your Partner to Support Your Children	Monday 26 January & 2 February 2026, 12:00-13:00	Book onto these workshops at: 2026 workshop booking form or via
Improve the Communication with Your Ex-Partner to Support Your Children	Wednesday 28 January & 4 February 2026, 12:00-13:00	

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to present our newly updated workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for February.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings – Evening session	Monday, 2 February 2026, 18:00-19:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry – Evening session	Thursday, 5 February 2026, 18:00-19:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or
An Introduction to Family Wellbeing	Tuesday, 10 February 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or

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