Fordham CE Primary School

23rd February 2026

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

A note from Miss. Rankin

Welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely half term break and enjoyed some special family time. The weather definitely kept us on our toes.. one minute it was sunny then it was snowing. This half term is relatively short - being only five weeks but it is a very busy term - please keep an eye on the diary dates.

SEND Review:
On Tuesday, we are having a SEND Review by Cambs County SEND Advisors following a request for support. As is the nation picture, we have had an increase in the number of children we support with SEND and try to meet the children's individual needs. We are always reflecting on our provision using our current funding. We would appreciate any feedback of your experiences.

Sporting competitions and festivals:
There have been a number of sports competitions last half term. Check out Page 3 for a report from Mr. Archer.

Property Damaged in school:
Sadly, we have recently had a number of incidents where property has been damaged in school by pupils on purpose. Pupils have been throwing stones and have damaged staff's cars. Pipes have been mistreated in toilets and resulted in damage. Obviously individuals have been spoken to and appropriate consequences given, however we have seen a rise in this type of behaviour and disrespect towards our school property. Please can we ask you to talk to your children about looking after our equipment and reminding them of our school rules: Be ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. School cannot afford to keep replacing and mending items. If your child is involved, we will be asking for donations towards costs to repair or replace items broken.

Lent Challenges - Week 1:
This year, The Bishop's Lent Challenge 2026 is focusing on the Thessalonians scripture, 'Therefore, encourage one another, build each other up, just as you are doing' (5:11).
This challenge will help pupils to learn about the spread of Christianity in the early days of Christ's Way and who Paul the apostle was.
The focus of this challenge is to
- Explore ways to encourage and build each other
- Flourish in our ability to see one another – inside and outside
- Notice our God-given gifts and talents
- Develop our spiritual side to thrive in God's world.

The pupils will be participating in Collective worship.
In the first Collective worship, the children will learn about a man named Paul from the Bible. He used to fight against Christians—but then Jesus changed his heart. Paul became one of the greatest missionaries, telling everyone about God's love.
CHALLENGE FOR THE CHILDREN: Start to build each other up – think and write an encouraging word, phrase or action that would help to strengthen your class community. Encouragement means 'inspiring action with courage, spirit or confidence'. It has a powerful role in motivation, self-confidence and belief.
Have a lovely week. Miss. Rankin

Diary Dates

23rd February - Children return to school
27th February - Y2 Forest 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.
27th March - Year 3 Egyptian Day

~ Easter Holiday ~

13th April - Return to School
11th - 14th May - KS2 SATS
22nd May - PD Day - no school

~ Half Term ~

1st June - Return to School
3rd June - KS2 Sports Day (morning)
11th June - KS1 Sports Day (morning)
18th June - Early Years trip to South Angle Farm
19th June - Provisional back up KS1 Sports Day (morning)
25th June - Provisional back up KS2 Sports Day (morning)
16th July - Last Day of Term

Book Week - Week beg. 2nd March

Key Information:
Thursday 5th March - Dress up Day
Theme: dress as an adjective or your favourite book character

The Book Fair will be taking place in the small hall. Cash or online payment. Dates:
- Thursday 5th March 3.15pm - 3.45pm
- Friday 6th March 3.10pm - 3.45pm

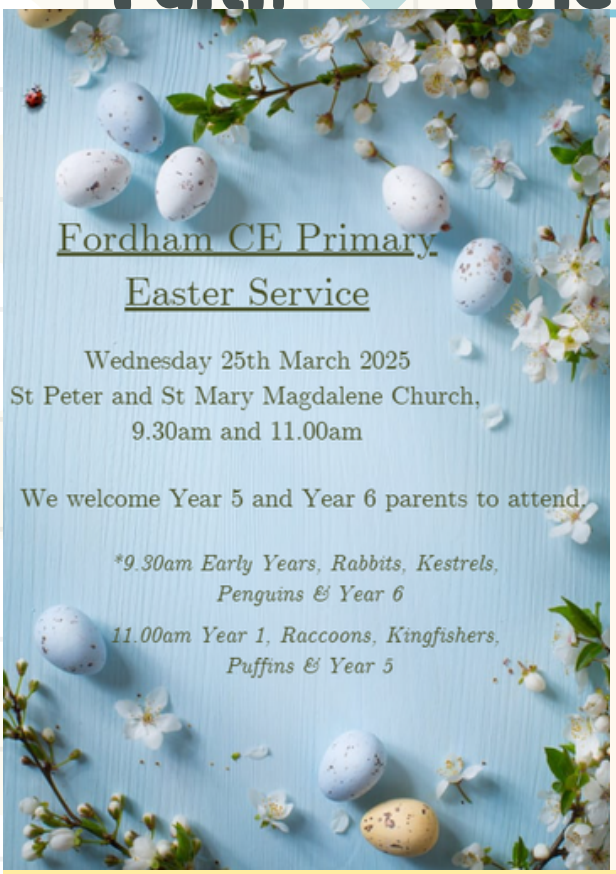
£1 National Book Tokens will be given to each child. These can be used at the book fair or participating book sellers eg. Tesco.

See page 2 for a fun competition to get involved with. Closing date Wednesday 4th March 2026.

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

Faith Friendship Flourish

Faith ◆ Friendship ◆ Flourish



Well done to Tom. Over the last three weekends, Tom (Leopards) competed in 14 swimming races at the Suffolk County Championship 2026 in Ipswich. He earned two bronze medals in the 100m backstroke and 200m freestyle relay and finished an impressive 5th in the 11-year-old category across Suffolk - a fantastic achievement. Along the way, Tom smashed personal bests, including nearly a minute in the 400m freestyle. Beyond the medals and times, Tom demonstrated outstanding passion, teamwork and resilience in every race. Well done, Tom, your dedication and spirit are truly inspiring!

Well done to Ella who has just been awarded a place in the Suffolk Gymnastics County Squad.
She took place in a trial last Sunday at Pipers Vale in Ipswich and her selection has now been confirmed. Ella trains many hours throughout the week with Bury Spectrum.

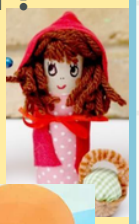
Book Week Competition

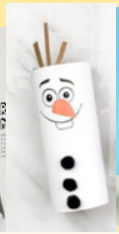
Can you turn a toilet roll into a book / tv / film character?

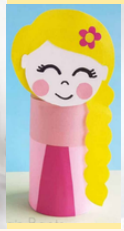
Closing Date: Wednesday 4th March 2026

Prize

Winners from each year group will win £5 to spend at the Book Fair.







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<mailto:hannah@lamdaforlife.com>

Be Safe, Be Ready, Be Respectful

Sporting Update

This half term has been an incredibly busy one for sports competitions, festivals and fixtures. Children from across KS2 have been involved in a wide variety of sports and activities with lots of success and positive experiences to celebrate.

Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics - West Suffolk

On Tuesday 13th January, a team of 9 boys and 9 girls from year 5 and 6 (& one year 4!) took part in the FHSP Sportshall Athletics competition at Newmarket Leisure Centre. All of the children took part in 2 track and 2 field events each including obstacle relays, 4x1 relays, a 6 lap parrlauf, javelin, standing triple jump and many more. All of them performed brilliantly across their events which meant that we finished in 2nd place overall which was a fantastic achievement. This also meant that the team qualified for the county finals on 06/02/26.

KS2 East Cambridgeshire Panathlon

On Tuesday 20th January, a team of 3 boys and 3 girls from KS2 took part in the East Cambridgeshire leg of the Panathlon at SVC. The team took part in a carousel of different activities including Boccia, Curling, Ten Pin Bowling, Basketball shootout and more! Points were scored on each station and once all of the scores had been counted, we were awarded 1st place. Well done to all involved.

Y5/6 Girls Football Cambridgeshire County Finals (Pokémon Primary Schools Cup)

You may remember that way back in November, our Y5/6 girls football team won the East Cambridgeshire qualifying leg of the Pokémon Primary Schools cup. On the 23rd January, they headed to Swavesey Village College for the county finals to play against all of the other winners from the regional rounds which took place across the county. In their group they started with a 4-0 win vs. Histon followed by a 1-1 draw with Eye and then a 2-1 defeat against eventual winners Ramsey. This meant that they went on to a 5th/6th play off (& local derby) vs. St Andrews which they won 3-0 to finish in 5th place overall in the county. Well done girls, a fantastic achievement.

Y3/4 FHSP Sportshall Athletics Competition

On Monday 26th January, we took a team of 9 boys and 9 girls from across year 3 and 4 to the FHSP Sportshall Athletics competition at Mildenhall Hub to compete against 9 other schools. All of the children had to take part in 2 track and 2 field events each including an over-under relay, hurdles, standing long jump, 5 strides and many more. All of the children performed brilliantly across the events and secured a 1st place finish by some distance to the closest competitor. Well done to all who took part for an excellent display of skill, attitude and behaviour.

Girls Football & Boys Hockey Fixtures vs. Kings

On Wednesday 4th February, we took two teams to Kings' School Ely to take them on their girls at football and boys at hockey.

The group of Y6 boys played against Kings' 'C' team in a 7-a-side hockey fixture. The game was played in a great spirit from both teams with some excellent skill and teamwork on show throughout. Our boys ended up 7-0 winners, we will now take on their 'B' team in the week after half term.

In the girls' football fixture, we took a team made up of our year 4 and 5 girls to take on Kings' year 6 team. Again, the energy, attitude and skill on show from both teams was a pleasure to watch. The game finished 12-0 to us, well done all!

After the fixtures, the children were invited to a match tea laid on by our hosts. This was an opportunity for the teams to socialise with their opponents whilst enjoying some great food. This all added to an amazing all round experience for those who took part.

Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics Suffolk County Finals

On Friday 6th February, our year 5 and 6 Sportshall Athletics team headed to the Suffolk finals to compete against the 11 other best teams from around the county. After a fantastic effort in the qualifying round, it would be a big ask to improve their performance but they did just that in achieving a 4th placed finish which also saw them finish one place higher than St Louis who had pipped us to first place in the regional round. All of the children performed magnificently but a special mention to the two year 4's that made the team, Dulcie and Amelia, who held their own against some of the best athletes in the county.

Mr Archer & Mr Lycett