Fordham CE Primary School

23rd March 2026

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

A note from Miss. Rankin

How have we reached the last week of the Spring Term? This year is going so fast. This week continues to be a busy one before the break up for Easter on Friday.

Early Reading and Phonics Audit: We were visited by auditors from the English Hub last week to monitor our provision for teaching early reading and phonics. Mrs George (our Phonics Lead) shared the framework we follow. They were pleased with what they observed and wanted to support with further training and resources, providing funding towards this. They also acknowledged the reading for pleasure ethos around the school.

Easter Service: We welcome Year 5 (11:00am service) and Year 6 (9.30am service) parents to our service at St Peter and Mary Magdalene Church this Wednesday 25th March.

PTFA: The PTFA continue to think of ways to raise much needed funding for school projects. They are always looking for new members - there is a meeting tomorrow evening at 7pm (Tuesday 24th March) - please get in touch if you feel you would like to part of this amazing, hardworking team.
Film Night: Film night for EYFS and Year 1 pupils proved very successful last Thursday with many attending.
Easter Egg Hunt: The PTFA have provided an Easter treat for all pupils, which they will receive during their annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Eco-Committee: Jeremy Pattison, a member of Fordham Parish Council, met with the pupils on the Eco-Committee last week to discuss climate change and the impact on the environment, Jeremy was amazed at the questions that the children asked and how insightful and interested they were. We look forward to doing more projects with Jeremy in the future.

Science Week: Unfortunately last week, Mrs. Reeves had her donut taken by one of the staff whilst she was at the photocopier. The children had the task to be forensic scientists for the week to find out 'who had taken her donut' by completing lots of tests of the evidence that was left. It was a fun activity and the children were very inquisitive. The children did lots of scientific learning during the week (see page 3). From their input, we can envisage the Science Fair in the summer term will be very successful.

Young Musician auditions: Last week, Mrs. Clay had the privilege of watching many children undergo auditions to compete in the first round of the Young Musicians at Soham Village College. Ten pupils were chosen....

The Jill Rogers Building: We have finally signed off the Year 6 building having had all snaggings completed. We will be formally naming the building, The Jill Rogers building, after our late School Business Manager who led the project back in 2020. She was a key member of our staff for over four years before she passed. We will be holding a little ceremony to open the building early in the summer term and have planted a blossom tree for her at the front of the school.

Retirement: It is with much sadness that on Thursday we are saying goodbye to Mrs. Bradshaw in the school office who is retiring after working in a number of roles over her 25 years at Fordham. Her warmth, patience and organisational skills have shaped our primary school in ways that will be remembered for years. She has been a key player in the PTFA, an amazing first-aider and a calming voice in the school office greeting our parents and visitors alike with a smile on her face. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her a happy retirement.

Parking: We ask that you DO NOT park in the school car park. We will be introducing a new permit system next term where you will need a permit and these will be allocated to staff and those who have had prior permission from the school. We will be monitoring this and addressing those who do not comply as it is becoming a health and safety concern with the congestion.

Thank you for your continued support this term. We will all be returning to school on Monday 13th April (there is NO PD day on the first day back). Have a great Easter break if I do not see you before, and enjoy the time spent with families and friends.

Have a lovely final week of Spring Term.
Miss. Rankin

Diary Dates

23rd March - Parents' Evening
24th March - Y3 Forest School
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.
26th March - Year 4 Biscuit sale
27th March - Year 3 Egyptian Day

~ Easter Holiday ~

13th April - Return to School
20th April - Science Fair - info to follow
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)
20th June - PTFA Summer Fair
16th July - Last Day of Term

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

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

Choosing a first phone – simple, safer options for children

Dear families,
As children get older, many parents start to wonder about phones – when to get one, and what kind feels right.

A good option that more and more families are choosing is to start with a simple, child-safe phone, rather than an adult smartphone.

These allow children to:
- make calls
- send texts
- stay in touch for safety and practical reasons

Most importantly, they do not include social media, internet access, or apps.

For many parents, this matters because it makes children safer. Without access to social media and online messaging platforms, children are far less likely to be exposed to online harm such as bullying or unwanted contact.

At the same time, children can still contact friends and family, arrange a lift home, or check in when plans change – without being immersed in the online world.

Parents who choose these simpler phones often notice other benefits too. Children feel less pressure, are more focused at school, and have more time for play, rest, and real-life friendships.

These phones don't need to be expensive. Many are affordable, sturdy models, that can be bought second-hand.

To help families explore their options, Smartphone Free Childhood has created a child-friendly phone guide, based on what many families are already using.

See the child-friendly phones guide: Click here.

We hope this helps you make confident, informed choices that feel right for your children and for our school community.

The Smartphone Free Childhood community.

Message from the JTAs

Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's pedometer challenge as part of Big Walk and Wheel. We were thrilled to see such fantastic participation across the school with children recording an outstanding number of steps to represent their class.
A big well done to all the children who biked and scooted to school as well your effort and enthusiasm have been brilliant!
Prizes were handed out today to everyone who took part in the pedometer challenge, along with our five lucky golden ticket winners. These rewards were truly well deserved.
We would also like to give a special shout-out to Casey Goodjohn and Lana Runham, who together walked an incredible 35,697 steps the highest total in the whole school! They have proudly earned the class trophy. Well done to both of you!
Thank you again for making this week such a success.
Mrs Laskar and the JTAs

Science Week

As part of Science Week, the whole school enjoyed using forensic science skills to investigate the mystery of the missing donut. The 'crime scene' had numerous clues left behind, which meant that each year group had to use science to investigate who could have taken the donut, from a list of 5 suspects. The mystery and investigations gave a brilliant buzz to the school and gave the children a burst of excitement in being curious about STEM.

Science Fair

Even though Science week has happened, we will be holding a science fair in the hall after school, 3:30-4:00pm, on Monday 20th April. The fair is open to every year group. This year, the Science week theme was '**Curiosity**: what's your question?' so if your child would like to link it to this they can, however, we encourage any scientific enquiry. There are many ideas for different projects and experiments available on the internet.
We hope that parents/carers will work with their children to complete the project. If the project is something that can be easily and safely transported into school, then children are invited to bring their projects into school on the morning of Monday 20th April. If this is not the case, then children are invited to create and bring in a large poster containing photos and information about their project.

During the fair, children will need to stand with their entry and then they will be able to take their entry home at 4pm. Parents/carers are responsible for their children during the fair. If children who attend after-school club would like to take part, Mrs Reeves will escort them over to the pre-school at 4pm but parents/carers are responsible for telling after-school club that this will be happening.

There will be certificates for all children who participate and a chance to win a prize for KS1, LKS2 & UPKS2. If your child would like to take part in the Science fair, please email the office with your child/children's name and year group. We look forward to seeing all of your entries!

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Reeves, Science Lead