Fordham CE Primary School

9th March 2026

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

A note from Miss. Rankin

Despite this half term being a short half term, it's busy with lots of exciting curriculum enhancements, with Book Week last week which included 'mystery readers' who came to the classrooms to read a book and next week is Science Week. Thank you for supporting us with these special weeks. We realise they can be quite challenging especially with the change in structure but we have tried to slim down the number we get involved in and consider their relevance to our children but they often fall very close to each other in the term. Science week will mostly focus on special work within the classroom with a science fair being organised for next half term.

Our Guinea pigs: Our 'boys,' 'Shadow' and 'Sonic' are in need of some weekend foster carers during the Summer Term. We know the pleasure that they give to the children when taking them home and for you, knowing you can bring them back. Please let the office know if you would like them for a weekend. Thank you.

Book Week:
It was lovely to see our school full of book characters brought to life by such creative, wonderful costumes; we enjoyed a school parade during our collective worship.
Thank you to those who visited our book fair. Your support is so valuable as we receive commission from the sales which allows us to buy books for the school classrooms and library. We apologise for the card payment issues and thank you for your patience.
Thank you also to everyone who participated in the Toilet Roll Book Character competition. Winners of a £5 book token were: Teddy H, Arabella, Torren C, Alice D, Nancy G and Hazel D.

SEND Review:
We recently had a SEND review by the Local Authority SEND Specialist Teachers. They completed a deep dive focusing on key areas from the school's strategic SEND development including conducting pupil voice, observation of internal alternative provision as well as met with relevant staff including myself, Inclusion Team and some of the staff. They reported that 'There is an inclusive ethos which embeds a solution-focused approach to educating pupils with SEND.' and that 'all staff speak with unconditional positive regard when speaking about pupils and families.' and praised that all staff have a good understanding of pupils' SEN needs. Early identification processes are in place and pupils receive additional support in a timely manner.' They recognised that our SEN offer in school has largely been in response to changes in the demographic of the area and resulting cohorts. However, provision has been set up in response to specific pupil's needs. We acknowledge that we are always trying to improve our provision for the best of all of our children.

Headlice:
We continue to get outbreaks of 'nits' in school. In some classes, we are seeing repeated cases. As a school, we are not allowed to enforce no nits policies but do try to warn year groups when we are made aware of outbreaks. It is very common in primary schools unfortunately. Please check your child's hair frequently. For further advice, the NHS site is really helpful: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/

Smartphone Free Childhood: See page 2 for more information. Your child will be coming home with a Smartphone Free Childhood leaflet. Please have a read.

House Awards: Townsend and Peter jointly reached the top of the House Points tubes and therefore won the award of wearing non-uniform this Friday 13th March.

Bishop's Lent Challenge:
We continue to focus on encouraging one another; and look at Paul's letters to the people of Thessalonica.

This week I am encouraging the children to write 'Encouragement letters' —
Write letters to one another, praising, encouraging, sharing admirations, recognising how we are a blessing and how we can share God's blessing. I look forward to reading them.

Please can we remind parents to monitor your child's screen time on devices, particularly if your child has a mobile phone and uses WhatsApp - an app which should be for children aged 13 and above. We are aware there have been some unpleasant messages as well as challenges being sent by children that need parent awareness.

Have a lovely week. Miss. Rankin

Diary Dates

10th March - Y4 Forest School
16th March - Y2 Parents' Evening
***16th March** - Science Week - more information to follow
17th March - Y6 Forest School
19th March - PTFA Film night for EYFS and Y1
20th March - Red Nose Day - please wear something red alongside school uniform.
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)
20th June - PTFA Summer Fair
16th July - Last Day of Term

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

Big Walk and Wheel Week: 9th–13th March

This week, our Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs) are inviting all classes (except EYFS) to take part in Big Walk and Wheel Week, running from Monday 9th March to Friday 13th March.
Five children from each participating class have been selected to take home a pedometer and record their steps as they walk to and from school throughout the week. Pupils will need to bring their pedometer back to school each day and final step counts will be collected on Friday.
Across the whole school, the JTAs are encouraging everyone to scoot or cycle to school and park their bikes or scooters in the bike sheds. Pupils who do this every day for the full week may receive a Golden Ticket, which can be exchanged for a special prize!
We are also delighted to share that Cambridgeshire County Council has kindly donated a new planter bike rack for visitors to use. This has now been installed at the front of the school do take a moment to have a look when you next visit.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

Click here to find out more about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement.

Join the supportive Fordham Primary School SFC WhatsApp group:
https://chat.whatsapp.com/JmfasSKm4MdGgoXSLOLws6
All opinions are valued and accepted but we ask for respect and kindness.

The government has launched its three-month consultation on raising the age of social media to 16.
This moment didn't happen by accident. It happened because of you.
Six weeks ago, a quarter of a million of you wrote to your MPs in just five days.
The government listened.

Click here for the Raise the Age manifesto:

Now we need to make sure this consultation leads to real change.

Click here for the link to the consultation:

📣 What we're calling for
Over the past two years, we've listened to families across the UK – in school playgrounds, community groups, surveys and late-night WhatsApps.
We've shaped what we've learned into a clear manifesto that sets out:

➤ Why current platforms don't meet basic child safety standards
➤ Why they shouldn't be able to serve children until they do
➤ Why we need a reset for the next generation

Our position is far from radical. It's based on one common-sense principle:
If platforms aren't safe for children, they shouldn't have access to our children.
This is about giving young people more space to grow up before stepping into systems designed to harvest their attention for profit.
A few more years to figure out who they are, not who an algorithm wants them to be.
Thank you for your support.

Next Working Party Meeting: In School. Wednesday 22nd April, 2.30pm.
This is an opportunity for you to meet with a group of like-minded people to discuss how we can support our children in this digital age. There will be a short video shown followed by discussion with light refreshments. Please enter school via the school office. So that we get an idea of numbers, it would be helpful if you could email the school office to inform us if you wish to attend. Thank you.

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

✨Friday just got Singsational!✨

We're delighted to be offering an additional Friday Singsational Kids class. Our new class launches on Friday 13th March with Coach Nanette and runs straight after school.

What is Singsational Kids?
Singsational Kids is often a child's very first club. It is a relaxed, fun and welcoming space for children aged 4 to 10. Each session has a strong wellbeing focus and includes singing, dancing, games and themed activities. Children build confidence, make friends and enjoy being themselves in a calm and supportive environment.

When does the session run?
The Friday session runs straight after school. Children are walked down directly from their classroom where a register is taken, so you do not need to collect them from school. If your child is attending Koala Club or Fun Club after the session, we will be happy to walk them across.

Collection for other children is at 4:30pm from the Small Hall.

What does my child need?
We begin each session with a relaxed snack time at 3:15pm. Please provide a nut free snack in your child's bag. This gives children time to unwind after their school day and ease into the session, feeling ready to enjoy the activities that follow.

Is this club for all children?
Yes! We celebrate children as individuals and inclusivity sits at the heart of everything we do. There is no pressure to perform and no right way to join in. Children are encouraged to take part at their own pace in a space where everyone belongs.

How much does it cost?
Membership is £28 per month, spread across 45 weeks of the year. You only need to book in once and your child's place is secured. If you ever need to cancel, just contact us directly at any time.

How do I book?

Book a Free Trial:
https://bookwhen.com/singsationalkids/e/ev-smruc-20260313151500

Become a Member (secure your place):
https://pbbl.uk/4kUdzPI

More details can be found on our website at www.singsationalkids.com and you can follow us on Instagram @singsational_kids

If you have any questions, please feel free to email singsationalkids@gmail.com and we will be happy to help!

Jaz, Kaz, Sarah & Nanette
Singsational Kids

LAMDA for Life

Confidence in Creation!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to introduce a brand-new after-school opportunity at Fordham C of E Primary School:

THE DRAMA DEN

After-School Drama Club | Ages 4–8
by LAMDA for Life

The Drama Den is a fun, creative after-school club designed to build confidence, teamwork and imagination through drama.

Sessions will take place in the small hall from 3:30pm–4:30pm each week. Children will go straight to the small hall after school, and parents do not need to collect their child until 4:30pm.

Each session will include:
- Drama games
- Improvisation activities
- Storytelling and character creation
- Movement and voice work
- Teamwork and confidence-building exercises

There are no exams – just lots of creativity, energy and fun in a supportive and encouraging environment.

To give children the opportunity to experience the club, I will be running a FREE trial session on 16th April. This is a wonderful chance for your child to come along, join in, and see what The Drama Den is all about.

Places will be limited to ensure each child receives individual attention. If you would like to register your child for the free trial session, please email the school office secure a space.

I look forward to welcoming our young performers to The Drama Den.
Warm wishes,
Hannah
LAMDA for Life