



What a brilliant first month back it has been at Fordbridge!

Our pupils have returned looking smart, ready to learn and demonstrating our Golden Values every day. It has been wonderful to see such a positive start to the academic year, with children showing enthusiasm, kindness, respect and a real commitment to their learning.

Over the summer holiday, one of our most exciting projects was completed: our **brand-new library**. The transformation is fantastic, and we are incredibly proud of the space we have created for our children. The next step is to stock it with high-quality books that will inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Our Phase Leaders and staff have been busy gathering pupil voice, reviewing the curriculum and carefully selecting and ordering new books. Once these arrive, we will share a timeline for when children will be able to begin using the library and enjoying this wonderful new resource.

I would also like to extend a huge welcome to our new **Nursery and Reception children**. You have all settled into school life brilliantly, and we are delighted to have you as part of the Fordbridge Family. It has been lovely to see new friendships forming, confidence growing and smiling faces each day.

At the end of the last academic year, we celebrated another set of fantastic results. Across all key measures, including **Early Years Foundation Stage, Phonics, the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check and Year 6 SATs**, our pupils met national expected standards and, in many cases, exceeded them. These achievements are a testament to the hard work of our pupils, staff and families and truly reflect our school motto: **"Achieving Excellence Together."**

Every Day Counts

Finally, a reminder about the importance of attendance. **Every day counts**. When children miss school, they miss valuable learning opportunities that can never fully be replaced. Every lesson matters, every day contributes to progress, and we don't want any child to miss out on the experiences and learning that help them succeed.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another successful and exciting year at Fordbridge.

Mrs Harriett Simcox
Headteacher

Welcome to Our New Parent Governor

We are delighted to announce that **Mrs Lisa Edwards** has been appointed as our new Parent Governor. As the nomination period has now closed and Lisa was the only candidate, she has been elected **unopposed** and will join our Governing Body with immediate effect.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Lisa and thank her for volunteering to support the school in this important role.

Parent Governors play a valuable part in helping to shape the strategic direction of the school, providing support and challenge, and ensuring that the views of parents are represented.

We look forward to working with Lisa and are grateful for her commitment to supporting our school community.





IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH AT FORDBRIDGE...

Exciting News: Our OPAL Journey Begins!

We are delighted to share that our school is investing in the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Programme, an exciting initiative that will transform playtimes and create even more opportunities for children to explore, create, imagine and thrive.

OPAL is based on the belief that play is a vital part of childhood. Through carefully planned improvements to our outdoor environment, children will have access to a wider range of play experiences, including opportunities for creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, physical activity and imaginative adventures. OPAL schools report improvements in children's happiness, wellbeing and behaviour, with fewer playtime disputes and children returning to lessons feeling calmer, more engaged and ready to learn.

Over the coming months, you may begin to notice changes to our playgrounds, new resources appearing and exciting opportunities for children to enjoy richer, more meaningful play experiences. This is a journey that develops over time, and we look forward to sharing regular updates, photographs and success stories along the way.

We are particularly excited about working closely with our wonderful families as part of this project. Your support, ideas and involvement will play a huge part in making OPAL a success, and we cannot wait to bring you along on the journey.

To see what OPAL looks like in action, we recommend these excellent examples from other schools:

- [OPAL in Action at Gifford Primary School](#) [youtube.com]
- [Amazing Primary Playtime at St Michael's OPAL Platinum School](#) [youtube.com]
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Watch this space for more exciting updates!

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH AT FORDBRIDGE...

Phase 1

Welcome back to Phase One!

We hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer break. It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school, and we are delighted with how brilliantly the children have settled into their new routines.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Reception, FCP and Nursery children. We are incredibly proud of how well they have settled into school life. It has been wonderful to see their confidence growing each day as they become familiar with their classrooms, adults and new friends. We are also so pleased to see our returning children welcoming and supporting them so warmly.

Our Year One and Launchpad children have been enjoying their weekly PE, Forest School and ICT lessons. These sessions provide fantastic opportunities for children to develop new skills, build confidence and learn in different environments.

The children have been enthusiastic participants, and it has been fantastic to see them working together, exploring new ideas and challenging themselves.

Forest School continues to be a favourite part of the week for many of our Phase One children. Everyone has been enjoying making the most of our new mud kitchen, with lots of imaginative play, exploring and creating taking place.

We love seeing the children getting stuck in, using their creativity and developing their communication and teamwork skills while enjoying the great outdoors.

Our Nursery children have been particularly excited about their new climbing frame! It has already proved very popular, providing lots of opportunities for the children to develop their physical skills, balance, coordination and confidence.

It has been wonderful to watch them encourage one another and enjoy exploring their new equipment.

We are incredibly proud of all our Phase One children and the positive start they have made to the new school year. There is already such a lovely atmosphere across Phase One, and we look forward to seeing the children continue to grow, learn and flourish over the coming weeks.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to a fantastic year together!

The Phase One Team

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH AT FORDBRIDGE...

Phase 2

We are very proud of the children in Phase 2 for their fantastic start to the Autumn Term. They have shown great behaviour, positive attitudes and a real enthusiasm for learning. We are also working hard to keep our attendance high. Thank you to all families for your continued support.

Year 2

Year 2 have been thoroughly enjoying their learning based on the book *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt. The children have been using the book to develop their prediction skills, carefully looking at clues in the illustrations and the text to make thoughtful guesses about what might happen next. They have enjoyed discussing the different crayons' feelings and opinions, thinking about why each character may have decided to write a letter. Through class discussions, drama activities and writing tasks, the children have explored the personalities of the crayons and considered how the story might unfold.

Year 3

Year 3 have had an exciting start to their Science topic on animal and human skeletons. The children have been learning about the important functions of a skeleton, including support, protection and movement. They have explored the different bones within the human body and have begun learning how our joints work together to help us move. The children have also investigated a variety of animal skeletons, comparing them with human skeletons and identifying similarities and differences between different species. Through discussion and enquiry-based activities, they have developed their scientific vocabulary and understanding of how skeletons help animals survive in their environments. Their curiosity and engagement have been fantastic to see.

Year 4

Year 4 have been developing their artistic skills through a study of the famous artist Paul Cézanne and his still-life paintings. The children have explored how Cézanne carefully arranged fruit and everyday objects to create balanced and interesting compositions. They have practised their observational drawing skills by closely examining the shapes, textures and details of fruit before creating their own still-life artwork. A particular focus has been on understanding how light creates shadows and how artists use shading techniques to make drawings appear realistic and three-dimensional. The children have experimented with different grades of pencil and various shading methods to add depth and detail to their work. We have been extremely impressed with the concentration, perseverance and creativity they have demonstrated throughout this topic.

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Phase 3

Year 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the new school year and have settled into their routines brilliantly. It has been wonderful to see them embracing the increased independence and responsibility that comes with being in Year 5, while approaching each day with enthusiasm and a positive attitude to their learning.

In History, the children have launched into their new topic on the Industrial Revolution, exploring how Britain changed dramatically during this important period in history. They have already begun developing their understanding of what life was like during the Industrial Revolution and are enjoying investigating the impact these changes had on people and communities.

Our Science learning has also got off to an exciting start as we begin our work on Forces. The children are developing their understanding of how forces affect the world around us and are enjoying opportunities to investigate and explore scientific ideas through practical activities.

Year 5 have also thrown themselves into their P.E. lessons, beginning units on Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA) and multi-sports. They are developing their teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills in OAA, while building confidence and a range of sporting skills through our multi-sports activities.

It has been a pleasure to see Year 5 settling in so well and showing such enthusiasm for their learning. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Year 6

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to their final year at primary school and have already been busy taking on new responsibilities and embracing the opportunities that come with being our oldest pupils. It has been wonderful to see their confidence, enthusiasm and leadership skills shining through as they have prepared and delivered speeches for a range of important roles within school, including School Council, Head Boy and Head Girl, Sports Leaders and many more. We have been incredibly impressed by the maturity and thought they have shown when sharing their ideas and aspirations.

In Science, Year 6 have begun exploring the fascinating topic of Evolution, developing their understanding of how living things have changed over time and the role that adaptation plays in survival. They have been enjoying discussing scientific ideas and considering the evidence that helps us understand how life on Earth has evolved. They have started an art project linked to this topic - drawing inspiration from Charles Darwin and developing their sketching for realism.

Our History learning has taken us on a journey through Crime and Punishment, where the children are exploring how attitudes, laws and punishments have changed across different historical eras. They are beginning to consider how and why these changes occurred and are developing their skills in comparing life in the past with the present day.

In P.E., Year 6 have enthusiastically thrown themselves into Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA) and multi-sports, developing their teamwork, communication, problem-solving and sporting skills. They have also been busy preparing for our rowing teams, demonstrating excellent determination and a willingness to challenge themselves.

It has been a pleasure to see Year 6 rise to the challenges of their final year and embrace the many opportunities already coming their way. We are looking forward to seeing them continue to grow as confident, responsible and inspirational members of our school community.





TEAM FORDBRIDGE

Autumn 1 sees the start of our Year 5/6 Boys' Football League, with our first games coming up against Coleshill Heath and Bishop Wilson.

This term, we will also be taking part in the Cross-Country competition, with four children from each of Years 4, 5 and 6 representing Fordbridge and competing against other schools from around the area.

The 4-a-side Girls' and Boys' Football League also begins this term, and we are very excited to provide new opportunities for children to get involved, represent our school and experience competitive sport.

Our final competition of the term will be the Year 5 Dodgeball Values Competition, which promises to be a fantastic opportunity for our children to demonstrate their teamwork, sportsmanship and determination.

We have also been busy interviewing our Year 6 children for the important roles of Sports Leaders and House Captains. We have been incredibly impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all of our applicants, and we are excited to announce our new leaders very shortly!

We are excited for a fantastic term of competition and wish all of our children the very best of luck!



UPDATES FOR PARENTS



REMINDERS - SEPTEMBER

- 29th Sept - Year 1 Trip
- 1st October - Year 1 Workshop
- 9th October - World Mental Health Day
- 15th October - Reception National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)
- 15th Oct - EAL Workshop (Invite Only)
- 18th Oct - Cheerleading Wembley
- 19th - 22nd Oct - Bikeability
- 21st & 22nd Oct - Parents Evening
- 23rd Oct - Inset Day
- 26th - 30th - Half Term
- 2nd Nov - Back to School

ONLINE GAMES - FORTNITE & ROBLOX

These games are popular and social, but children can spend excessive time on them and may encounter strangers or cyberbullying. They are rated PEGI 12+, and parental guidance is essential.

There are junior versions of Fortnite available for younger children such as Lego Fortnite (PEGI 7) and Rocket Racing (PEGI 3).

Roblox - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safetyBlog/roblox/>

Fortnite - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zcjdvj6>



Stay connected and discover all the amazing things happening in your child's class by following their Class Story via Class Dojo!



Respect



Resilience



Reliability



Responsibility

