



Dear Parents and Carers,

On 7th October, we were delighted to welcome members of our Trust Board to Fordbridge, including Mr Fletcher, our previous CEO and former Headteacher. During their visit, trustees spent time around the school, visited classrooms and spoke to pupils and staff. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and visitors were incredibly impressed by what they saw across the school. The quality of teaching and learning, pupils' engagement, confidence and enthusiasm for their learning were all recognised and praised. The visit was a wonderful opportunity to showcase everything that makes Fordbridge such a special place to learn and work. A particular mention must go to our Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputy Head pupils, who represented the school brilliantly. They welcomed our visitors, answered questions with confidence and maturity, and provided an excellent tour of the school. We are extremely proud of how professionally they represented Fordbridge.



I would also like to make parents aware of a temporary decision regarding football during breaktimes and lunchtimes. Due to the significant number of accidents, injuries and disagreements occurring during football games, I have made the decision to pause football during social times for the time being. This decision has not been taken lightly, as we recognise how much many children enjoy football and the positive role it can play in promoting physical activity, teamwork and enjoyment. As part of this work, we are exploring becoming an OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) school. OPAL aims to transform playtimes through the introduction of a wider range of purposeful activities and play opportunities, helping children to develop creativity, cooperation, resilience and problem-solving skills. We believe this approach could further enhance our playtimes and ensure there are engaging opportunities available for all children.



Attendance makes one of the biggest differences to pupil progress and achievement. Quite simply, if children are not in school, they miss important learning that cannot always be fully replicated later. Every lesson builds on previous learning, and regular attendance helps children develop confidence, knowledge and strong learning habits. We are currently reviewing and refreshing our attendance rewards to ensure good attendance is recognised and celebrated. As part of this work, we will be introducing a new attendance reward area within school and sharing more information with families in the coming weeks. We look forward to working with parents and carers to continue improving attendance and ensuring every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.



I am delighted to share that Miss Lake recently applied for the Green Schools Award on behalf of Fordbridge and I am incredibly proud to announce that we have achieved the highest level of accreditation. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the commitment of our pupils and staff to caring for the environment and promoting sustainability across our school community. As a result of this success, Miss Lake has been invited to take a group of children to meet the Mayor and formally collect the award after half term. We are extremely proud of everyone involved and look forward to sharing photographs and updates from the event with you.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Fordbridge Community Primary School. Together, we continue to provide our children with the very best opportunities to learn, grow and succeed.

Kind regards,
Mrs. Simcox





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](#)]

Watch this space for more exciting updates!

Please ensure that you complete the questionnaire regarding play to help us on our journey!

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH AT FORDBRIDGE...

Phase 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic first half-term we have had! It has been wonderful to see the children settling into their new classes, making friends, growing in confidence and embracing so many exciting learning opportunities. From colourful creations and autumn adventures to animal encounters and imaginative play, there has certainly been plenty of learning, laughter and fun across our school.

Our FCP children have had a wonderful start to the year! They have been busy settling into their new routines, exploring their surroundings and, most importantly, making lots of lovely new friends.

We have also been learning all about autumn, discovering the changing colours of the leaves, exploring seasonal treasures and noticing the changes happening in the world around us.

It has been lovely to see the children becoming more confident, curious and independent as they begin their learning journey.

Nursery have been busy developing their confidence and independence through lots of exciting play and learning experiences.

This half-term, the children have begun taking part in small-group learning activities, helping them to develop their listening, communication and turn-taking skills while enjoying learning alongside their friends.

Our fantastic new climbing frame continues to be a huge hit! The children have loved climbing, balancing and exploring, helping them to develop their coordination, strength and confidence.

Reception have had a wonderfully colourful half-term! We have been exploring the exciting world of colour, enjoying the much-loved story Elmer and discovering what happens when we mix different colours together.

The children have also been learning about the famous artist Henri Matisse. Inspired by his colourful artwork, they have been developing their creativity and scissor skills to produce their very own beautiful masterpieces.

One of our highlights was celebrating Elmer Day, when the children had lots of fun making and decorating their own delicious biscuits!

We have also begun our PE sessions, practising our listening and attention skills through fun stop-and-start games.

At Forest School, we have been enjoying the great outdoors, exploring nature and looking for signs of autumn.

In phonics, the children have made a fantastic start to learning their single-letter sounds and have begun using Fred Talk to help them blend sounds together and read words.

What a busy and exciting start to Reception!

Year One have enjoyed a fantastic half-term filled with creativity, discovery and exciting experiences.

During our Art Day, the children developed their artistic skills by learning how to shade and refine their line drawings of animals. They showed wonderful concentration, attention to detail and perseverance as they worked on their creations.

Another exciting highlight was our trip to the zoo! This wonderful experience supported our science learning about the animal kingdom, giving the children the opportunity to observe different animals and deepen their understanding of the amazing variety of creatures in our world.

It was a fantastic opportunity to bring classroom learning to life, and the children thoroughly enjoyed their animal adventures!

Launchpad

Our Launchpad children have been having lots of fun learning all about a red bus!

This exciting theme has encouraged curiosity, communication and imaginative play as the children explore the world of transport.

We have also been introducing new toys and resources, providing fresh opportunities for the children to explore, discover and develop their play skills.

It has been lovely to watch their excitement as they investigate new activities and enjoy learning through play.

A Big Thank You!

As we reach the end of our first half-term, we are incredibly proud of all the children and everything they have achieved. It has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence, develop new skills and enjoy so many memorable experiences.

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support and encouragement. Working together makes such a difference to the children's learning, development and happiness.

We hope you all enjoy a restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term of learning and fun!

Warm wishes,

The Phase One Team

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Respect



Resilience



Reliability



Responsibility



IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH AT FORDBRIDGE...

Phase 2

As we move further into the Autumn Term, we would like to take a moment to celebrate what a fantastic start the children have made. Across all year groups, pupils have shown enthusiasm, resilience and a positive attitude towards their learning. It has been wonderful to see the children settling into their new routines, building confidence and taking pride in their achievements. We are incredibly proud of all their hard work so far and look forward to seeing their continued progress throughout the term.

Year 2 have been focusing on developing their writing skills, with a particular emphasis on presentation. The children have been practising how to correctly form letters using ascenders and descenders to make their handwriting neat and clear. They have applied these skills beautifully in their Science learning, where they have been writing about living things and their habitats. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they produce well-presented and informative pieces of writing.

Year 3 have been learning lots of fascinating facts about the human body and animals in Science. They have discovered that protein helps to build and repair our bodies and that our skeleton supports us, helps us to move and protects our organs. The children have also learned that animals without backbones are called invertebrates and that humans are omnivores. They have enjoyed exploring these concepts through practical investigations and class discussions, demonstrating a keen interest in the world around them.

Year 4 have been on an exciting writing journey based on The Iron Man. Throughout this unit, the children have developed their skills by planning, innovating, editing and improving their writing. They have worked hard to make their writing engaging and effective, carefully considering vocabulary, sentence structure and presentation. We have been extremely impressed with their creativity and determination to continually improve their work.

Reminder

As the weather becomes colder and wetter, please ensure that children come to school wearing appropriate clothing, including a warm coat and suitable footwear. We also recommend that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name to help us return any misplaced belongings.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another successful half term filled with exciting learning opportunities.

Well done to all of our children for their hard work and enthusiasm for learning!

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Respect



Resilience



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Responsibility

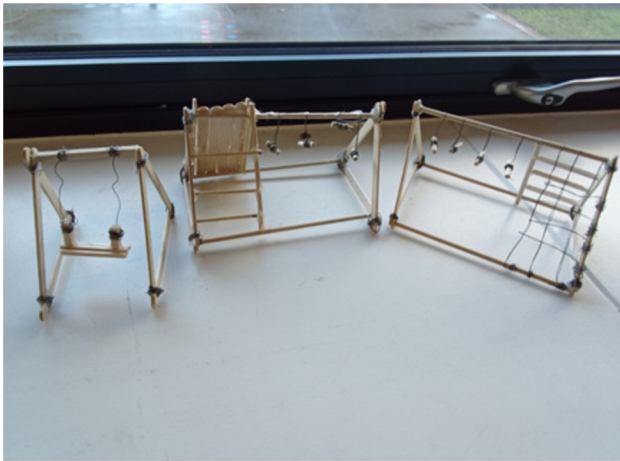


Phase 3

Year 6 - Design and Technology

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard on their latest Design and Technology project, designing and creating playground equipment that is safe, sustainable and inclusive. The children have explored how playgrounds can be designed to meet the needs of all children, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to play, have fun and feel included.

Throughout the project, pupils have developed their creativity, problem-solving and design skills. They have carefully considered the materials they use, the safety of their equipment and how their designs can be made accessible to everyone. The children have also been putting their ideas into practice, evaluating their designs and making improvements along the way. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, thoughtful ideas and enthusiasm!



Year 5 - Bikeability

Year 5 have been developing their cycling skills through Bikeability, learning how to ride safely and confidently in preparation for cycling on the road. The children have been practising essential skills, including controlling their bikes, signalling clearly, checking for traffic and staying aware of their surroundings.

Throughout the sessions, pupils have shown great determination and enthusiasm as they challenged themselves to improve their cycling abilities and develop a stronger understanding of road safety. They have been learning to make safe decisions, follow road rules and become more responsible cyclists. Well done, Year 5, for your fantastic effort and positive attitude!





TEAM FORDBRIDGE

PE Sporting Competitions

Our 4-a-side boys' and girls' football teams kicked off their league campaign by competing against three other schools. It was wonderful to see such fantastic performances on the pitch, alongside excellent teamwork, encouragement and support from both teams. We're sure that, with this positive attitude and continued effort, the results will follow as the league games progress.

Our Year 5 Dodgeball team also took part in the Dodgeball Values Competition, competing against pupils from other schools. Throughout the event, our team demonstrated honesty, teamwork and respect, embodying the values of the competition. We are incredibly proud of how they represented our school!

There are plenty more competitions to look forward to next term, and we're excited to give even more children the opportunity to represent our school, develop their skills and enjoy being part of a team.

Upcoming competitions

12th November - Rowing Heat 1

17th November - 4 a-side Boys and Girls Football

19th November - SEND Rowing

1st December - 4 a-side Boys and Girls Football

7th December - Infant Agility

Well done to everyone involved — we can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!





IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH AT FORDBRIDGE...

An Amazing Junior Roar Experience!

What an incredible week it has been for our children!

On Monday 12th October, our Junior Roar children had the fantastic opportunity to welcome some cheerleaders into school. The children were treated to a brilliant mini performance before having the chance to show the cheerleaders some of the skills and routines they have been learning themselves. It was a wonderful experience and a real highlight for everyone involved!

The excitement continued on Sunday 18th October when our Junior Roar children travelled to Wembley Stadium for an unforgettable day watching the Jacksonville Jaguars take on the Houston Texans.

For many of our children, simply visiting Wembley and experiencing the atmosphere of such a huge sporting occasion was incredibly special. From travelling together on the coach to watching the pre-game entertainment and the match itself, it was a day filled with excitement, smiles and memories.

We are incredibly grateful for these fantastic opportunities and so proud of the way our children represented Fordbridge School. Experiences like these are something our children will remember for a very long time!



Upcoming Choir Events

Our school choir continues to grow from strength to strength, and it is wonderful to see so many children enjoying singing together! The choir are currently busy rehearsing a fantastic selection of songs in preparation for our biggest choir event of the year, Young Voices 2027.

We also have some very exciting festive performances coming up:

Thursday 3rd December - Heartlands Hospital

Our choir will be visiting Heartlands Hospital to spread some Christmas cheer by singing festive songs and supporting charity.

Friday 4th December - One Day at Christmas, NEC

We are delighted to be attending the One Day at Christmas event at the NEC, where our choir will perform Christmas songs for elderly guests and help make the occasion extra special.

Tuesday 12th January - Young Voices 2027

Then comes the big one! Our choir will take part in Young Voices 2027, an amazing opportunity for the children to perform as part of a huge choir and showcase all their hard work and enthusiasm.

We are incredibly excited about the months ahead and can't wait to see our choir continue to grow, develop their confidence and share their love of music with the wider community.

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UPDATES FOR PARENTS



REMINDERS - OCTOBER

- Monday 2 November - Children return to school
- Wednesday 11 November - Remembrance Day (school uniform)
- Friday 13 November - Children in Need: Non-uniform day (PJs and spots welcome!)
- Thursday 19 November - Phase 1 and Year 2 Flourishing Futures
- Friday 20 November - Years 3-6 Flourishing Futures Extravaganza (9:15am-10:00am) Parents' invited
- St Joseph's Care Home Visit - Date to be confirmed
- From Tuesday 1 December - Christmas jumpers may be worn throughout December
- 7-11 December - SEND Reviews (Years 1-6)
- Tuesday 8 December - Year 1 Christmas Concert - Parents' invited
- Thursday 10 December - Reception Nativity (9:15am-10:30am) Parents' invited
- Friday 11 December
- Whole-school pantomime for Reception to Year 6 - £1 donation
- Nursery Nativity performances (10:00am and 2:00pm) Parents' invited to am or pm session
- Monday 14 December
- Reception Nativity to the whole school (9:15am)
- Launch Pad Nativity (2:00pm) Parents' invited
- Tuesday 15 December
- Father Christmas visit
- Christmas Dinner Day
- Wednesday 16 December - End of Term Discos
- Reception: 2:30pm-3:00pm
- Years 1 & 2: 3:00pm-3:30pm
- Years 3 & 4: 3:30pm-4:15pm
- Years 5 & 6: 4:15pm-5:00pm
- Thursday 17 December - Awards Assemblies (invitation only)
- Nursery-Year 2: 9:00am-10:15am
- Years 3-6: 10:30am-11:30am
- Friday 18 December - End of Term

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!



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