



End of Term Reflections and Christmas Wishes

As we come to the end of a fantastic term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all the wonderful things that have happened at Fordbridge.

Our Christmas Fayre was a huge success, and it was lovely to see so many families joining us. Parent meetings were extremely positive and we truly value the partnership we have with you in supporting your children. The children have been incredible this half-term—working hard, showing resilience and finishing the year by delivering and watching amazing performances. From nativities to singing concerts, they have brought so much joy to parents, carers and the whole school community. I was lucky enough to watch the nativity and singing performed for the school, as I sadly missed the parent performance. A big thank you to everyone who supported these events!

Our school councils have been busy too. The Eco Council has been making a real difference! They attended an exciting eco event and enjoyed a theatre production all about caring for Mother Earth. The team also created beautiful eco poems to share our message. We took part in the national “Switch Off Fortnight” to save energy and reduce waste. Next term, we’re looking forward to introducing our new mascot, Dependable Dexter and getting involved in community litter picks to keep our local area clean and green. Meanwhile, the School Council has revisited British Values, updated our website, recorded our answerphone messages and met with important visitors. We’ve had lots of visitors this term, including the Mayor, MAT CEO, Blackwood Primary School and Trustees—it was a pleasure showcasing our wonderful school.

Our choir has been simply brilliant, performing at local care homes, Heartlands hospital, the NEC and the Fordbridge Community Centre—special thanks to Mrs. Dipple for her fantastic work with them! We are pleased to share that at the end of January we will be opening up our choir to accommodate more children, as we currently have a waiting list!

On behalf of everyone at Fordbridge, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our families and community! Stay safe over the holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all on **Monday, 5th January 2026**.

Mrs. Simcox





IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH AT FORDBRIDGE...

SENDIA AWARD - INCLUSION

We're excited to share some fantastic news! Fordbridge has recently been awarded the SENDIA SEND and Inclusion Award, which celebrates our commitment to supporting every child. This achievement has also given us the chance to share our ideas and good practice with other schools in the area.

We're especially proud that over 80% of our children with SEND joined a club last year, enjoying new experiences and friendships.

Want to know what's coming next? Take a look at the Personal Development section below to see the exciting new clubs starting this Spring Term!



Personal Development

This term has been packed with amazing experiences for our children! From wonderful choir performances, outstanding sporting achievements to pantomimes, visits to the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham and even a visit from real donkeys—it's been a term to remember!

Looking ahead to the Spring Term, we're thrilled to announce **THREE brand-new clubs**;

- **Mini Explorers Club** – children will use our fantastic VR headsets to “travel” to incredible places around the world.
- **Book and Biscuit Club** – a cosy space to enjoy stories and chat about themes with Miss Hanson (plus a tasty treat!)
- **Sports From Around the World Club** – a chance to try exciting sports from different countries. Parents/Carers, if you have a sport you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you!

Keep an eye out for club invitations and keep collecting those points for our Summer Graduation celebration!



Achieving

excellence

together



TEAM FORDBRIDGE

This term has seen strong performances across a range of competitions, with pupils showing commitment, teamwork and resilience throughout.

Cross Country

The season began brilliantly with a gold medal in the Year 5 girls' race and a silver medal in the Year 5 boys' race. All runners showed remarkable resilience and determination on a challenging course.



Football

Our boys' 7-a-side team progressed to the next round of the cup competition, alongside only losing only one league match. We await final league standings with excitement. Both the boys' and girls' 4-a-side teams delivered strong performances, scoring plenty of goals and showing great teamwork.

Infant Agility (Year 2)

Competing against other schools, our team narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing 4th, but represented the school with pride.

Dodgeball Values (Year 5)

We took two teams across to the Dodgeball event where pupils accumulated points for displaying the School Games Values. One team achieved 3rd place, earning a bronze medal.

Rowing

A special mention goes to our rowing squads, who trained tirelessly after school.

Results:

- Mixed team: 2nd place
- Girls A team: 1st place
- Boys A team: 2nd place

Both A teams have qualified for the County Finals, representing North Solihull on **Wednesday 4 March**.

Leadership and Participation

- Active Play Heroes have completed training and now run active lunchtime sessions.
- Sports and House Captains have supported House Games and Infant Agility practice, showing strong leadership and commitment.

Well done to all pupils involved.

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Respect



Resilience



Reliability



Responsibility



IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH AT FORDBRIDGE...

Phase 1

A Month of Joy and Learning in Phase 1

What a wonderfully festive and exciting month it has been for Phase 1!

Our Launchpad children have loved exploring their beautiful new garden, developed over the summer holidays and performing their sensory nativity to all their parents.

FCP had a truly magical experience meeting the visiting donkeys and some even enjoyed special donkey rides! Families joined in the celebrations during our Christmas craft workshop, creating festive treasures together.

Reception and Nursery brought the Christmas spirit to life with their delightful nativity performance, filling the school hall and Nursery with joy. We were honoured to welcome the Mayor, who enjoyed watching the Reception nativity and visiting FCP to meet the donkeys.

Both Nursery and Reception have achieved fantastic success with their daily tooth brushing routine. When the Solihull dental team visited, they were amazed by the children's enthusiasm and the commitment of our staff to "Brilliant Brushing". This initiative is helping us build healthy habits and happy smiles across Phase 1!

Year 1 ended the term on a high note with their sparkling Christmas concert, featuring one of Mrs. Barlow's favourite songs, Feliz Navidad. Their enthusiasm and talent shone brightly for all to see! Year 1 have also enjoyed learning about Augusta Savage in their Art Day and made wonderful clay sculptures of birds.

A highlight for both Reception and Year 1 was our Flourishing Futures Chocolatiers Day, made even more exciting by a visit from Oakley, the MAT mascot! The children had an incredible time learning about design, packaging, production and sales as they created their very own chocolate treats.

Thank you to all our families for your support this term. We wish you a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Phase 2

Phase 2 have had a busy month with lots of inspiring opportunities.

Year 2 had an exciting day with the launch of Flourishing Futures! The children learned all about John Cadbury and his incredible story before stepping into the role of chocolatiers themselves. It was a day full of creativity, learning and sweet treats! In the Spring term, Year 2 will be learning about China and comparing it to our local area.

Year 3 had an amazing time at the Snowdome. The children were full of excitement as they played in the snow, laughing and cheering while racing down the slopes on their toboggans. Our Year 3 children have been getting into the festive spirit by designing and making their very own Christmas wreaths. After the Christmas holidays, Year 3 will be learning about Spain and its culture.

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to Cadbury World, where they explored the fascinating history of chocolate and its origins with the ancient Maya civilization. The children discovered how the Maya were among the first to cultivate cacao beans and create a bitter chocolate drink, which played an important role in their culture and rituals. Next half term, Year 4 will be learning about the Romans in Britain.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH AT FORDBRIDGE...

Phase 3

Phase 3 have had a busy month full of incredible opportunities to learn and engage in the world around them.

Year 5's Industrial Revolution Adventure

Our Year 5 children rounded off their learning about the Industrial Revolution with an exciting trip to the Black Country Living Museum. They stepped back in time to experience what life was like for a child working down in the mines, explored the fascinating historic houses, and, of course, enjoyed a delicious lunch of traditional chips! It was a memorable day that brought history to life in the most engaging way.

Year 6's festive trip to the Crescent Theatre

Year 6 engaged in a lovely festive trip to watch Tom's Midnight Garden show at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham. They hopped on the train from Marston Green to New Street station, walked through the lovely Christmas Markets, observed the Black Sabbath bridge and other famous city centre landmarks. The wonderful show inspired some fantastic writing as we looked in to the deeper messages behind the story and our impressions of the characters.



Be smart
the
internet



As Christmas approaches, many children may receive new devices such as tablets, smartphones, or gaming consoles. While these can provide great opportunities for learning and fun, they also come with potential risks. All of the children from Reception to Year 6 had an assembly on staying safe online. Please talk to your child/ children about the information they have found out about staying safe online.

Please take a few moments to ensure your child stays safe online:

- ✓ Set up parental controls on all new devices and apps.
- ✓ Check privacy settings to make sure personal information is protected.
- ✓ Talk to your child about safe online behaviour, including not sharing personal details or speaking to strangers.
- ✓ Monitor screen time and agree on clear rules for device use.
- ✓ Be aware of age-appropriate apps and games—many platforms have minimum age requirements.

For more guidance, visit:

- NSPCC Online Safety
- UK Safer Internet Centre

If you have any concerns or need support, please contact the school's safeguarding team.

Thank you for helping us keep every child safe.

[Click for more information on internet safety.](#)



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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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