



# School Newsletter

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## Welcome back

I sincerely hope that you've all had a wonderful summer, I must say that the children have come back in a superb manner. We are having a drive for improved manners and curtesy across the school and they have responded really well, meaning that the school is calm, polite and a great place for learning. Please assist us in this my reminding the children (if you need to) about pleases and thankyou's etc.

You should have by now received a welcome newsletter from your teacher explaining the important details for your class. Alongside this you will have received a Curriculum Overview document for the first topic of the year. We have created a new curriculum map for the school and this is the first part of it to be shared. As the year goes on we will share the next block of work every half term. Hopefully this document will concisely explain what your children will be learning about in the next 6 weeks. We will be sharing some additional documents during the year which will explain how both the History and the Geography blocks of work build on one another, allowing for prior learning to be built upon in a structured way. We will also share other documents which will explain other aspects of the curriculum.

Where possible we are hoping that we can utilise as many real experiences as possible to make the learning exciting for the children within each topic. This will involve a combination of trips (local and further afield), visiting speakers and bought-in experiences delivered in school. Some of these trips and experiences will involve a parental contribution for us to afford them, but this year the Friends of Feoffment will also be subsidising trips across the school to help make it affordable for parents. Hopefully, you will be able to support these and help us provide as exciting an education for your children as possible. The overview of all of the topics across the year is available on our new website, which should go live today (more on this shortly).

## Office requests

If you have changed your personal details, address or contact details over the summer break can you please ensure that the office have been informed. It is essential that we are able to contact you easily should there be a need to. Please request the appropriate form for the school office if you need to.

## Start of the Day

For those of you with children knew to Year 1, you will have hopefully got to grips with the bell system in the mornings. The first bell is to line up and the second bell is for the children to stand quietly ready to go in.

If you are dropping children on the KS1 playground for other year groups there are Year 6 children wearing red caps that will assist your other children to go wherever they need to go.

## Welcome to new staff

I'd like to welcome our new teachers and support staff to the team. Mr Yaxley-Griffiths has joined us in Reception, alongside Mrs Gutierrez, who is the teaching assistant there. Mrs Simon has started working with Year 4s, whilst Mrs Arrow and Mrs Reynolds have started working with Years 5 and 6 respectively. Mrs Arrow is now leading Maths across the school and Mrs Reynolds is now leading English across the school. We also welcome Miss Covill who is working as a TA in Year 6. We have a brilliant staff team this year and I truly believe that they will deliver a fabulous year for your children.

## New Website

Our new school website will be going live from today. It's been restructured so that parents and visitors should be able to find the information they require quickly and easily. There is a parents section, which contains materials that you might find helpful. The Curriculum section is where we will share all the details of the new curriculum in the school and how we approach some subjects where we use purchased schemes. There is also materials and reading in here which parents should find helpful.

Alongside these areas, you should find up-to-date details of school systems and processes, policies and key information. The website's calendar section is now fully integrated with the school's Google calendar, so details of school events, trips, parent evening dates etc will be on the website as soon as decisions are made. Hopefully, this will be helpful for families keeping abreast of what is coming up.

As with any new format, we will be tweaking it, adding content and detail over the next few weeks. We would welcome any feedback from parents about additional information that is not currently shared, so that we can improve the resource. Please email me to provide your feedback.

## Friends of Feoffment

We had a very successful AGM for the Friends of Feoffment and as a result have a new leadership team for the group and have set out a few events for this term. The first one that I'd like to flag up is the school's Halloween event on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. This will be after school on that day until 4pm. The Friends will share more details about this event soon. The other event to get into your diary now is a parents' quiz night. This will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, and will be for teams of between 4 and 6 people. To book your team for this event you will need to email the school office with details of your team numbers. We will take £2 per person entry fee on the door on the night. Please book early as the hall is limited to certain numbers for such events. Details of refreshment available on the night will be released soon.

Details of more events will also be shared soon.

## House Points Trophy

Congratulations the Emeralds house for not only winning the first week's House point trophy of the year.



## Developing Reading

Those of you who have been supporting your children with their reading in KS1 last year will have become very familiar with the importance of your child practising both their fluency, using an easily decodable text, and extending their vocabulary and comprehension by sharing a more challenging book too.

This year we are starting to roll this strategy out across KS2. It is very clearly expressed in the DfE's recent publication 'The Reading Framework – July 2023', that developing fluency and prosody are vital to reading success. To this end, we have screened all the KS2 children for their reading fluency, and where their fluency is below the expectation for their year group we have encouraged them to choose one of their reading books to be a text that they can easily read. This book could be read once, but we highly recommend that it is read two or three times, as with each reread the children will be able to practise reading in a fluent manner and work on the expression and intonation of their reading. This is very much in line with the Little Wandle books which are read several times by our KS1 children. This book should not be the only reading material that your children are reading at home, and they should also be selecting books which spark their interest, extend their vocabulary and expose them to different genres. They should also be reading both fiction and non-fiction texts. The latter could be a magazine, newspaper, encyclopaedia, website etc.

On the school's website (in the parents section on English) there is a document which shares the range of questions you can be asking your children about the books that they are reading. We hope that you find these questions a helpful reference.

You will also have seen that the children have brought home new reading diaries. You will find that at the centre of these are a set of pages that you will find helpful for phonics and key vocabulary.

## Uniform on PE days

If your child is in KS1, we'd like you to please consider the clothing and shoe choices you use on PE days. When the children change for PE it is very helpful if shoes are either slip-on plimsolls or shoes with Velcro fasteners. We've seen lots of children wearing lace-up shoes, where they cannot do the laces up themselves. This results in staff needing to be regularly and repeatedly doing up laces. This obviously slows down changing times and therefore limits to time available for the children to be physically active, it also prevents staff from teaching in the session when they become untied. The same is also true of buttons and ties which the children can't manage themselves. Obviously we've no desire to put parents to more expense, but if you are able to use easy to change clothing on PE days that would be really helpful, thanks.

## Outdoor Classroom

We have been developing the outdoor courtyard space in the school, with the aim that it becomes an outdoor classroom, where a range of different lessons could be conducted in a pleasant outdoor environment. This should be a lovely new learning space in the school, and a chance for your children to engage in some nature in such an urban school setting. We are always on the lookout for donations of plants to help keep this area looking as lovely as possible for the children, so please do donate if you can.

## Gardening Club update

Also happening in the courtyard, has been the gardening club harvesting the fruit and vegetables that they planted last year. This has been lovely to see, as you can see in these pictures.



## Harvest Festival

As we are harvesting our own crops, we are also planning for our Harvest festival for this Autumn. We are having our Harvest celebration on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October this year. We are asking parents to donate items and food for the Gatehouse charity this year. Please find attached their request list. You can send your child in with items on the Friday before the celebration or on the Monday

## Upcoming diary dates

18	SEP, MON	● 1:15 – 2:30pm ● 3:20 – 4:20pm	Yr 3 Royal Ballet Workshop 1.15 - 2.30pm Hall Year 3-6 Basketball Club (Clarke Coaching)
19	SEP, TUE	● 9 – 11am ● 12:45 – 1:30pm ● 1:15 – 2:30pm ● 3:20 – 4:20pm	Year 6 Rugby Gardening Club - Y4 from 12:45 - 1pm, Year 5/6 from 1 - 1:30 Yr 3 Royal Ballet Workshop 1.15 - 2.30pm Hall KS2 Dodgeball Club
20	SEP, WED	● 9:30 – 10:30am ● 3:15 – 4:15pm	Yr 5 Swimming 9.30 - 10.30am Lego club Year 3/4
21	SEP, THU	● All day ● 9:20 – 11:20am ● 12:45 – 1:30pm ● 3:15 – 4pm ● 3:30 – 5:30pm	Year 5 History Off the Page Day Ukelele Lessons in Year 4 Board Games Club - Y3/4 from 12:45, Y/5/6 from 1pm Benjamin Britten Choir Gymnastics Club Yr 1&2 3.30-4.15/Yr 3,4,5&6 4.30-5.30
22	SEP, FRI	● 3:20 – 4:20pm	Year 1, 2 & 3 multi-sports club
25	SEP, MON	● 1:15 – 2:30pm ● 3:20 – 4:20pm	Yr 3 Royal Ballet Workshop 1.15 - 2.30pm Hall Year 3-6 Basketball Club (Clarke Coaching)
26	SEP, TUE	● 9 – 11am ● 12:45 – 1:30pm ● 1:15 – 2:30pm ● 3:20 – 4:20pm ● 5:30 – 6:30pm	Year 6 Rugby Gardening Club - Y4 from 12:45 - 1pm, Year 5/6 from 1 - 1:30 Yr 3 Royal Ballet Workshop 1.15 - 2.30pm Hall KS2 Dodgeball Club Phonics Workshop for Parents in Hall
27	SEP, WED	● 9:30 – 10:30am ● 2:15 – 3:15pm ● 3:15 – 4:15pm	Yr 5 Swimming 9.30 - 10.30am Phonics Parent Workshop in Hall Lego club Year 3/4
28	SEP, THU	● 9:20 – 11:20am ● 12:45 – 1:30pm ● 3:15 – 4pm ● 3:30 – 5:30pm	Ukelele Lessons in Year 4 Board Games Club - Y3/4 from 12:45, Y/5/6 from 1pm Benjamin Britten Choir Gymnastics Club Yr 1&2 3.30-4.15/Yr 3,4,5&6 4.30-5.30

## Clubs this term

We are offering a range of clubs this term for the children, both using school staff and external providers.

On Mondays the Guildhall Gossip club will be happening at lunchtime for Y5 and 6 children. After school on Mondays is Basketball club for Years 3-6

On Tuesdays there is a before school dance club for Years 3-6, Gardening club and Year 4 Spanish club at lunchtime, and then Dodgeball for Years 3-6 afterschool.

On Wednesdays there is a mosaic club during lunchtime.

On Thursday there will still be board game club at lunchtime, the choir after school alongside Lego club and Gymnastics.

On Fridays we have our playground disco and strictly come dancing club at lunchtime and Year 1-3 multisports after school.

