



NEWSLETTER : Friday 21st March/ Spring Term: Issue: 5

Head Teacher's Corner



Dear Families,

We've had a busy two weeks here at school! Last week, we welcomed Raj Parmer from the Om Group, who led an informative assembly about Holi. He shared the story behind this colourful festival and explained how it is celebrated. The children found it engaging and were very good at answering the quiz questions that followed.

This week, we were excited to receive our duckling eggs and it's been wonderful to watch the ducklings hatch! The children have been very observant and have enjoyed seeing the eggs hatch. Some children have even had the chance to hold the little ones.

This week, we sent a letter inviting you to our annual Interfaith Workshops on 2nd April 2025. This is an opportunity for you to engage in activities with your child and explore different faiths. These workshops are always really popular and help foster an understanding of the diverse beliefs that make up our community. As places are limited, please contact your child's class teacher if you would like to attend.

A big thank you to everyone who purchased books from our recent book fair. Your support made it a great success and we hope the children are enjoying their new books. Happy reading!

We are looking forward to welcoming Maqsood from Medina Mosque next week, who will be sharing an assembly about Ramadan and Eid. To all our families celebrating Eid at the end of March, we wish you a joyful and blessed Eid Mubarak!

A reminder that Monday 31st March is a training day and school will be closed to children. We look forward to having all of the children back on Tuesday 1st April.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Mrs Shaukat (Teaching Assistant) who recently left us to have her babies. She has welcomed twin boys into her family and we wish her and her little ones all the very best during this exciting time.

Best wishes,
Mrs R Nisar
Headteacher



Wednesday 26th March
Reception Spring Performance to parents

Thursday 27th March
Ramadan/ Eid Assembly for children
Year 3 and 4 Eco Warriors supporting a community litter pick

Friday 28th March
Deadline for Easter Bonnet/ Basket Competition

Monday 31st March
Training Day- School closed for children

Tuesday 1st April
Children return to school

Wednesday 2nd April
Year 4 trip to Whipsnade Zoo

Wednesday 2nd April
Interfaith Workshops- Parents Invited

Thursday 3rd April
Easter Assembly for children
Year 2 Visit to Madinah Mosque

Friday 4th April
Last day of term



Holi Assembly



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The new attendance guidelines came into place from 19th August 2024. More information and FAQs about attendance can be found on our school website: <https://www.foxdellprimary.uk/attendance-1/>

Government guidance can be found here:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/19/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

We are open for 190 days in a school year which equates to 380 sessions including the morning and afternoon registration.



Our whole school attendance target is 96%

The class with the best attendance each week wins the attendance trophy and receives a best attendance certificate. Children in Reception receive a lucky dip prize if they have 100% attendance for the week. Attendance for the last two weeks:

Class	Attendance WB 10.03.25	Attendance WB 17.03.25	Class	Attendance WB 10.03.25	Attendance WB 17.03.25	Class	Attendance WB 10.03.25	Attendance WB 17.03.25
Wrens	91.1%	95.4%	Badgers	95.8%	86.8%	Ash	98.9%	96.6%
Swifts	96%	95.4%	Hedgehogs	89.3%	93.6%	Ivy	99.6%	94%
Robins	89.5%	95.4%	Chestnuts	97.3%	97.4%	Cedar	92.5%	90.7%
Dragonflies	97.8%	89.4%	Acorns	96.6%	94.8%	Kestrels	98.1%	100%
Ladybirds	94.6%	94%	Pinecones	98.7%	98.3%	Kites	94.8%	94.5%
Butterflies	92.1%	90%	Beech	100%	96%	Eagles	97.2%	98.1%
Squirrels	100%	96.5%	Oak	97%	98.4%			



Our Class H.E.R.O's for Week ending 14.03.25 and 21.03.25 are:

Infant Site: Squirrels

Junior Site: Beech & Kestrels

STARS OF THE WEEK



Congratulations to our STARS for the week ending 10.03.25 and 17.03.25

Robins	Wrens	Swifts	Dragonflies	Ladybirds	Butterflies	Badgers	Squirrels
			Ali Anaya Taman Mirha	Hareem Sebastian Asad Saifullah	Ethan Silviu Maliha Nawal	Aiza H Hafsa Fahmidul Amina	Sargun Haniya Umar Aiza
Hedgehogs	Chestnuts	Acorns	Pinecones	Beech	Oak	Ash	Ivy
Tawseef Aiza Eesa Abiha	Christine Alesia T Aisha H Eva	Raaziyah Farhana Kanisca Abdullah Ali	M Asghar Zion Musa A Rosa	Rehan Saaratu Maya David	Ammara Maya Irha Jarrah	Ibraheem Petrus Elizabeth Sahil	Abdul Hadi Zaroon Haaniya Zoya
		Cedar	Kestrels	Kites	Eagles		
		Afreen Ayyan Sarah Ismail	Adams Enaya Suleiman Bilal	Suhaan Rehan Musa H Gavinjot	Zahra Mohammed Samiul Kaleem		



We will also be learning about these values:

Happiness
Love
Cooperation

Click on the link to listen to this story about cooperation

[It's Great to Work Together](#)



This week we have been learning about the value of COOPERATION. Cooperation is about making sure we know how to be on a team or work in a group towards a common goal.

- Cooperation allows us to learn from each other and combine our knowledge and skills to achieve a common goal.
- We learn how to compromise with each other and resolve conflicts with maturity.
- In difficult situations, we learn to empathise with others and respond to other people's feelings positively.
- While we are work as a team, our listening skills improve and we develop the ability to accept different perspectives.
- It helps develop a sense of belonging

Around our School

Sportability

On Wednesday 19th March, 8 children from across Key Stage 1 and 2 attended a Sportability event at Inspire. They took part in a range of event including table tennis, archery, bowls and target practise. The focus was on children experiencing new sports!



Whipsnade Assemblies



This week, we were very fortunate that Marcus, from Whipsnade Zoo, came to visit and share his passion for animals with the children. At the Infant site, he explained what the zoo does; at the Junior site, he informed the children about British animals.

Marcus was very impressed by the children's engagement with the topic. He applauded the children's scientific knowledge and was bowled over by the questions they asked.

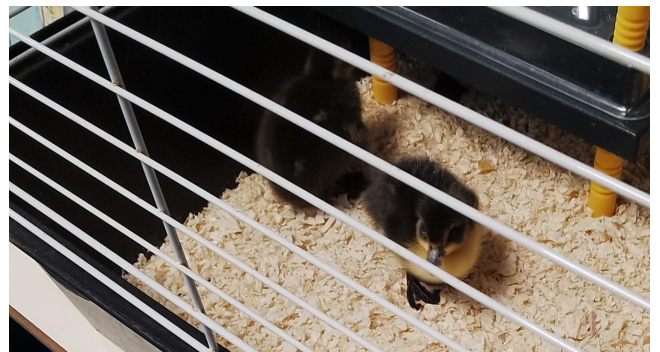


Around our School

Ducklings



Foxdell have had the pleasure of looking after duckling eggs and watching them hatch! We have learnt about the life cycle of a duck and handled the ducklings with care.



Around our School

Year R

In Reception, we have been working hard to learn and retell the story of The Enormous Turnip. We found an enormous turnip in the garden and had to work as a team to pull it out of the ground!

We have learnt all about Spring and have enjoyed going on a seasons walk to spot the signs of Spring, like new flowers growing and leaves returning to the trees.

In our Expressive Art and Design learning, we have learnt how to mix colours to create our own rainbows for St Patrick's Day.



Year 1

In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of measurement. They have learnt about height and length.

The children have used standard and non-standard units of measurement to learn about measure.

The children have been introduced to using a ruler and have become more confident using vocabulary such as longer, shorter, taller and smaller.



Year 2

All the children have been working very hard this week as they have been doing a lot of different tests. They have done really well as a year group in Science and arithmetic, so well done to everyone!

In D.T., we were carrying on working on the ferris wheel and the project is coming along nicely.

In geography, children have been making a map of the playground, an activity which they really enjoyed.

Around our School

Year 3

This half term, we have been learning about different seasonal fruits and vegetables that grow in the United Kingdom. Did you know that although we have carrots all year round, they are best eaten in spring? The children had a chance to practise their cutting and peeling skills with seasonal fruits and vegetables.



Year 4

In geography, we are learning about 'Where does our food come from?' The children have learned about the journey of a cocoa bean and process it has to go through from cocoa bean to a chocolate bar.

We are also learning how to play the recorder in music. We have been working on lots of different repertoire, and exploring musical elements such as pitch and tempo. The children are able to play duets, and can read music with confidence.



Year 5

In music, the children have enjoyed creating songs and learning to play them on the ukulele. In geography, we have been learning about the world's oceans and how pollution can affect them as well as the animals that live in them. We are going to be using what we have learnt to write letters persuading the government to do more to tackle pollution.

Finally, on World Book Day, some of the children learnt how to be book illustrators.

They produced some amazing artwork!



Year 6

Thank you to all the parents who attended our SATs workshop. Please check the school website for all the resources and information.

This term we have had so much fun with Billy in music! We've been learning to play Junk Percussion - some of us even brought in our own junk. Keep an eye out for an invitation to watch us perform our new skills early next half term!



Around our School

Foxdell Book Fair

We held our Foxdell Book Fair this week. Children enjoyed browsing the selection of books, puzzles and games on offer. As the items were discounted from their original price, children had a selection of price points to choose from.





WE NEED YOUR HELP

Do you have an interesting career that could excite and engage the pupils of Foxdell Primary School?



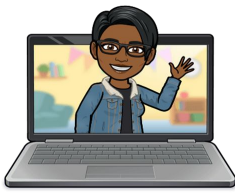
We are looking for visitors who would be willing to join us at school during the week of the 14th-18th July 2025 for a careers fair.

Visitors would need to be willing and confident to talk to a group of children about their career path, the skills, values, qualifications and requirements that they would need to undertake this career.

Please contact the school office if you believe this is something you could help us with.

**admin@foxdellprimary.uk
01582 733 764**





ONLINE SAFETY CORNER

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



Community

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1:00PM - 2:30PM

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First Steps to Supporting an Autistic Individual



Part 1: Wednesday 12th March
6-7.30pm



Part 2: Wednesday 19th March
6-7.30pm

Autism & Behaviour



Part 1: Thursday 27th March
10-11.30am



Part 2: Thursday 3rd April
10-11.30am



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