

# SPRING

What a fabulous fun-filled term we have had! Beyond the curriculum we have organised

many enrichment activities that the children have clearly enjoyed including: Book Week, visiting Blackpool Zoo and Knowsley Safari Park, Online Safety Day, Discos, Easter Fair, Mental Health Awareness week, football tournaments, Spring term clubs, Toast Shop and M&M Productions Wizard of Oz Theatre and much, much more. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these wonderful experiences for our children.



## Competitive Sports

This term we have kicked off the opportunities for our young football players with a mixed girls and boys tournament at Stanley High School for Year 1 and Year 2. This was the first time the teams have played together this year and they really made me proud by representing our school extremely well. They showed great sportsmanship and were a delight for myself and Mrs Stancombe and Mr McCoy to take out of school. One of our Year 1 teams got through to the regional finals at Finch Farm in May. We are looking forward to playing in more tournaments with the girls and boys teams after the Easter break!



## Elsie's Story

### MARATHON CHALLENGE

We continue to support Elsie's Story London Marathon Challenge.

If you would like to support Miss Johnson our Nursery teaching assistant who will be running in London on the 27th April or Day Stancombe and David Tarjomi please donate on their Just Giving pages

[www.justgiving.com/page/sammie-johnson-1736958606312](http://www.justgiving.com/page/sammie-johnson-1736958606312) OR

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/elsiedotstancombe>

## LONDON

Hi, my name is Sammie. When I first signed up for the London Marathon, my main goal was to stay fit and maintain consistency with my personal running journey. Running has always been a passion of mine, and the idea of achieving such a significant milestone in the heart of London, one of my favorite cities, felt incredibly special.

However, my motivation has grown into something far more meaningful. I had the absolute privilege of working as a teaching assistant for Elsie, a truly remarkable little girl whose warmth, energy, and unforgettable spirit left a lasting impact on everyone who knew her. Elsie had an aura of a kind, radiant positivity, kindness, and a love for life that was nothing short of inspiring.

That's why I've chosen to run the London Marathon as a proud member of staff from Farnborough Road Infant School, in support of Elsie's Story. It means so much to be able to honor her memory and ensure that her incredible spirit continues to shine in our community and beyond. My hope is that by running this marathon, I can help bring awareness to this important cause on a larger stage, celebrating the joy, love, and resilience that Elsie embodied every single day.

Forever in our Farnborough hearts, Elsie Dot, this one's for you.

I can't tell you how many of my best memories come when I was running and you were taking your little because, sharing me on with, "Come on, Dad! You can do it, Dad!" I'll never forget the look on your face when I saw the finish line after my first 10K, the pride in your eyes, the joy in your field my mind like I was your own.

Last year, we set on the right together, walking the London Marathon. You turned to me and said, "Dad, you have been here before."

I never thought I'd be running it for you, not like this. But here I am, running for you, for Elsie's Story, and for a cause that of being kind to other children in his own lifetime. I know that's what you would want.

Running has helped me through some of the darkest days that I have ever lived. It has given me peace, strength, and a reason to keep going. It's been more than just exercise; it's been a way to push forward when everything else felt impossible. Getting this far has given me something to hold onto, and I will carry it with me every day. I know you'll be proud of me, and I know you'll be there for me when I need you. I'll be thinking of you with every mile, and I know you'll be there for me when I need you. I'll never stop trying to do this.

I will make you proud. You will make a difference. Elsie.



Our class weekly attendance is shared in Friday's 'Star of the Week' Assembly and the children are keen for their class to win the Attendance Bear for the week.

Best Class Attendance Week Beginning 27th March is Butterflies and Room 10

Best Class Attendance Week Beginning 31st March is Room 1 and Room 8 both 100%!



Whole school attendance for the year to date is 96%.

The Government target for whole school attendance is 97%.

## Earth Day 2025



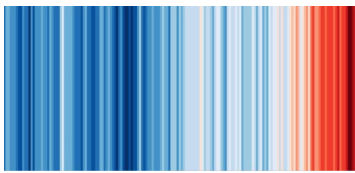
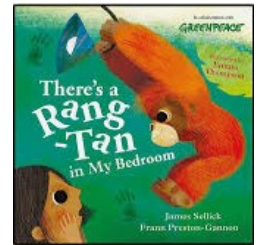
## What is Earth Day?

Earth Day is marked on 22nd April each year and aims to highlight the importance of protecting the environment. It became a global event in 1990, and now involves over one billion people of all ages in nearly 200 countries.

On Friday 25th April we are going to celebrate Earth Day in both the infant and junior schools along with the theme 'Our Power, Our Planet'.

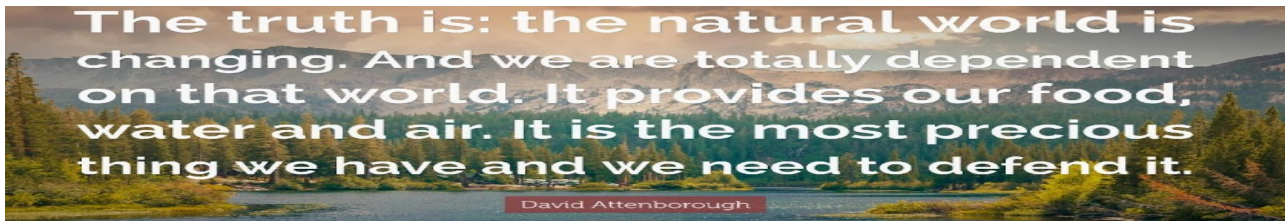
We are encouraging children to walk/scoot to school on this day, try to bring plastic packaging free lunch if your child brings a packed lunch, taking part in a buddy lunchtime discussion and planting seeds from reused yoghurt pots.

We will be reading 'There's a Rang-Tan in my bedroom' and learning about the impacts of deforestation and climate change on our planet.



We will also be looking at our world's climate stripes. Each stripe represents the world average temperature over the last 100 years.

We will be considering what is happening to the world temperature and what we can do to help.



## Fearghal Cuddle Count



Each class is taking it in turns for a Meet and Greet with Fearghal, our Pets as Therapy Dog. Last month Fearghal saw 125 little people!!! Making it up to 214 people in total he's had cuddles with at Farnborough Road Infant School!

He's loving every minute!



For the last 7 years we have been working with the charity Deaf Active. Each year children in Year 2 thoroughly enjoy learning British Sign

Language with Ian and Gemma whilst raising awareness of the Deaf community and teaching them another language. The children and staff in Year 2 will take part in a whole school 30- minute session learning a song in BSL and some basic signs once a week for 10 weeks. The session will be jam packed and a load of fun for all involved. A final performance will be put on for Y2 parents on Thursday 3rd July 2pm.



We had a really good attendance at our Mental Health Support Team Anxiety and Worry Workshop on Friday 28th March.



Chris Kaye, our Education Mental Health Practitioner, gave an excellent presentation and parent got to ask questions to support their children at home. Chris is also working with individual families too referred into the service.

Our next parent workshop will take place on Thursday 15th May at 9am. This will be on Sleep Difficulties.

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**£100**

Giving back to the community

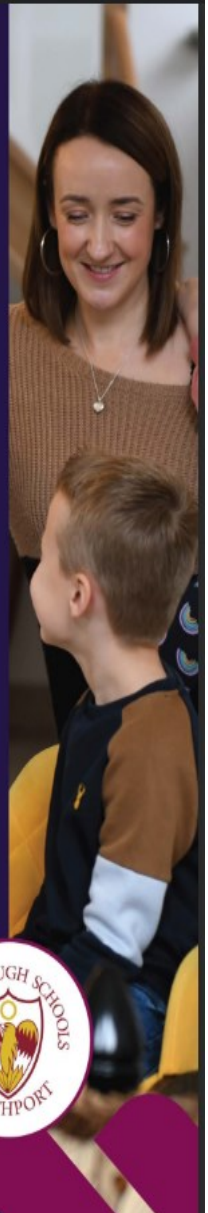
(Upon completion of a Sale or move in for a Fully Managed Rental of your property)

Please call our office to arrange a **free no obligation valuation** quoting **Farnborough Community**

T 01704 545657

E [southport@northwooduk.com](mailto:southport@northwooduk.com)

Local knowledge, national reach



## Important Dates for your Diary- Summer Term 2025

22nd and 23rd April Year 2 Synagogue Visit

25th April FRIS Challenge Trainer needed

8th May VE day

15th May PTA Discos

Wed 21st May Break up Half term

4th June Nursery Trip Farmer Teds

Week Beg 9th June Year 1 Phonics Screening

13th June Wally Cain Dance Festival

17th June Y2 Liverpool Trip

20th June Classes out to parents

27th June 9-12pm KS1 Sports Day Birkdale High

7th and 14th July SUMMER CONCERT Weeks

21st July Leavers Party

24th April Year 2 Deaf Active lessons begin

6th and 7th May Year 2 Rock n River Trips

W/C 12th May Sun Safety Week

16th May Children's University Y2 Final Credits due

Tuesday 3rd June Back to school

6th June Whole School Picnic—91st Birthday

11th June Father's Day Shop

16th June Year 2 Children's university graduation

20th June Elsie's Story Break the Rules Day '15 4 15'

26th June Whole School Move Up Day

30th June ARTS WEEK 'At your finger tips' theme

11th July End of Year reports to parents

22nd July Break Up 2pm



As part of our work promoting Equality and Diversity and developing the features as a neuro-diverse friendly school we are continuing our series on our newsletters. This helps us raise awareness of Neurodiversity across the whole school community.

Autism Acceptance Week

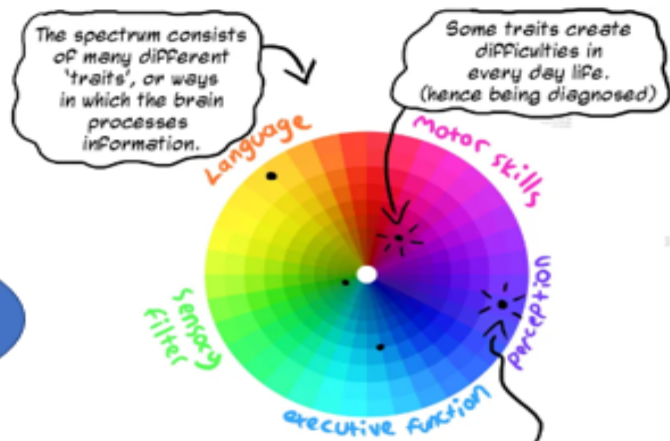
2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025



Autistic people face discrimination and barriers across all sectors of society - in the health and social care systems, in education, in employment and everywhere in between. It is crucial that autistic people - and their families and carers, can access tailored information, guidance and support to overcome those barriers, along with opportunities to explore their interests, develop skills and build friendships for fulfilled lives.



Scan the QR Code to find out more from the National Autistic Society



Each person with autism will have a set of traits all in different areas of the spectrum. The areas where they don't have a trait will function no differently to a neurotypical brain, but may be affected by circumstances. In example, I am good at making conversation (language). But I get sensory overload in loud and crowded spaces, which then makes conversation very hard for me.

Only **26%** of autistic pupils feel happy at school.

Only **29%** of autistic people are in any form of employment.

**70%** of autistic people experience mental health problems.

There are over **150,000** people on the waiting list for an autism assessment in the UK.

**First Steps**  
Family Wellbeing Centre

**Easter Holidays 2025**

**Monday 7th April**  
**BABY RHYME TIME**  
1.30pm-2pm  
@ Farnborough

**Tuesday 8th April**  
**OUTDOOR STAY & PLAY**  
10am-11.30am  
@ Farnborough

**Wednesday 9th April**  
**CAR BOOT SALE**  
11am-2pm  
@ Kings Meadow

**Thursday 10th April**  
**LITTLE CHEFS**  
10.30-11.30am  
@ Kings Meadow  
**BOOKING REQUIRED**  
£2 per child

**Tuesday 15th April**  
**EASTER STAY & PLAY**  
10am-11.30am  
@ Farnborough

**Thursday 17th April**  
**LITTLE CHEFS**  
10.30-11.30am  
@ Kings Meadow  
**BOOKING REQUIRED**  
£2 per child

All sessions drop in unless stated otherwise

For more information please call 01704 57259 or email [c.horton.fs@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:c.horton.fs@schools.sefton.gov.uk)

**First Steps**  
Family Wellbeing Centre

**Car Boot SALE**

**Wednesday 9th April—11am-2pm**  
**Kings Meadow School Car Park**  
**off Sandbrook Road Ainsdale**

**Buying or Selling come along to find a bargain.**  
**Refreshments will be on sale**

**£5 to book a table**  
Please contact Clare on 01704 572579 or email [c.horton.fs@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:c.horton.fs@schools.sefton.gov.uk)



**Spring holiday Challenge 2025**

<p><b>Activity 1</b> <b>Choose Healthy, Be Active!</b> April 7<sup>th</sup> is World Health Day. Make a poster about 'being healthy' then do one of these (or similar)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk, scoot or cycle to a new park</li> <li>• Complete a junior Park Run</li> <li>• Do a Joe Wicks workout</li> <li>• Have a Friday night disco</li> <li>• Create an obstacle course</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Active Kids are Happy Kids - Encouraging Physical Activity   Active Teams</a></p>	<p><b>Activity 2</b> <b>Get Crafty!</b> During the holidays why not choose one of these craft ideas and keep yourself busy! Make your own paper plate wreaths, egg carton chicks or cardboard tube butterflies</p> <p><a href="#">50 Fun and Easy Spring Crafts for Kids - Prudent Penny Pincher</a></p> <p>Don't forget to take a picture of your finished piece of work and send it to us!</p>	<p><b>Activity 3</b> <b>Go outdoors!</b> 14<sup>th</sup> April is National Gardening Day...so what a great excuse to spend some time outdoors in nature! Here are some great ideas for activities, from making a dinosaur garden to painted rocks and a spring scavenger hunt</p> <p><a href="#">Garden activities for kids: 60 fun things to do with kids at home - Growing Family</a></p>	<p><b>Activity 4</b> <b>Discover Science!</b> Become a scientist over the holidays. Complete one of the experiments in these links and tell us what you discovered!</p> <p><a href="#">Spring Science Projects: 26 Science Experiments for Spring   Science Buddies Blog</a></p> <p><a href="#">13 Spring STEM Nature Activities for Kids   Treehouse Schoolhouse Blog   Home Education • Motherhood • Homemaking</a></p>
<p><b>Activity 5</b> <b>Become Artly!</b> 15<sup>th</sup> April is World Art Day so why not use a famous artist as your inspiration and re-create a masterpiece of your own? There are lots of ideas here!</p> <p><a href="#">Exploring Famous Artists for Kids - Fun Art Projects inspired by Artists - Messy Little Monster</a></p> <p>Perhaps you could have a family art competition and display your work like a gallery?</p>	<p><b>Activity 6</b> <b>Get in the kitchen!</b> During the holidays, why not have a go at creating some of these easy Spring themed recipes? For tasty treats such as Fruity Bug Oat Cakes, Bunny Rabbit Salad, Easter nest crispy cakes and Easy Chick Cookies, take a look at the ideas here...and get creative in the kitchen!</p> <p><a href="#">Spring Themed Food for Kids - Eats Amazing</a></p>	<p><b>Activity 7</b> <b>Photograph Spring!</b> Spring is a time of new growth. Everything is changing around us in our amazing world...so it is time to capture it in some photographs! Get out and about in the streets, park or garden and take 5 different photos relating to spring eg blossom, new green shoots, baby animals, ladybird, spring flowers, the weather, a shadow, berries, spider web etc – the list is endless!</p>	

Collect extra Children's University credits during the Spring holiday by completing these challenges. Each activity is worth 1 credit (unless stated otherwise), when you send evidence to your local Children's University. This could be a photograph, video, a work sheet, or writing! Send it to [SeftonCU@elevate-ebp.co.uk](mailto:SeftonCU@elevate-ebp.co.uk)

Our school values are:

**COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE HONESTY RESPECT and LOVE AND KINDNESS**

# Online Safety Newsletter

# April 2025

## Screen time

Screen time is classed as any time spent in front of a screen, so it includes everything from watching tv to completing homework on a laptop. Whilst there is no recommended screen time (except for under two, which is zero), it is important that we find a balance.

Screen time can obviously be beneficial, both for educational and entertainment purposes, however it is important to be aware of the risks, such as:

- Eye strain.
- Disrupted sleep.
- Less time for other activities and being outdoors.
- Affects our attention span.

### Further information

Childnet discuss what is screen time and how much screen time is enough in this useful article:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/screen-time-boundaries-parents/>



## Social Media Concerns



Most social media apps have a minimum age rating of 13+. Whilst there are benefits, this article discusses some of the potential risks of using social media.

### Risks of Social Media

- **Inappropriate content** – social media may expose children to content that is not appropriate for their age, including sexually explicit content or content that promotes harmful behaviours such as self-harm.
- **Cyberbullying** – this can take many forms, including sending nasty or hurtful messages, leaving unkind comments, sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission or impersonating somebody with a fake account.
- **Excessive Screen time/Addiction** – too much time online can affect mental health and disrupt sleep patterns.
- **Contact from strangers** – there is a risk of stranger contact, which can lead to an increased risk of grooming.
- **Challenges** - children may not have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse what they see online. Whilst some challenges are fun and provide no risk, there will be challenges online that are risky/dangerous.
- **Sharing too much information** – children may share personal information e.g. their phone number, school name or inappropriate photos of themselves.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms to keep us engaged on the platform. This can lead to 'echo chambers' where users are only seeing content that relates to their opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint. It can also lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.

### How can I help make it a safer environment?

- Check the age rating of each app and restrict access until they reach that age.
- Set up age-appropriate parental controls, for example set content restrictions and screen time limits.
- Chat to your child about what they are doing online, including who they are following and interacting with online.
- Restrict devices in their bedrooms.
- Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.

### Further information

You can find out more from the following:

- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/social-media/#Talkingaboutcyberbullying>

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## Group Chats

Is your child part of any group chats? This could be on social media, for example on WhatsApp or within games such as Fortnite. If so, it is important that you are aware of the potential risks, which include:

- **Inappropriate content** – there is often a lack of moderation within chat facilities so users could be exposed to content/language that is not suitable for their age.
- **Bullying** – there are many instances where inappropriate/hurtful comments are shared within groups, this could take the form of name calling or body shaming. Bullying can also be in the form of excluding others from the group. These issues often overspill into 'real life'.
- **Strangers** – your child could be added to groups with people they do not know or even with someone that they have previously blocked.
- **Conversations can be shared/screen shot** – make sure your child is aware that anything they share within a group can be shared with others outside the group.
- **Sharing personal information** – remind your child to be aware of the information they share with others including images and location.



### How can I help make group chats safer?

- Check the recommended age rating and adhere to them. If we all did this, peer pressure would be reduced.
- Set up age-appropriate parental controls and set screen time limits.
- Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.

### What else can I do?

- It is crucial to have regular conversations with your child about the risks outlined above and about what they are doing online.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be perceived by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Devices should be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing and who they are interacting with.
- Finally, make sure to model good digital behaviour yourself, as children often learn by observing the adults around them.

### Further information

Childnet have created a Group Chat Guide for parents following consultation with the Childnet Youth Advisory Board and Digital Champions: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/cheat-sheet-group-chats/>

## Did you know some Emojis have a double meaning?

For those that have watched Adolescence, you will know children and young people may be using emojis to mean something completely different. For example, the kidney bean emoji may be used to identify as an incel. It is important that you are aware of how emojis can be used and keep up to date with the way in which they can be used as their meanings are changeable. You can find out further information here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/emoji-slang-guide/>

## Vodafone: The Rise of the Aggro-rhythm

Vodafone released a short video last year, titled 'The Rise of the Aggro-rhythm'. It highlights the harmful algorithms targeting young boys. It's certainly worth a watch as well as learning about the terrifying statistics accompanying it:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/press-release/ai-aggro-rhythms/>

## 3 things to consider before giving your child a smartphone

Wayne Denner has published a blog discussing the three things that parents wished they had considered before giving their child a phone. You can read the article here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/3-things-parents-wish-they-had-considered-before-giving-their-teen-a-smartphone/>