



# Farnborough Road Infant School

'LEARNING, CARING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER'

## Newsletter 15 3rd May 2024



### Joseph

The last three weeks have been challenging for so many people in our school community following the death of Joseph, a child in our Junior school.

Last week staff attended Joseph's funeral and a special assembly was held in the junior school to celebrate his life. Both events were emotional, but also helped us to reflect on the positive impact that Joseph had on so many people.

All of our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

We have asked our PTA and PTFA if we can use an upcoming event to support a place in school where we can always remember Joseph.

Thank you for all your kindness and love that has meant so much to one of our gorgeous Farnborough families.



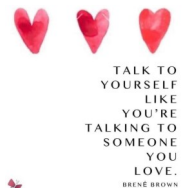
13th - 19th May is Mental Health Awareness week .

Throughout the week we will be highlighting the importance of good mental health and the coping strategies we need with activities such as mindfulness, Groovy Golf, Tappy Toes, Boogie MASH UP play, buddy class swaps and introducing our Wellbeing Warriors.

Boogie to the Music sessions will be held on Space for Sport for all year groups children and parents 8.30-8.40.

Reception Monday 13th, Year 1 Tuesday 14th, Caterpillars/Nursery Wednesday 15th, Year 2 Friday 16th.

CONGRATULATIONS to MRS PRICE AND MISS JACKSON who have this week qualified as Senior Mental Health Leads. Thank you for all your hard work for our children, staff and wider community.



### COME AND READ SESSIONS

Our Come and Read sessions are off to a great start this week. Promoting the importance of sharing books with parents and siblings, the use of our library and our brand new Outdoor Learning Area in the centre of our school. Both areas have been enhanced by funds raised by our wonderful PTA.

Our thanks go to

our PTA Committee and all our parent community who have contributed to PTA events over the last 2 years. We couldn't have these 2 lovely resource areas without your support.





### Year 1 and Year 2 Girls Football

Miss Owen and Miss Cook were very proud last Friday with the Year 1 and Year 2 girls football teams in Thornton.

Our Year 2 girls team, the Farnborough Belles came in Second place and our Year 1 team, the Farnborough Hearts came in 4th place.

**Well Done Girls!**



## PTA Update

Our last discos of the academic year .....

FRIS PTA  
**SUMMER DISCO**

**WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY**  
**£2.50 ON PARENTPAY**

Reception: 2:25 to 3:05pm  
Children can wear own clothes to school

Year 1: 3:15 to 3:55pm  
Children can bring own clothes to change into in a named bag

Year 2: 4:05 to 4:45pm  
If attending after school club, children can bring own clothes in a named bag

Children in afterschool club will be taken to and from the disco

Please note: only payments made via parentpay will be accepted

## BREAK THE RULES DAY

On the last day of term, for every rule that is broken, a fine of 50p will be charged.  
How many rules will you break?

1. School shoes must be worn.
2. Mash up play is only on Friday
3. No crazy hairstyles
4. No odd socks
5. No facepaint or nail polish
6. No hats to be worn inside
7. No temporary tattoos
8. No squash in water bottles
9. No eating desert before lunch
10. No Teddy to be bought to school

**THURSDAY 23 MAY**  
50p per rule  
Payable on ParentPay  
by 23rd May

Teachers  
must wear  
uniform!

All proceeds will go  
towards the memorial  
garden for Joseph

# Stronger Starts



Congratulations to First Steps Family Wellbeing Centre who gained a grant of £1,000 for the purpose of Reducing Teen Anti-Social Behaviour from the Blue Tokens at the Formby Tesco Store.

Thank you for your support if you were able to vote for us.

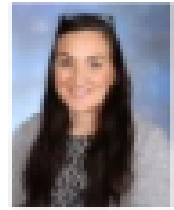
Our school values are:

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



## Deaf Awareness Week 6th till 12th May

This weeks Neurodiversity feature on our newsletter is deaf awareness written by our SENCo Mrs Touhey.



Each year in the Summer Term we commission Deaf Active to teach our Year 2 children British Sign Language. After 10 weeks of lessons our Year 2s will perform for their parents on 11th July at 2pm.



Our Sign Language sessions are an opportunity for all our children to learn British Sign Language during their time in the infant school and improve their communication with and understanding of people who have hearing loss and deafness.

Both Reception and Year 2 children will have the opportunity to share what we have learnt with you at the end of term—they can't wait!

Deaf awareness is something particularly close to our hearts and we are constantly looking for new ways to improve our communication and how we can tailor our curriculum to support all learners.

**Did you know that data from the National Deaf Children's Society suggests that there is probably at least one child in every class that suffers from at least mild hearing loss?**

We have learners in our school ranging from those with mild hearing loss to deafness - which can be lifelong. We are lucky enough to work closely with parents, the Hearing Impairment Team from the Sefton Inclusion Service and specialist Speech & Language Therapists from Alder Hey. These links have helped us to ensure that all staff have received training on deaf awareness.



Here are our top tips for communicating with someone who has a hearing impairment:



- \* Get their attention before talking to them. This could be a wave or a gentle tap on the shoulder.



- \* Look at them and make sure your face is clear (this helps with lip reading) even better if you can get down to their level.



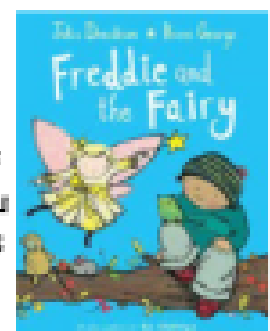
- \* Don't shout! This can be uncomfortable for someone wearing a hearing aid.



- \* Speak clearly (without over exaggeration).

- \* Learn basic fingerspelling or some British Sign Language (BSL).

Hearing aids are an incredible piece of technology that can help deaf people to hear - just like glasses help people to see more clearly. You may see children around school wearing hearing aids which we think is amazing! If you're looking for ways to raise awareness with your children then 'Freddie and the Fairy' by Julia Donaldson is a beautifully written and illustrated children's book that explains some of the difficulties that people with hearing impairments face and ways to help.





## Future Beekeepers Competition

This year is the 150th Anniversary of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) and the 100th Anniversary of Southport Flower Show; as a special celebration the Southport and District Beekeepers will be running a competition to design a logo for the branch. We are inviting school children to design the logo.

There are two age categories 5-7 years and 8-11 years. To enter, children need to design what they feel would be an appropriate logo for use on our website ([www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.southportbeekeepers.co.uk)),

Facebook page, promotional material, at the Flower Show and on labels for jars of honey. Designs can be in any media; paint, collage, coloured pencil etc., on either an A4 or A3 and must incorporate the name: Southport and District Beekeepers.

The competition is now open and submissions will close at 20:00 on 21st June 2024 with winners announced on the 5th July 2024.

Please put the child's name, age and either address of school or home together with an adult email address for contact on the back of the entry.

Submissions can be sent into school and we will send to Southport and District Beekeepers.

~ THE PRIZE ~

In addition to being on display at the Flower Show, the top 6 finalists (3 in each age category) will be invited attend The Southport Flower Show along with their families (two adult tickets per winner, children can attend for free). In addition, they will also receive an age-appropriate book about bees and beekeeping. The Gold winner in each category will also win a Hobby Craft Gift Voucher. The school where the winning child is from will also have the opportunity to have beekeepers attend and give a talk on bees and beekeeping, along with a live bee demonstration.

## Do you have a passion to teach?

Do you hold a degree plus GCSEs in English, Maths and Science? Do you want to train to become a teacher in a local primary school? Then why not train with us?

From September 2024, we at Farnborough Road are delighted to be working in partnership with North West SHARES SCITT. North-West SHARES SCITT is a highly successful, Ofsted graded 'outstanding' school based primary teacher training programme. Our new school-based route offers full time and part time training courses and trainees benefit from being immersed 4 days a week in their 'training school' and attending curriculum and professional training sessions each week at the Training Suite in Skelmersdale. Our aim is to train talented individuals, with a passion and desire to become a primary school teacher, however, offer them the unique benefit of training in a school which is local to them.



# TRAIN TO BE A TEACHER

Ofsted  
Outstanding  
Provider

Ambition  
Institute



Transform your future  
and the lives of pupils

### Qualify

If you hold a degree you can qualify as a Primary Teacher in 12 months.

### Benefit

from evidence based, flexible learning on-line and in person.

### Achieve

qualified teacher status (QTS) with a post graduate certificate in education (PGCE)



NEW

Part-time  
Training  
Available

GET IN TOUCH

[ddavies@woodland.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:ddavies@woodland.lancs.sch.uk)  
07525 844705

[www.northwestscitt.com](http://www.northwestscitt.com)

There has been a slight change to the Term Dates for 2024/25. The Inset days are Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September and Children start school on Wednesday 4th September. Please see the updated calendar and term dates below.



FARNBOROUGH ROAD INFANT SCHOOL  
HOLIDAY DATES - 2024/2025  
(including INSET days)

2024		
AUTUMN TERM		
INSET	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	School Closed for pupils Teachers and TAs in school
INSET	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	School Closed for pupils Teachers and TAs in school
Half Term 1	Start of Term: Wednesday 4th September at 08.45am School finishes for half term on Friday 25th October at 3.15pm	
Half Term	Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November [one week]	
Half Term 2	Return to school Monday 4th November at 08.45am School Finishes for end of term on Friday 20th December at 2.00pm	

2025		
SPRING TERM		
Half Term 3	Start of Term: Monday 6th January at 08.45am School finishes for half term on Friday 14th February at 3.15pm	
Half Term	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February [one week]	
Half Term 4	Return to school Monday 24th February at 08.45am School finishes for end of term Friday 4th April at 2.00pm	

2025		
SUMMER TERM		
Good Friday	Friday 18th April	School Closed for all
Easter Monday	Monday 21st April	School Closed for all
Half Term 5	Start of Term: Tuesday 22nd April at 08.45am School finishes for half term on Wednesday 21st May at 3.15pm	
Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May	School Closed for all
INSET	Thursday 22nd May	School Closed for pupils Teachers and TAs in school
INSET	Friday 23rd May	School Closed for pupils Teachers Report Writing
INSET	Monday 2nd June	School Closed for pupils Teachers Report Writing
Half Term	Thursday 22nd May to Tuesday 3rd June [one week and 3 days]	
Half Term 6	Return to school Tuesday 3rd June at 08.45am School finishes for end of term on Tuesday 22nd July at 2.00pm	

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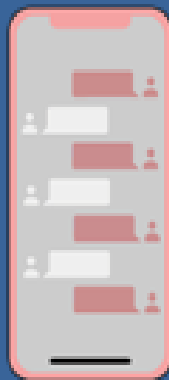
## Smartphone Free Childhood

Smartphone Free Childhood is a parent-led movement whose mission is to protect children from the dangers of using smartphones too young.

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/careers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age. Are you ready to join? Find out more here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

You may feel your child does need a phone, particularly if they are walking home by themselves but there are alternatives to the smartphone, including a watch, which are listed here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/alternatives>

If your child already has a smartphone then Internet Matters have a section on their website with advice on smartphone safety: <https://www.internetmatters.org/set-up-safe/>



## Is being online affecting our child's mental health?

There are many positives to being online, but we do need to be aware of the negative aspects including those that may impact our child's mental health and wellbeing, for example:

- **Social media** (spending too much time on social media, comparing ourselves to others, filtered images and desire to achieve likes).
- **Cyberbullying**
- **Seeing inappropriate content**
- **Constantly connected/information overload**
- **Excessive screen time**
- **Negative impact on our sleep**



### Further information

- **Childnet** discusses digital wellbeing in more detail and includes top tips and conversation starters: <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/digital-wellbeing/>
- The NSPCC provides further information about mental health including signs to look out for and how to get further support: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>

## WhatsApp Group warning

Whilst WhatsApp has an age rating of 13+ (recently lowered from 16), a BBC investigation has found that children as young as nine have been added to WhatsApp groups and seen inappropriate content. If your child is using WhatsApp, check their group settings as by default, group privacy settings are set to 'everyone,' which means anybody can add your child to a group without their approval. You can change this setting to 'My Contacts' so only contacts can add them to groups without their approval and if somebody who is not a contact wants to add them to a group then they will need to send them an invite.

You should talk to your child about the risks of joining groups and show them how to use the reporting/blocking tools. You can find out more about the BBC investigation here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy014z8n1p9o>

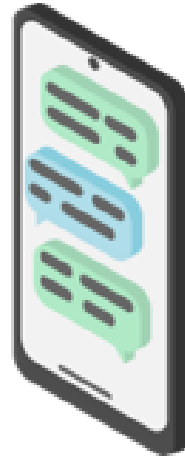
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.  
Current as of the date released 01.05.24.

## Digital Addiction

Are you worried that your child is addicted to being online/on their device? Recent research from [Ofcom](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk) reported that "34% of parents of children aged 3-4 said it was hard to control it, rising to half (49%) of parents of children aged 16-17."<sup>1</sup> [Bark](https://www.bark.us) have produced a blog which discusses what addiction is, how to recognise the signs and examples of what digital addiction can look like. You can find the blog here: <https://www.bark.us/blog/digital-addictions/>

[\*source:

<https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/research-and-data/media-literacy-research/childrens/children-and-parents-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2024>, accessed 24.4.24]



## Misinformation online

There is a lot of information online that is incorrect/fake or misleading and it can sometimes be difficult for adults to distinguish between what is true and what is fake, never mind for younger people. We need to develop digital literacy skills in our children by encouraging them to think critically about what they read online and to fact check. Both the BBC and Channel 4 have fact checking areas on their websites:

- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/reality\\_check](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/reality_check)
- <https://www.channel4.com/news/factcheck/>

One way to start the conversation would be to play a game such as 'Can you spot the signs of fake news?' from the BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwfm8hv>

### Further information

- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/misinformation>



## Online Gaming Safety Tips: For parents/carers of neurodivergent young people

Internet Matters have published guidance outlining the benefits and risks of online gaming and how you can support your neurodivergent child. You can read the guide here: <https://www.flipsnack.com/internetmattersorg/guidance-for-parents-of-neurodivergent-gamers-internet-matters/full-view.html>

## Encountering violent online content starts at primary school.

New research commissioned by [Ofcom](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk) reported that "all children who took part in the research came across violent content online, mostly via social media, video-sharing and messaging sites and apps. Many tell us this is before they have reached the minimum age requirement to use these services."

You can read more about [Ofcom's](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk) findings here:

<https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/news-centre/2024/encountering-violent-online-content-starts-at-primary-school>

## Talking about online toxicity

Vodafone have published an article highlighting research which shows that "69% of preadolescent boys have encountered misogynistic content online". This article discusses how to approach this issue with your child and what to do if they start repeating negative views seen online.

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/how-to-talk-to-your-teenage-sons-about-online-toxicity/>

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