



Farnborough Road Infant School

'LEARNING, CARING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER'

Newsletter 7 5th December 2025



Christmas Concerts

We are looking forward to entertaining all our parents and getting everyone in the Christmas mood next week with our Christmas Concerts.

Friday 5th Mrs Andrews Ladybirds 2pm

Monday 8th Butterflies 2pm

Tuesday 9th Ladybirds Mrs Duckworth 9.15am Reception 2pm

Wednesday 10th Reception 9am and Year 1 2pm

Thursday 11th Year 1 9am

Wednesday 17th Year 2 2pm and 6pm

Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

National Year of Reading 2026

Everyone knows the benefits of reading: it expands your world, sharpens your mind and it might even make us more creative and successful.

But increasingly, fewer of us are making time to read. With so many forms of entertainment at our fingertips, reaching for a book is not always top of our list, it is something we should do, but don't always do it.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a major, government-backed campaign to reignite reading for pleasure right across the UK. It's led by the National Literacy Trust, in partnership with the Department for Education and other organisations such as The Reading Agency, Book Trust, World Book Day, Bookmark, and more.

The core message is "Go All In", with the core message: "If you're into it, read into it." Go All In emphasises the immediate, social, and cultural rewards of reading as well as emphasising the joy of discovery, imagination and diving deeper into the things you love as well as the longer term benefits such as academic achievement.

They are asking the nation to Go All In and see how reading in all its forms can unlock more of what you love - whether it's music, baking, family time, films, sci-fi or... anything.

Whatever you're into....

Get ready to GO ALL IN with Farnborough Road Infant School!

Look out on our Newsletters and Class Dojo for more information to follow

School Council Chosen Charity



This year our School Council have nominated Woodland Animal Sanctuary as their chosen charity of the year. This animal rescue charity focuses on the rehabilitation and care of hundreds of animals across Merseyside and Lancashire each year. They are a small independent animal rescue centre helping cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, farm animals, ex-cage birds, wild ponies, donkeys in need and British wildlife especially hedgehogs.

The Woodlands Animal Sanctuary have been a long term supporter of Farnborough Road Infant School offering to bring a hedgehog to visit the Nursery to support their learning about Woodland creatures and hibernation.

Our school council will be organising a number of fundraising events throughout the year.



Their next event is the Christmas Tree Festival at St John's Church, Birkdale.

They have asked the children to make decorations on a woodland theme. The ideas the children had were woodland animals with Christmas hats, cats in stockings, autumnal objects like pinecones and acorns and a sleigh with woodland animals in.



Donations will be made from members of the public visiting the church and from our children in Year 1 and Year 2 visiting the Christmas trees on Monday 8th December. Children can bring some 1p 2p 5p or 10ps to place in the charity box of their choice in the church.

The Spring term will see the return of the Toast Shop. Our school council representatives will be selling Toast on 12th and 13th March

The Summer Term they will be taking part in a Charity Challenge. More details to follow.

By supporting their charity we are spreading the word about their appeal and with your support they can help rescue, rehabilitate and rehome many more animals. Thank you for your continued support of the school council's chosen charity of the year.

Our school values are:

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



Education inspection framework
Our renewed approach

Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives

Ofsted New Framework What do parents need to know?

The journey so far



Summary of the Key Changes

1. There will be No More Single Overall Grade—Ofsted has removed the old labels like Outstanding, Good and Requires Improvement. Instead, every school will receive a detailed Report Card sharing performance across 7 areas.
2. There will be a new 5-Point Rating Scale Each area of the school is rated using:
 - Exceptional (being nationally transformational)
 - Strong standard (making a real difference, consistently excellent)
 - Expected standard (the expectation of a school)
 - Needs attention (Action plan for improvement -Ofsted will be back within 2 years to see improvements in this area)
 - Urgent improvement

Safeguarding is judged separately as “Met” or “Not met”.

3. What Ofsted Will Look At -Schools will be assessed in:
 -

* **Inclusion**—There is a real focus on Inclusion—speaking to leaders about how pupils needs are identified and met across the school

Securing strong foundations for all pupils



* **Curriculum & Teaching** focusing on the 'strong foundations' which is needed for successful learning across the rest of their education.

* **Achievement** (the achievement and progress of pupils)

* **Behaviour & attendance**

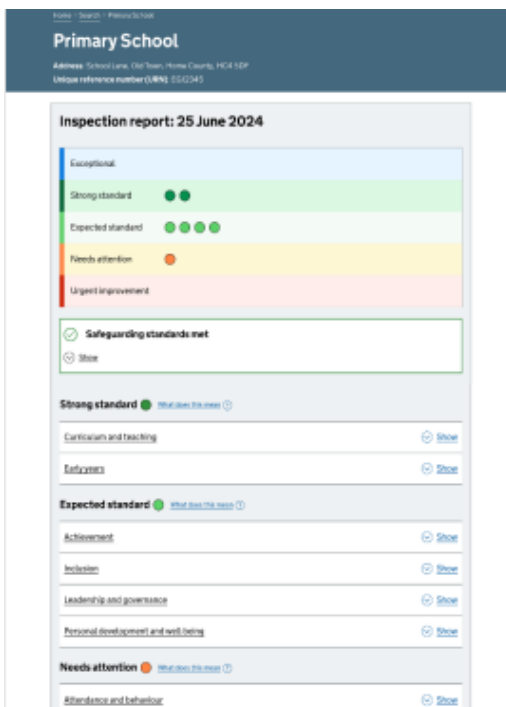
* **Personal Development & Wellbeing**

* **Leadership & Governance**

* **Early Years.**

4. **Clearer, More Informative Reports**—The new Report Cards will include short explanations of strengths and areas for improvement, plus the context about the school. ■ Colours ranging from red, for urgent improvement, to blue, for exceptional practice will provide a more visual overview for staff and parents.

5. The new Framework is said to be Fairer, More Supportive and inspections will be based on a collaborative approach with a continued focus on staff and pupil wellbeing.



Mrs Dean will be sending out Caterpillar and Nursery emails in the new year so we can begin to allocate Nursery places for September 2026. If you have not already filled out an expression of interest form on the website follow the link to ensure you get your chosen class and hours.

<https://www.farnboroughroadinfants.co.uk/topic/nursery>



Join us for a School Tour

Come and see what our Early Years provision has to offer

- 2 year old Nursery
- 3 year old Nursery
- Reception

Individual school tours available
9.30am, 4pm & 5pm

Book a school tour with
Miss Sephton on 01704 577637
or email
admin.fris@schools.sefton.gov.uk

Wrap around care available
7.45am till 6pm including holidays

Deadline for Reception Applications

If you haven't already made your application online for Reception 2026 please don't forget to do so by 15th January 2026.



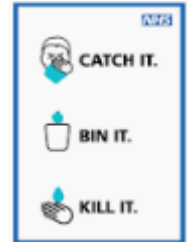
Best Class Attendance this week is :

98% Butterflies 99% Room 8

Well Done to all of the children in these classes.

Whole school attendance for the year to date is 96%. (National Whole School Attendance Expectation is 97%) and this week as been just 90%!

To stop the spread of winter germs keep encouraging children to wash their hands thoroughly and Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!



Remember if you are reporting absence to the school office please use.....

1. The Arbor APP

2. Email the absence email

Absence.fris@schools.sefton.gov.uk

3. A phone call /answer machine message

From September we have not being using PARENT APP—please delete this from your device.

Please remember to add a specific reason for absence not just unwell.

Thank you to Northwood for the wonderful Christmas donations for the Christmas jumper competition from the Christmas Fair.



northwood
Local knowledge, national reach

Working within the community for Farnborough Schools

Let Northwood **Sell** or **Rent**
Your Property in Support of
Farnborough Road School

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Giving back to the community
(Upon completion of a Sale or move in for a Fully Managed Rental of your property)

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Farnborough Community

T 01704 545657
E southport@northwooduk.com

Local knowledge, national reach





Elsa-Support Advent KINDNESS Challenge



You can do these in any order. Just tick them off as you do them.

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Compliment someone in your class or home | Make a Christmas card to make someone smile | Invite someone to play with you that you don't normally play with | Tidy your room at home or help tidy the classroom | Use your manners to say please and thank you at every opportunity |
| Use your smile to smile at everyone today | Let someone go ahead of you in line | Offer to help your teacher or family member | Offer to read to someone | Cheer up a friend by telling them a joke |
| If someone looks sad, see if you can help them | Make a paper chain of kind words and hang it in your classroom or home | Make a 'Get well soon' card and send it to anyone who is off school ill | Play a game with someone and show good sharing skills | Show yourself kindness by doing some exercise today |
| Feed the birds at school or at home | Make a present for someone by using your crafting skills | Draw a bauble, fill it with patterns and give it to someone to colour in | Have a feelings watch today where you notice how other people might be feeling. Can you help? | Leave a friendly note in a reading book or classroom book for someone to find |
| Teach someone a skill that you are good at | Paint a pebble with a kind message on it and leave it for someone to find | Make a Christmas decoration with a kind message to hang on the tree | Tell someone why you like them |  |

Elsie's Story Pop-up Shop



MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER
3PM, UNDER THE CANOPY

SINGLE CANDLE - £10 3 WICK, LARGE- £25



Donate your Christmas Jumpers!

Do you have any Christmas jumpers that no longer fit your children? We would love to give them a new home. Please send any pre-loved jumpers in to school and through your class teacher. We will put them under the canopy for you to choose from on Wednesday 10th December.

Children can wear their Christmas jumpers with their uniforms, trainers and Santa hats on Friday 12th December.

Children can wear their own clothes on their Christmas Party Days

Nursery and Reception Wednesday 17th December

Year 1 and Year 2 Thursday 18th December.



Does your child use a Dummy?



Babies like to suck, so dummies can help to soothe at bedtime or when your baby is tired or cross. But regular and extended use of a dummy, particularly in toddlers can create problems with your child's speech.

- * It is important that you try to wean your child away from dummies, preferably by 12 months.
- * Start to reduce the dummy when your child is 6 months old. Reducing the use of the dummy

1. Gives your child a chance to build up the muscles in their mouth (e.g. moving their tongue), babble and talk

Dummies can prevent babbling— and important step in learning to talk.

Remember learning to talk can be tricky and needs lots of practise

Discourage the use of a dummy during the daytime when your child can practise chatting and use their language skills.

2. Is better for the growth and position of your child's teeth

3. Reduces the risk of colds and ear infections

REMEMBER always take the dummy out when your child is trying to communicate with you.

If your child is over 12 months old and still has a dummy it is important to try to make a clean break

Christmas is a time of year in which children can be persuaded to give their dummies to Father Christmas or the reindeer .



The Last Noo Noo is a good book to read at bedtime. You can lend a copy of this book from our Caterpillar class or Nursery classes.

Key points

It's up to you to decide when it's time for your child to stop using a dummy.

Start by limiting the times your child can use the dummy e.g. certain times and places like their cot/ bed

Then use the dummy less and less when re-settling during the night

Set a date for no more dummy. Celebrate and reward your child when they let the dummy go and don't go back!

AI Chatbots and companions

A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available, many are rated as 18+ so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them. Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are Character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

What are the risks?

- Over reliance on AI companions, for example they may replace 'real life' friendships or over reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

New Technology

As some children may be receiving new technology or related games at Christmas, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.



Games/Consoles

- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games. *Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.*
- If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child.
- On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for popular devices here:

Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Nintendo Switch: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-2-Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-2873385.html>

Tablets/Smart phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android Device: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

The Safety-First Smartphone

The Other phone is a new smartphone, which includes "SafetyMode" software. The software automatically blocks nudity, profanity, and bullying language in real time. You can find out more here: <https://otherphone.co.uk/>.

Smart Phone Free Childhood also list some alternatives that you could consider here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>.

Please note, that the inclusion of these models does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation. While these devices may provide a 'safer' alternative to traditional smartphones, there are still potential risks associated with children using any type of phone.

Roblox

Following a recent ITV investigation*, which found extremist content on Roblox, we thought we would provide a reminder of what you need to be aware of. Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. A lot of the content is user generated, which means not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls. PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is considered a platform with a huge level of user generated content.

What should I be aware of?

Game content – as mentioned, users create games so the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child. Roblox label content based on the type of content rather than by age. The labels are Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted.

Chat Facility - Players can chat with each other (users under the age of 13 need parent permission to access certain chat features though). You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only able to communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories.

How do I report abuse and block users?

This article outlines the different reporting facilities:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410-How-to-Report-Rule-Violations>

What else can I do?

Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and remind your child that if anything is worrying them, then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/roblox>

(*Source: <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-11-14/mosque-attacks-and-far-right-skins-roblox-teens-exposed-to-extremist-content>)

Signal Private Messenger

Signal is rated as 13+ on the App store. It is a messaging app, where users can text, send voice messages and photos plus participate in group chats and calls. There are no parental controls currently available. As with all messaging apps, the risks can include bullying and viewing inappropriate content. Find out more here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.12.25. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership.

Discord

Discord is a social networking app originally designed for gamers but is now used by lots of different people to chat to each other online. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. The App store rates it as 17+.

Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server, and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups. Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat whilst playing the game (rather than using the game's own chat facility). In-app purchases are available through Discord's subscription service called Nitro.

How can I make it safer?

Discord have created a Family Centre, which provides further information about what Discord is, as well as information about different safety settings available:

<https://discord.com/safety-family-center>

As always, we would encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use Discord and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It is important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord as well as inappropriate language. Discord have produced this article, which answers frequent questions: <https://discord.com/safety/360044149591-answering-parents-and-educators-top-questions>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/december-2025-primary/>