



Farnborough Road Infant School

'LEARNING, CARING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER'

Newsletter 8 13th January 2023



Welcome back to all our returning Farnborough families. Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you all had a lovely break at this special time of year. Welcome also to all our new children and families who started school last week. 2023 promises to be an exciting year at Farnborough Road Infants and we look forward to working in close partnership with you in the coming months.



Would you be interested in a role within our school?

We currently have vacancies for Lunchtime welfare assistants

6.25 hrs per week or supply work.

Please ask for an application form at the school office

We also have many volunteers in school please contact me if you /or grandparents have any spare time.

ECO NEWS



On Friday 20th January, we will be learning all about the red squirrel and how it is threatened in our local environment.

Our Farnborough Eco-Councillors have been busy making some beautiful squirrel artwork for our Eco board and will be presenting some facts about red squirrels in our year group assembly.

If you wish to make a small donation to support the Red Squirrel Survival Trust, why not visit their website and online shop? [https:// www.rsst.org.uk/store](https://www.rsst.org.uk/store).



FUN FACTS ABOUT RED SQUIRRELS

The bushy tail of the squirrel can be up to 9.8 inch (25 cm) long and serves as a control vane. While the squirrel is hopping from branch to branch it can correct its "flight path" with its tail.

Squirrels are said to often forget the locations where they have buried their nuts. It is likely that they use their sense of smell to find them.

However, some of them do end up developing into tree sprouts in springtime.

Give your child the very best start to their education

We are now taking applications for our Nursery classes for September 2023.



We are extremely proud of our 2 year old and 3 year old Nursery provision at FRIS. We can offer provision for 2 year olds for up to 15 hours – funded or paid places. Our Caterpillar Nursery continues to be very popular with our families and those new families in our community. If your child is aged between 1- 2 years and you are interested in a place for your child in our Caterpillar class, please fill in an expression of interest form at the school office to avoid disappointment.

In our 3 year old Butterflies and Ladybird Nursery we can provide:



- * Wrap around care from 7.45 till 6pm,
- * A choice of sessions to suit every family's needs;
- * 30 hours, 15 hours, top up sessions or choose your days
- * A qualified teacher who provides a curriculum which ensures our children get the very best start to their education and is ready for school.

We have already started to contact our parents for their preferences of sessions for September. Classes will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

If you would like a school tour, or know someone who would be interested in our nursery, appointments can be made via the Infant school office on 01704 577637.



WE NEED YOU!

Come and join us
for our next PTA
meeting on:

Friday 20th
January at 2pm in
the meeting room in school.



Please ensure you inform the school office on the first day if your child is ill through the school APP or by responding to the text.

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 9th January is Room 5

Whole school attendance for the year to date is 93.8%

Deadline for Reception Applications

If you haven't already made your application on-line for Reception 2023 please don't forget to do so by 15th January 2023 even if you attend our nursery now or have siblings in school already. <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/school->



Our school values are:

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



Parents Meetings 1st and 2nd February

We will be using the online booking system Teachers to Parents to book a face to face appointment for you. Links for booking the appointments will be sent by email and/or text. Appointments will be for 10 minutes with your child's class teacher and there is 1 appointment available per child. If you are unable to attend either date please speak to your child's class teacher as they may be able to see you after school on an alternative day. Please ensure that the office is kept up to date of changes to emails or phone numbers so you don't miss out on your appointment.

Parent Governor Election



We currently have 3 Parent Governor Vacancies on our Governing Body. So far we haven't had any nominations and Nominations close on Monday 16th January at 10am. Nominees need to be proposed and seconded by other parents and who need to add their details and sign the form. Nominees should also prepare a short biography.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Junior School are having a major roofing repair starting at school on Monday 23rd January 2023.

A large scaffold will be constructed around the whole of this building and the work will continue until around Easter time. I would like to make you aware of the following:

- The school will operate as normal with all children using their normal entrances and exits.
- All health and safety considerations have been carefully checked by suitably qualified staff from Sefton. Our site will remain a safe place for everyone to visit throughout this period of construction.
- Car Parking spaces will be even more limited. Staff are being allocated a space based on a strict criteria and we need all families to keep to the rules. Our car park remains out of bounds for everyone unless there is a blue badge or a permit. Both schools will increase supervision of this area to challenge people who are using the car park without permission.
- Morning access for Fun4Kidz will also be problematic and we ask that everyone does everything they can to reduce congestion at this busy time. If you can park and walk the last few metres, please do so.

I will keep you up to date with any further information as the project progresses.

Thank you for your continued support

Important Dates for the Half Term 1

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd February Parents Meetings

Wednesday 1st February

Class Photos

Week Beg 6th February Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 7th February

Toast Cafe

E-Safety Talks Year 2

Thursday 9th February

PTA Discos

Friday 10th February

We love our community event- Cancer Research

Break up for Half term

Monday 20th February

Back to School

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Online Safety Newsletter

January 2023

Broadband set up

Have you set up appropriate settings on your broadband/Wi-Fi? Most broadband providers include parental controls for free as part of their broadband package, which means that any device that connects to your Wi-Fi will be protected by any controls you set up. Find out how to set yours up here:

Sky:

<https://www.sky.com/help/diagnostics/sky-broadband-buddy/sky-broadband-buddy>

BT:

<https://www.bt.com/help/security/how-to-keep-your-family-safe-online-with-bt-parental-controls-an>

Talk Talk:

<https://community.talktalk.co.uk/t5/Keeping-your-Family-Safe/bd-p/kfs-hub>

Virgin:

<https://www.virginmedia.com/broadband/parental-control>

Remember, children may have devices that use mobile data, so they won't always be connected to your wifi. Ensure you set up parental controls on these devices too.

Further information:

<https://safeinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parental-controls-offered-by-your-home-internet-provider>

Test Your Internet Filter

SWGfL have created a tool to test your filtering to give you an indication that your broadband is blocking certain categories. Access it here: <http://testfiltering.com/>

Minecraft

Check the age ratings: Minecraft is rated by PEGI as 7+ or 12+ depending on which game version you are playing. The App store rate it as 9+ and the Google Play store rate it as 10+.

It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Minecraft does include a chat facility, which adds further risks of seeing inappropriate language/content. This can be switched off.

Minecraft remains ever popular and can be a great learning tool that is often used in schools to teach planning skills, recreate famous buildings in 3D and coding. Players use building blocks (a bit like Lego) to create their own worlds.

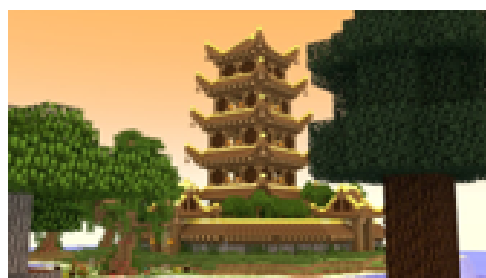
Which mode?

You can choose between Creative or Survival mode - creative mode removes the survival elements of the game (no mobs appearing at night) so may be a more appropriate mode for your child to play.

What else do I need to be aware of?

- **Multiplayer** – children can interact with others (including strangers), you can switch this option off within settings or choose to play offline.
- **Block and report players** – if your child is playing with others, make sure they know how to block and report players within the game.
- **Additional purchases** – be aware of in app purchases and the purchase of additional items (skin packs) to support (although not needed) game play.

In addition, protect your child's privacy by using a nickname (don't include their age/birth year) rather than their real name for their profile and chat to your child to make sure that when playing online they know not to share personal information.



Also, make sure they know they can talk to you or a trusted adult if anybody or anything is making them feel uncomfortable.

Do not forget to make sure you have set up appropriate parental controls on the device your child is using to play Minecraft as well.

Further information

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-minecraft-safe-for-children/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 1.1.23.

Our school values are:

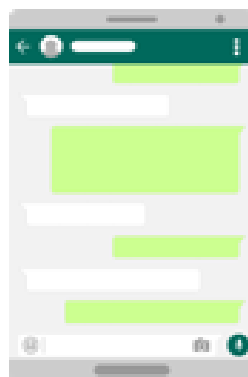
COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE HONESTY RESPECT and LOVE AND KINDNESS

WhatsApp

You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages, voice notes, photos and videos.

What are the features of WhatsApp?

Group chats: One of the key features is the group chat function. Everybody in the group, even if they are not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. *If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.*



In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups, for example, you can change it to 'my contacts', which means that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group. You can leave a group chat at any point so talk to your child and encourage them to leave any chat that makes them feel uncomfortable. You can leave groups silently (only the admin will be notified).

Location sharing: you can share your location on WhatsApp. Talk to your child about when this would be appropriate to use but also the potential danger of sharing their location, for example with strangers.

Blocking/Reporting: Show your child how to block and report.

Online Bullying: WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, e.g. to send nasty messages or share images of other children without their permission. It is important to have regular chats with your child about their online life and that they understand that they must talk to you or another trusted adult if they are being bullied. This is a helpful article from Family Lives, which talks about what to do if you are being bullied: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/bullying/cyberbullying/what-to-do-if-you-re-being-bullied-on-a-social-network>

Disappearing messages: With disappearing messages, you can control how long a message can be seen for before it is deleted – 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days (once set, this will only work for new messages).

View once messages: when sending a photo or video, you can set it so it can only be viewed once by respondents. Screenshots are also blocked when using this function.

Choose who can see your profile pic and when you're online: In settings (privacy), you can choose who can and can't see when you're online and your profile pic. You can choose either Everyone, My Contacts, My Contacts except and nobody.

Further information

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

Whizz – Make new Friends App



Whizz is a social networking platform and is rated for 'Teens' on the Google Play store and as 12+ on the App store. It is free to download but does have in-app purchases ranging from £0.89 to £44.99.

Users swipe through the app to find people who are currently online and who they would like to chat with. **Users will be chatting with strangers, which can present risks.** Internet Matters have produced advice around chatting with strangers here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/connecting-safely-online/advice-for-parents/tackling-the-hard-stuff-on-social-media-to-support-young-people/chatting-to-strangers-online/>

Is YouTube safe?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. You can access the article here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/>

TikTok refresh

Parent Zone have worked with TikTok to produce a series about safety when using TikTok. You can find out more here:

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



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