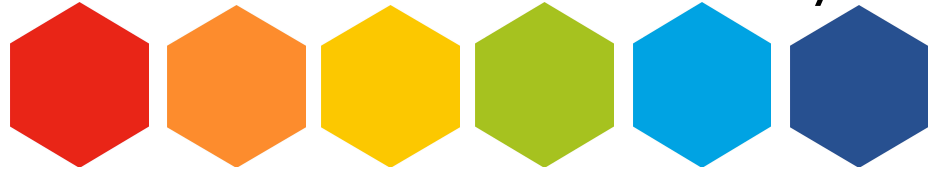


Curriculum News



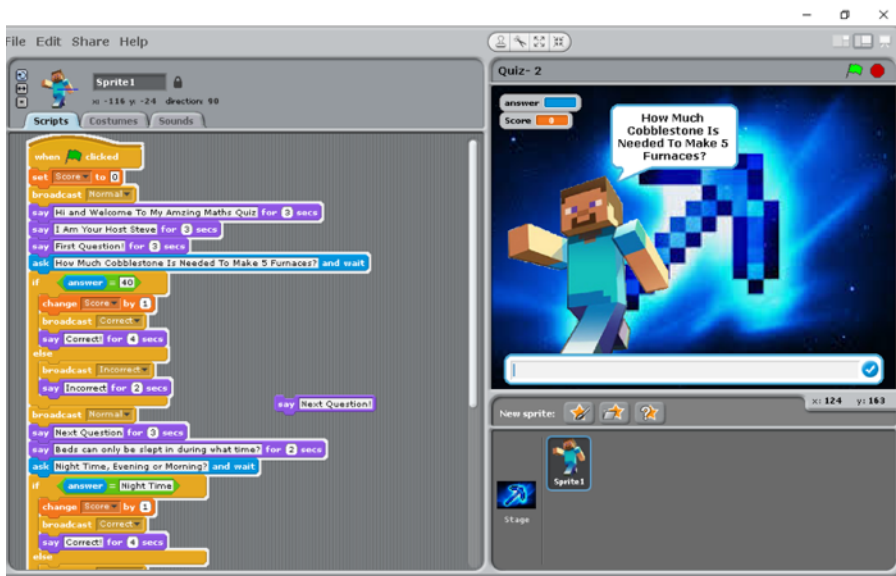
February 2017



Farfield coding partnership drawing national attention

This academic year, we have been delighted to welcome lots of volunteers from Lloyds Bank's IT division to support Mrs Carney delivering the coding curriculum in Years 4-6. Each half term, the children get two afternoons to work on a coding project in groups of twenty.

Coding can be very rewarding but also 'fiddly' and frustrating - especially if there is a small error that is hard to spot! Having one or two volunteers from Lloyds in each session is really helpful as it provides that extra support, particularly at the problem-solving stage. Our volunteers have joined us as part of the [Code Club](#) initiative but we are using the volunteers in an innovative manner that has drawn attention nationally; we are being visited by Lloyds and Code Club leaders on March 27th to see the partnership in action and discuss whether we have a model that can be replicated elsewhere.



This half term, Year 4 will begin to learn the basics of coding by making racing games in Scratch, Year 5 will be transfer some of the computing skills they have learnt through Scratch into the text programming language Python and Year 6 will continue with more complex modding in Minecraft (using Python). Children are enjoying using our new mini computers called [Raspberry Pi](#).

Ofsted due a visit?



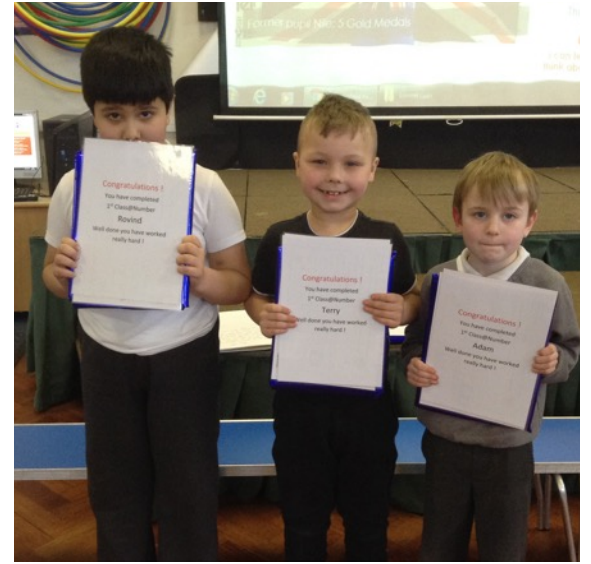
We are well over-due a visit from our friends at Ofsted and they have inspected at a number of local schools recently. Parents are invited to give their views of the school at any time using the [Parent View](#) website. We will email you the night before they are coming, but if you would like to complete the short survey now, that would be very useful.





First class!

It was great to see the pride and success of children that were 'graduating' from a new maths programme in Year 2 called '1st Class @ Number' that has been expertly delivered by Mrs Kenny. Last week, the children shared some maths games that they had created with their peers and it was fantastic to see their progress and confidence. Well done!



Training Days

Families will be relieved that the 5 training days for this academic year have been completed. In the two recent training days, our Nursery and Reception staff benefitted from a very thought-provoking two day course on 'Developing Quality Interactions' with a tutor from [Early Excellence](#). Other teachers benefitted from a session on 'Bar Models' from the [Maths Hub](#) and a day on strategies to improve reading comprehension.

Five annual training days are statutory for teachers and support staff may also attend where appropriate.



Religious Education visits continuing this term

The cultural diversity, warm relationships and tolerance at Farfield are things we value, celebrate and welcome. We are delighted that our programme of visits to places of worship continues this half term with Years 2 and 5 visiting a mosque. This visits follow similar trips to a church, a synagogue and a gurdwara. This rich series of visits greatly enhances our RE curriculum. We want our children to be well informed and empathetic: crucial qualities in the modern world.

Nearly £500 raised for Leeds Children Heart Surgery

Our Wear Red Day and activity raised about £450 for the Leeds Children's Heart Surgery campaign. Many thanks for all the support.

Meals get vote of confidence (but we can do even better)

Many thanks for the 278 responses to the Lunchtime Food survey - our best ever response. I really appreciate the time spent contributing these views and the good sense in almost all responses. The detailed results will be considered by school council, the kitchen, lunchtime staff, senior leadership and governors. If you would like to see a summary of the results, [click here](#).

Headlines include:

- Over half of children almost always or usually like the school meals (with higher proportions than this amongst younger children)
- Food is usually promptly served and appropriately hot
- A large majority of children get the right amount to eat but some still feel hungry (despite the availability of some seconds, fruit and yoghurts).

We will try to take on some of the suggestions; our favourite was the slightly random: "Turn the school into a party house!" If any children say they are still hungry, they should politely ask for some more - this isn't Oliver's orphanage!

It is difficult to please everyone all the time. I can respond to a few recurring points here:

Why isn't there more choice of main meal?

We will see if we can offer an element of choice. We moved to 'family service' set meals nearly a decade ago. This was partly because the previous system was very slow: queuing up with a tray and shuffling through the dining room. Children preferred to have a meal that was served more promptly so that they could maximise playing time. We also wanted to try to ensure that children have a balanced meal as some of the self-selected meals were rather bizarre and not particularly healthy.

Why are there so many fruit sponge/crumble type puddings?

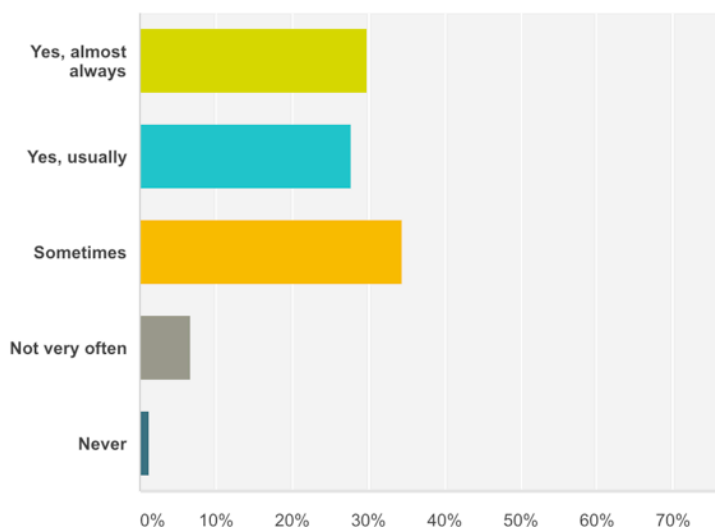
Although [school meal regulations](#) have relaxed somewhat since we started family service, there is still a stipulation that at least twice a week the pudding needs to be at least 50% fruit. A lot of these puddings are left uneaten so we will try to rethink this.

Some of the most commonly requested additions to the menu were macaroni cheese, soup and lasagne. We can't do chips as we don't have a fryer and don't have oven capacity to do over 250 portions of oven chips (they take up a lot of room).

Claire and her kitchen team do a great job, cooking most things from scratch. I can personally recommend school meals as I have them every day (it is part of my job to monitor all sorts of standards across the school!).

If you do have school meals, do you generally like them?

Answered: 151 Skipped: 124



School News



Sex and Relationships Education decisions



Many thanks for the great response to our SRE consultation. Governors have considered the [responses](#) and we will implement the proposed plan (with some small amendments to the content and resources determined by the governors):

Year 2: Boys and Girls; Families

Year 4: Growing up and Changes (inc puberty)

Year 6: Healthy Relationships; How a Baby is Made

Parents of children that have already moved on to high school might recall the live birth film previously used: this will no longer be shown. It was decided that we would teach a single Y6 lesson relating to contraception - the pill and condoms in relation to their obvious disruption of the science of conception - but we would only make passing reference to STIs or HIV in relation to condoms or if asked by the children.

More details are on [the website](#).

Typically, each proposal had an approval rate of 80-90%, with about 10% of parents less supportive of the plans. It will be especially important for those parents to attend briefing meetings offered before these lessons take place in Years 2, 4, 5 and 6. In this first year of the implementation of this new planning, both Years 4 and Year 5 will take part in the sessions relating to puberty. Year 5's lessons will take place towards the end of this half term.

On 9th March, Year 6 will also take part in a theatre-in-education event called [Mr Shape Shifter](#) that seeks to help young people keep themselves safe from any potentially abusive relationships with adults.

Facebook group for Farfield parents

Did you know that there is Facebook group for Farfield parents? This group is completely independent from school and is a good place to 'meet' other parents, particularly for mums, dads and carers who might not be present on the school yard. You can visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/175183735897093/> and request to join.



Staffing News

We are sad to be saying goodbye to two members of staff this half term:

Emma Weir, the Children's Centre Manager, is moving to Australia! Vicky Evans will be 'acting up' for up to six months whilst we review arrangements.

Julie Simmons, previously our SEND Support Worker and Learning Support Assistant, is leaving the school after her support role was made redundant due to budget constraints.

We would like to thank both these valued colleagues for their important work with children and families and we wish them the very best of luck for the next stages of their careers and adventures! Sally Wray is joining the school on a temporary basis covering some of Julie's current roles.



30 hours a week in nursery?

From September 2017, many parents of three and four year old children will be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare in nurseries rather than the current 15 hours. This could have a big impact in our school nursery and we are considering our options. We expect to send out an online survey to all the prospective parents that are on our waiting list, asking if they eligible for 30 hours and whether they would like to take it up. Potentially, this would reduce the numbers of places we can offer - a child staying for 30 hours would, effectively, take two of the current 15 hour places. We are also exploring the level of flexibility that we might be able to offer. Information about the 30 hour scheme can be found [online](#).

Farfield wins the lottery (sort of)

We are delighted to have been successful in our requests for some capital support from Leeds City Council. This summer, the junior building will get new boilers and heating controls whilst the infants will get phase 1 of a three year project to completely re-roof the building. These works (and others) are well overdue and are a welcome boost for the school. Expect the infant building to be scaffolded for each of the next three summer holidays.

We are particularly pleased to get this support as so much capital money has been otherwise cut or diverted to academies and free schools. Annual capital funding for individual maintained schools was cut by about 75% a few years ago. Sorry if we look a bit shabby at times, showing our age: the infant building is nearly 50 years old and the junior building is now over 60 years old. The National Audit Office shares our concerns: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>





Sports News

Last half term, our U11 football team qualified for and took part in the Leeds finals at Leeds Utd Thorp Arch training ground. We were amongst the best 10 teams from across Leeds and, although we didn't win the competition, we did secure a memorable 4-0 win against pre-competition favourites Horsforth Newlaithes.

Year 1 attended a big PE competition at Farsley AFC against the other Farsley schools. The blog report was justifiably entitled: ['We are the Champions!'](#)

Mr Tiffany took lots of children to a local Cross Country event. 6 teams were taken from Y4 - 6 and the results were as follows: Y4 girls, Y5 girls and boys and Y6 girls qualified for the Leeds final on March 2nd. Y6 boys missed out by a couple of points and Y4 boys tried hard but weren't quite able to make it. Ty and Keanush claimed wildcard Y6 boys entries. Ty was the overall winner.

There are many more sports competitions this half term including a large number of football matches, a cheerleading competition, netball matches, a tag rugby event, the cross country finals and a Year 4 games festival. KS2 PE this half term includes options for cheerleading (Y3 and Y6), Gaelic football and gymnastics at Gym Magic (Y4), cycling with our partners East Bradford Cycle Club (Y5) and [Tchoukball](#) in Y6.



Mr Tiffany at the Menin Gate

Over half term, Mr Tiffany made another visit to the battlegrounds of the First World War; this time he went to Ypres. Whilst he was there he [blogged](#) for his class and lots of children asked him questions about WW1 and his visit. During the visit, he had a particularly special moment. He reported: "This evening, I had one of the greatest honours of my entire life. I laid a wreath on the Menin Gate on behalf of the children of Farsley Farfield with students from Leeds Trinity University and the University of Cumbria."



Mr Tiffany leads history in the school with passion, energy and expertise.

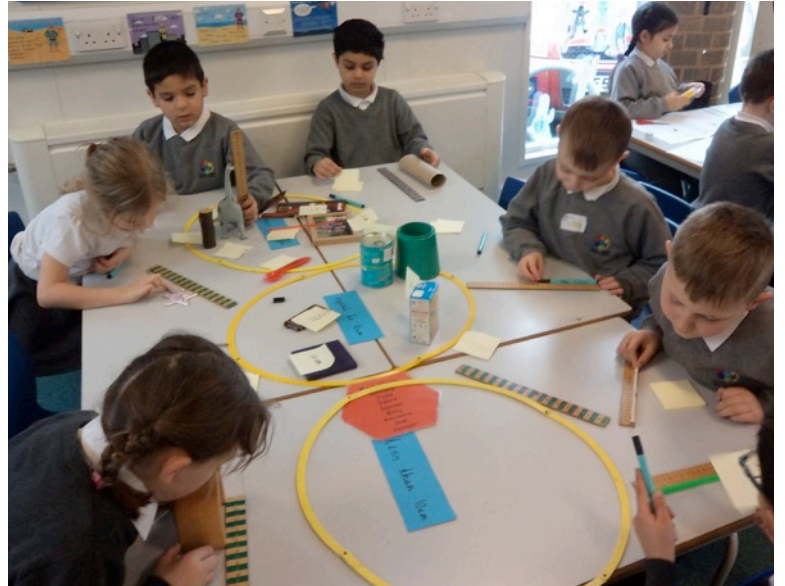
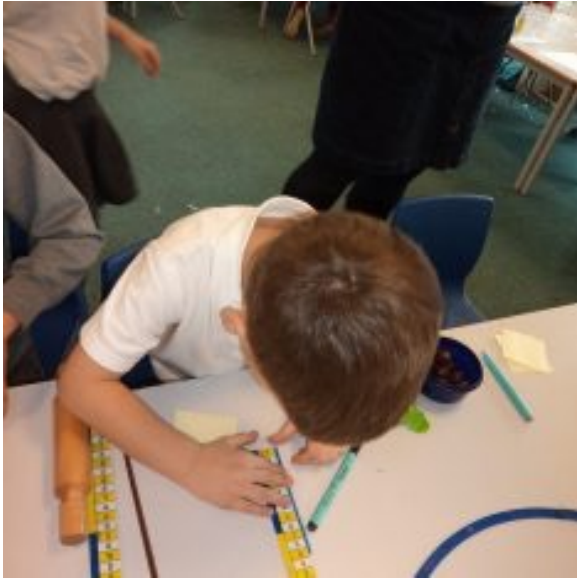
School News





Measuring in Year 1

Year 1 have been learning to measure using cm and use language such as short, shorter and shortest.



This is what engagement looks like: Year 1 enjoy learning to measure in cm.

The children went on to use their measuring skills in a Measurement Mini-Olympics!



The class blogs are a great way to keep in touch with what is going on in class, support learning at home and make a collection of your child's photographs as they progress through the school.



Year 2 and the 1960s

Year 2 really seemed to enjoy their half term with the topic '[The 1960s](#)'. They had an energetic workshop and family performance day, looked at artefacts from the period and had visitors come and talk about what life was like at the time.



Friends and family brought the topic to life. Many thanks!



These might be in fashion again!



Where's the screen?

Feel the Force in Y3

Sometimes a lesson just 'hits the spot' and if that is a Friday afternoon then that is a bonus! 3D were buzzing as they came down to Special Mention assembly late on Friday afternoon (Mrs Daniels as well as the children) after a science lesson on magnets just captured the children's imagination. The children used their magnets to make objects move and designed a racetrack for their 'cars' to travel around! A magnet was then placed under the racetrack and metal objects were then timed whizzing around the tracks. Later, on the Y3 blog, Elsa described it as: 'The best science lesson ever!'



Mr Harris
Head teacher

School News

