



This is a good school - official

After 5 years and a term, OFSTED finally paid us another visit and confirmed what we already knew: Farsley Farfield is a good school and the “**curriculum has outstanding features.**” Our children’s behaviour was good and often exemplary, teaching was good, children achieved well and we have “successfully built upon the good outcomes reported in the last inspection report.”

We have some work to do to make more teaching outstanding, address the needs of the less able more consistently and ensure all marking meets the standard of the best. We will also have a whole school campaign to further improve handwriting and presentation.



Links with parents were described as outstanding as exemplified by the huge numbers of parents contributing to the online ParentView website. Many thanks for your positive feedback and kind words of support before, during and after the inspection. It is very much appreciated.



Exclusive gold lego in multiples of 10 in Year 2

An innovative approach to expansion

The school is increasing its intake from 50 to 60 and this is gradually working its way up the school.

We need another classroom for September 2013 when there will be four classes in Y3/4 compared to the current three. This additional classroom will be created in the current IT suite. To compensate us for this, we have struck a deal with the council to provide the funds for us to have a huge upgrade of our wireless network infrastructure and two class-set trolleys of new laptops. This investment will be in place for September and may be supplemented by additional equipment, including tablets, funded through a lease. This all represents an exciting opportunity to further develop our e-learning provision in school. We would eventually love to have one device per pupil. Is there scope for a home/school partnership to fund these?

Thirty more school places are required in the Farsley area in the next few years; these are likely to be delivered in the centre of the village but discussions are still on-going.

A bright future for Farfield Farm?

Farfield Farm has been over-whelmed by applications from families to take on small plots of land - inside and out - and volunteers from Barclays have worked very hard to create lots of new raised beds in Polytunnel 2 for this new scheme. The sun has started shining and the children have begun sowing seeds. We have also received 40 rhubarb plants from Farsley rhubarb farmer Derek Proctor; we plan to celebrate this local food proudly every year with our own rhubarb festival in 2014. Happy Days!



Significant cuts to come for Farfield's budget

As forewarned in a previous newsletter, Farfield has been hugely disadvantaged due to new changes in arrangements for funding schools. Despite OFSTED noting that "The school is on a split site", the council and DfE have concluded that we are not. This one measure will cost the school £38k per annum whilst other bizarre changes, including taking no account of the size and age of buildings and grounds, will eventually cost us another £60k. The combination of measures will eventually leave us up to £100k per annum worse off compared to last year, and perhaps £200k worse off than if we were still two separate schools as they are in the village.



Mr Gove's 'simple' approach to funding is hugely disadvantageous for Farfield

We have already complained to ministerial level and have had meetings with the highest echelons of the council - all to no avail. Governors are now considering their next move - are there radical options that could provide a more financially advantageous future?

Parents should be reassured that the 'Minimum Funding Guarantee' currently means that a school's budget can only be cut by up to 1.5% per year so these changes would take five years for full effect. We will not be sitting back quietly and allowing that to happen.

Thanks for your financial support

The school has a proud history of supporting charities. Already this term the children have raised well over £300 for the Leeds Children's Heart Unit and Red Nose Day is coming up very soon! Thank you for your support.

Trips continue to enhance the curriculum

Educational visits continue to be an important part of Farfield's curriculum offer and even during the winter months we have been out and about. Reception have been to the West Yorkshire Playhouse to see a production of Sleeping Beauty and to the local parish church to role play a wedding! Y5/6 have been to the National Media Museum in Bradford to learn about animation and about the history of the internet. Y3/4 have been to the Discovery Centre in Leeds to see behind the scenes of a museum and get hands on in their history curriculum. Before Christmas, KS1 visited the Leeds City Art Gallery. We have many more visits lined up for the warmer months...



Mr Harris had his own trip to London and met a celebrity. Can KS2 children identify 'him'?



Year 2 at the art gallery



A Reception wedding party at the parish church.
Many thanks to Rev Tudge



Y5/6 learning about the history of the internet

Have you visited the blogs yet? The quality of work on display is simply superb. Please do try to visit and leave a message - the children (and staff) will be delighted!

<http://ffks1.primaryblogger.co.uk>

<http://ff34g.primaryblogger.co.uk>

<http://ff6w.primaryblogger.co.uk>



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