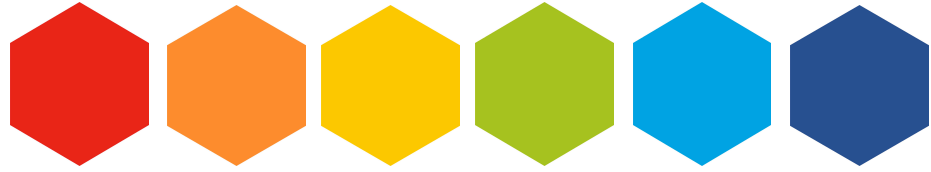


# Curriculum News



January 2015



## Nursery Vacancies

Unusually, we are projecting a few vacancies in our fabulous school nursery from September 2015. A school nursery offers much more highly qualified staffing than almost any other private nursery and benefits from the wider facilities and grounds of a school. It is a great start to early education.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in putting their child's name down for a Farfield nursery place, please call Diane on 0113 2058133. Please also call for further information or a tour of the nursery and school with a member of the school's leadership team. <http://www.farsleyfarfield.org.uk/nursery/>



## Microsoft Office - free for our families

As a result of one of our subscriptions, the most recent version of Microsoft Office will be available for free for all of our families with children in KS2 (Y3-6). To take advantage of this offer, you must be running a reasonably modern operating system - Windows 7, iPad or Windows tablet. Look out for your user name and password, and further details, in a letter soon. Thanks to Nicole Gilhooley for her support/nudge on this!

## Children Centre Manager change

Sadly, Sue Warwick, our Children's Centre manager, leaves at the end of February. Sue has done a superb job, leading the centre with distinction from its very inception. She will certainly be missed and leaves with our very best wishes for the future.

Sue's successor will be Emma Goulthorp who has previously led children's centres in Leeds and elsewhere for the charity 4Children. We are delighted with this appointment and Emma should be able to start before the end of February, thus allowing some valuable 'hand-over' time.



Farsley Farfield  
Primary School



The greatest glory in living  
lies not in never falling, but in  
rising every time we fall.

Nelson Mandela

## Growth Mindsets

“Imagine you have been given an envelope.

Inside this envelope is a magic Smartie.

If you eat this magic Smartie, you will  
always find tasks that you take on easy.

Take a moment to think about this,  
then decide what you want to do.

A – Eat the Smartie?

B– Leave the Smartie in the  
envelope.”



This half term the whole school is working on ‘Growth Mindset’ approaches to learning. A series of assemblies, led by Mrs Fisher and Mr Wilkinson, are challenging our beliefs about ourselves, the brain and our capacity to learn new things. Based on the work by Prof Carol Dweck, the whole school is thinking about the actions needed to be resilient and tenacious life-long learners. So far we have learnt about the brain and created ‘brain hats’, been inspired by stories of perseverance and this week we had a very special, inspirational visitor to assembly: champion juggler Matt Tiffany!



A key element of this work is recognising that mistakes are a crucial, and welcome, part of the learning process and that feedback should be acted upon. At Farfield, we greatly value the time and effort that teachers put into written feedback and you will see children from Y1 upwards responding to this in green pen or pencil. They will also improve or ‘up level’ their work using green pen and leave their teachers messages as a form of self assessment.

This term, we have introduced the term ‘Marvellous Mistakes’ and these will be celebrated as great learning opportunities. We have also banned the phrases “I don’t understand this,” and “I can’t do this!” and replaced them with: “I don’t understand this **yet**,” and “I can’t do this **yet**!”

## How much EFFORT do you put into your work?



Another key element to this work is the idea that it is the effort and process of work that we will try to praise and focus upon rather than the final outcome. This will be reflected in marking, reports and things like 'Special Mention' nominations.

Back to the Smartie conundrum. This is what a child with a 'Growth Mindset' said when offered the chance to take the 'Magic Smartie':

"From the start when we were introduced to the Smartie challenge, my mind was one hundred percent made up that I would choose option B—leave the Smartie in the envelope; here is why I made such an immediate decision.



First of all, for me the most important point is that anything you can do with a magic Smartie you can do without one. The only difference is that you wouldn't have the same sense of satisfaction, achievement or pride as a person without a magic Smartie in their success of a challenge. (And of course the amount of effort and practice they put in).

Can you imagine passing an exam without going to school? Wouldn't it bother you that in some ways you cheated? For some people they would still eat the magic Smartie but that would mean you would never be stretching or growing your brain by setting yourself goals that you can work towards and hopefully achieve. Altogether, although it would be a nice idea, I'm glad there isn't a magic Smartie!"



Alisha Y6

You can follow this work on a dedicated blog: <http://ffgrowthmindset.primaryblogger.co.uk/>





**Life is not meant to be easy  
my child; but take courage:  
it can be delightful.  
George Bernard Shaw**

## Farfield Cafe

Sadly, Farfield Cafe Village closed at Christmas. We are currently clearing the space and reviewing future activity in the area. If you have any ideas for the space, or would like to discuss making some use of it, please email Mr Harris. We would like the space to continue to be used as a cafe of some sort - perhaps self-service - and we are keen to identify any new partners in this. Look out for further news after February half term.

## Training Days

The Training Day in January gave us the opportunity to update first aid training for twenty of our staff. This is in addition to the handful of staff that are more highly qualified in first aid. You will be pleased to know that there are no more training days this academic year.

## Extended time for Pudsey Civic Car Park

Members of our parking scheme can now park from 3-5pm in the Pudsey Civic Car Park to allow for after-school clubs.

## A 'real artist' in Year 1 inspires pupils

Inspired by local glass artist - and Farfield parent - Kate Park, the children in Y1 showed skills and tenacity beyond their tender years as they crafted glass art work. Working to their own designs, the children used tweezers to carefully create their pieces. The children had a wonderful time, and this work will be featured in the forthcoming Year 1 art gallery on 13th February.

For more information, look at Kate's website – [www.twicefired.co.uk](http://www.twicefired.co.uk)



## Blog survey

Many thanks to the 180 parents that responded to our surveys about the class blogs. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and they are clearly valued by most families. We have some ideas for future development based on your feedback. Occasional comments are very welcome as they give children (and staff) an audience and feedback, but please don't feel pressurised to comment every time something is posted! Please do post links on to extended family to widen the blogs' audiences. [www.farsleyfarfield.org.uk](http://www.farsleyfarfield.org.uk)