

Curriculum News

September 2013



Welcome back to school!

We hope that you all enjoyed a glorious summer and are ready for an exciting new school year. We are especially pleased to welcome all our new families and children to Farsley Farfield.



Farsley Farfield Primary School

School News



Our New Farsley Farfield Learning Hive

"Behaviour is good overall and is often exemplary in lessons. Pupils are polite and friendly... Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted well."

OFSTED report Feb 2013

We agree that the behaviour of most children is already good but we think it could be even better!

The staff have been working hard over the summer developing the concept of 'The Farfield Learning Hive' which pulls together key aspects of a child's development in our school and will be the basis of new rewards and sanctions systems in school.

We will be making use of a new online system called 'Class Dojo' which will also make your child's summary behaviour records available to you online. We will be writing/emailing you about this again soon.

Watch out for the 'Learning Hive' graphics appearing across the whole school over the coming months. Weekly ethos statements, linked to the six key 'Learning Hive' themes, will be promoted widely and shared with families. We hope that home and school can use a common language with the children to encourage the positive behaviours and good learning habits that we all want.



The Farsley Farfield Learning Hive



Presentation policy

Another key focus this year is to improve the standard of presentation in children's work. We are publishing key standards and expectations for each year group. Some children might struggle to meet these expectations at first but we will be there to help them every step of the way.



Exciting IT Developments

During the holidays, the ICT suite was converted into a huge new classroom and Miss Dormand and 5/6D are its lucky first occupants. We now have mobile IT, with a trolley full of new laptops in each building and a significant number of iPad minis.

Work on the final part of our expansion should begin next Easter with a new classroom being built in the area currently occupied by the tatty green modular building.

We have had a new, robust high capacity wireless network installed in August that should provide the infrastructure that we require. The council, as part of our expansion agreement, has funded most of this project and we expect our use of IT in the coming year to be even more imaginative and exciting. Mrs Carney is going to be recruiting 'Digital Leaders' from amongst the children to support the school with this. Later in the year, we will showcase our work with iPads for parents and discuss the possibility of 1:1 scheme.

Training Day

Our next training day is on **Wednesday 2nd October** when staff will be spending a full day on using the iPads to enhance teaching and learning from the internationally renowned trainer David Kirtlan.

After School Clubs

Most extra-curricular after school clubs will begin in week 3 of this half term.

Look out for the separate clubs brochure being published soon.

Volunteering

We are grateful for the super contribution that we have had from a range of volunteers last year: from company group volunteer days to regular individual volunteers that have supported in class, with reading, in cooking, during PE, in a club, with the youth club or on the farm. Thank you so much!

Could you volunteer this year? If you are an existing volunteer, please contact the member of staff that you are working with. If you are a new volunteer, please contact Mr Cooke in the first instance: cookedg01@leedslearning.net or via an office. A key project could be around the Conservation Area in the infants. We may arrange a Saturday session for this, or would your company release a team of volunteers?

SATS Results



Year 6 SATS Results

Last year's Y6 children did very well in their SATS tests. Our performance compared to other schools will be published later this year, but the headlines are:

- **88%, 81% and 84%** met or exceeded the expected level 4 standards in reading, writing and maths respectively.
- **65%, 26% and 51%** met or exceeded above average level 5 standards in reading, writing and maths respectively.
- In the new Spelling, Grammar and Grammar tests, **74%** met the expected level 4 standard, whilst a superb **60%** achieved level 5.
- Well over **90%** of children made the expected 2 levels of progress.

The number of children attaining level 5 standards is particularly impressive and we expect the 'value added' statistics for this cohort to be excellent.

Well done everyone!

Our Key Stage 2 SATs results for recent years are as follows:

Percentage of Children Attaining Level 4 or above *(national expectation or above)*

Subject	2008	2009	2011	2012	2013
English	83	86	76	84	88 Reading
					81 Writing Overall
					74 Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar
Maths	89	96	79	92	84

Percentage of Children Attaining Level 5 *(above national expectation)*

Subject	2008	2009	2011	2012	2013
English	39	30	38	60	65 Reading
					26 Writing Overall
					60 Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar
Maths	30	52	43	48	51

There was a successful SATs boycott in 2010. From 2013, the government changed the literacy testing and there is no longer an overall English grade for Y6 pupils.



Focus on Science

A key focus of our school improvement work this year will be science.



We are going to be reviewing our science curriculum and engaging in even more practical work. We will be taking every opportunity to make use of our fabulous school grounds and develop them further for wildlife, recreation and study. We will be looking for even more science-based educational visits and we will be seeing how our ipads can make learning about science, and communicating our ideas, even more exciting and fun!

We will also be part of the 'Think Science' network of six schools working with the University of Leeds and the National Science Learning Centre based in Sheffield.

School News



Pets' Corner

Mrs Simmons is developing a little 'Pets Corner' in the infant building and a new guinea pig is the latest addition, joining rabbits and other guinea pigs. I wonder what his name might be...? We also have two new gerbils in class 1GJ. What next?



Brand New Café based at Farfield

The Village @ Farfield Café had a very successful opening event just before the end of last term. We hope that our school community can support this local business. A successful café will provide an indirect income to help us to sustain the farm project. Regular opening hours are to be confirmed shortly but they expect to be open regularly by the end of the month after some minor building work in the kitchen area has been complete. Good things come to those who wait...





Birthday sweets

It has been a tradition for many children to bring in sweets on their birthday. I would like this to stop please. This will save families money and reduce litter around school. If you would still like to recognise your child's birthday with the class, perhaps a book donation could be made to the class library?

Super Summer Harvest!

It has been a wonderful summer and the farm has already provided lots of produce. Things have really progressed over the holidays and lots of children will be harvesting fruit and vegetables in September and bringing produce home – we hope that you enjoy it! The pumpkins in the Access Garden are looking impressive!

Mrs Lenton has made some superb blackcurrant jam and spicy courgette chutney from farm produce over the summer and it is available to buy from the junior reception; profits towards the farm project.



Holiday Club enjoyed harvesting activities in August. The cucumbers were huge!



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