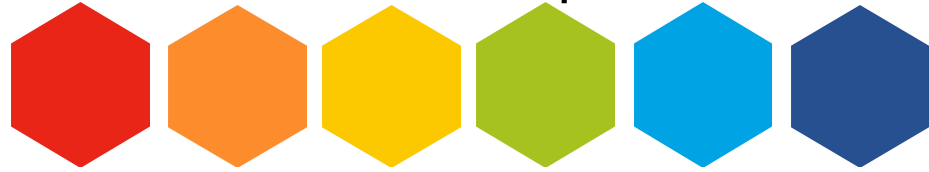


Curriculum News



September 2017



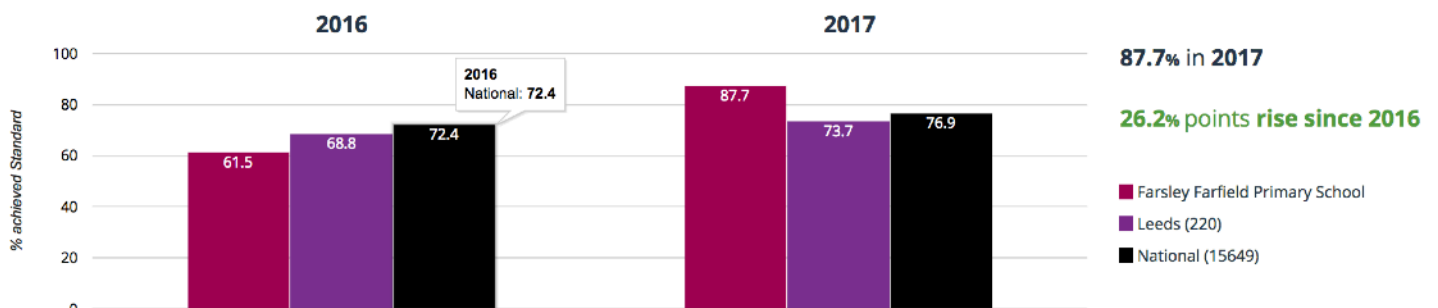
Academic success across the school

2016-17 was a successful year for the school and we are confidently looking forward to even better results in 2017-2018.

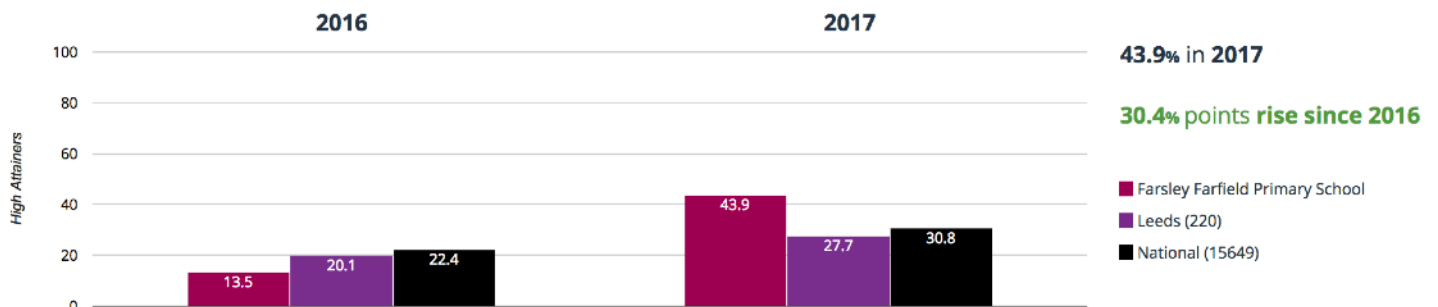
We have already reported our best ever Y1 Phonics test results: the 88% pass rate was well above national average and much higher than we have ever got before. Year 2 SATs results were very pleasing too: a rise in every measure and particularly strong in reading and 'Greater Depth' measures in reading, writing and maths. Well done everyone!

In July, we got our KS2 Year 6 SATs results. These, too, were improved in every measure compared with 2016. The most spectacular improvements were in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling:

% Children reaching expected standard in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling



% Children reaching *higher* standards in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling



Improvements in Y1 Phonics and in 'Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling' were targets last year and these results show what we can achieve. This year, we aim to particularly improve results in maths. Our forthcoming training day on October 20th is on Reasoning and Problem-Solving and we are also introducing some new, intense maths interventions into KS2 following the success of 1st Class @ Number with a group of Y2 children last year. Onwards and upwards!

An exciting late addition to the teaching team..

We made a 'deadline day' signing of a new teacher on the last day of term. Anticipating a doubling of our PE grant, and to facilitate an increase in leadership capacity, we have welcomed Nick Little to our team. Nick is an experienced Foundation Stage teacher with a specialism in PE. He will be further enhancing our PE offer in KS2 and delivering PE alongside colleagues in KS1. He will also be working in RH on Fridays and almost every day with Year 2 readers.

Nick's real passion is athletics and we are working on plans to develop running in the school. I wonder if families might be interested in a 'daily mile' (or part thereof) at 8.30 each morning? Do we have parents who might like to help Nick lead such an initiative?



Mr Little: so fast, his hair has to be streamlined

Mr Little joins four other great new teachers who have now joined the school having been recruited earlier in the year:



Miss Micklethwaite



Mr Clay



Miss Bray



Mr Beevers

New support staff

We are very pleased to have made a number of very strong recruitments to our team of talented support staff. Jamie Gregory, Brittany Kear and Andrea Birk-Telford have joined the team and will be working primarily in the Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) in the first instance. These new support staff are primarily employed to provide support for children with medical or special educational needs. Sadly, the number of general support staff, especially in Key Stage 2, has been reduced as a result of core school funding being frozen. This leads us on to...

Volunteers

Could you, or anyone you know, offer some volunteering time to school? Volunteering is good for the recipient and good for the person doing the volunteering: some GPs even prescribe volunteering to their patients! It can be rewarding, relaxing, good experience, fun... We are **very keen** to recruit more volunteers to support our work in school. We would welcome support with reading, cooking, PE and the farm. We could even reward a farm volunteer with a poly tunnel plot of their own... General support for the KS1 PPA curriculum on Friday afternoons would be especially welcome. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Spencer in the South Office: janet.spencer@farseyfarfield.org.uk

'Fuel for School', harvests and sale of KS2 cooking produce



It's tricky remembering what to bring to school on each day: PE kit, homework, reading book... Do you remember to pack supermarket plastic bags?

This year we will be continuing with '[Fuel for School](#)' and farm stalls every Tuesday and Wednesday after school outside the old cafe entrance near the Junior pedestrian gate. This supermarket food has been intercepted to prevent it going to landfill. It is usually around its advisory 'best before' date but still perfectly good to eat. Every week, my family gets one or two great value meals from the stall: what about yours?



Children working on the farm that afternoon help harvest and set up the stall

The stall will be supplemented by harvests from Farfield Farm (lots of apples and plums coming) plus any appropriate left-overs from school meals and any suitable produce from the KS2 cooking curriculum. **This half term it will be fresh tomato sauce for pasta made with tomatoes, onions and herbs harvested from Farfield Farm: there's a cheap, quick, healthy tea for the children!**

All proceeds from this stall go to support Farfield Farm. Please note: The Fuel for School scheme costs the school £2k per annum so please try to donate up to 50% of what you might otherwise expect to pay so we can at least recoup our costs. I have heard of families donating coppers for catering-size bags of pasta which isn't really the idea... If a family is really struggling financially, we can make exceptions. We generally visit [the warehouse](#) on Wednesday afternoons if any family would like to share a lift there in our minibus to do some quick shopping.

More livestock on the farm?

We will soon be getting up to 20 new chickens for the farm after two bouts of 'unpleasantness' over the summer further depleted our flock. If any families would like to sponsor a chicken (£8-12), please contact me: peter.harris@farsleyfarfield.org.uk Also contact me if you would like to look after the chickens during weekends.

We could be more ambitious. We have plenty of space, already fenced, for goats or pigs (or their smaller variants). If we were to keep these, we would, ideally, work in partnership with a family or families who would like to use our site to fulfil a dream... This sort of arrangement has worked superbly well with our bee hives, but mammals would need a greater commitment. Our children and farm staff could look after them during the week, but the link families would need to visit at weekends and holidays. We could probably help with the capital set up. Contact me if you are interested...



School News



Grounds development planned

The infant and junior trim trails had to be removed as they were showing their age and weren't sufficiently safe. We are allowing these areas to regrow some grass before using them again.

We are working on plans to replace some of this play equipment, but it won't be 'like for like'. We have some school money, a generous parental donation and we hope to secure some funds from the PTA but this sort of equipment is very expensive. We hope to provide a good degree of challenge and have equipment that supports development of upper body strength.

Meet the Teacher

There will be a informal chance to 'Meet the Teacher' and look at classrooms and books on Wednesday 20th September after school. The first Parents' Evenings will be 7th and 8th November. Please contact your child's teacher at any time if you have any concerns.

Improvements to the buildings and the grounds over the summer

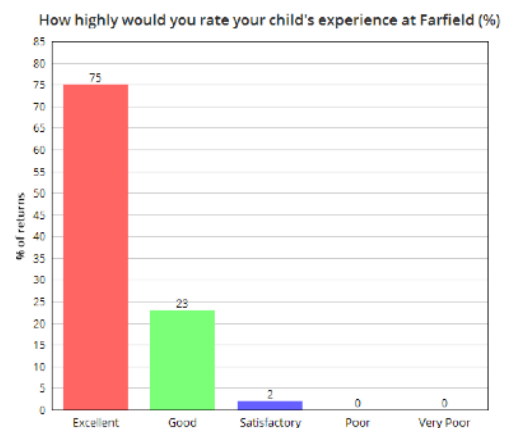
We had a lot of contractors on site over the summer and we have benefited from considerable investments by Leeds City Council. The front third of the infant building has had a new roof put on (to be continued for the next two summers), and the juniors have had new boilers and central heating controls installed.

We have also had decorators in many classrooms (especially in the juniors), new flooring in 1B and nursery plus repairs and improvements to fencing. We have some smart new signage coming soon.

Parent survey

Many thanks for the 270 completions of the Parent Survey in July: other schools are really surprised and envious at our returns rate. The data is overwhelmingly positive and, where isn't, has given us some things to think about and try to improve. The results are being considered by governors this term.

Mr Harris, on behalf of the governing body



Winner
Healthy school of the year

