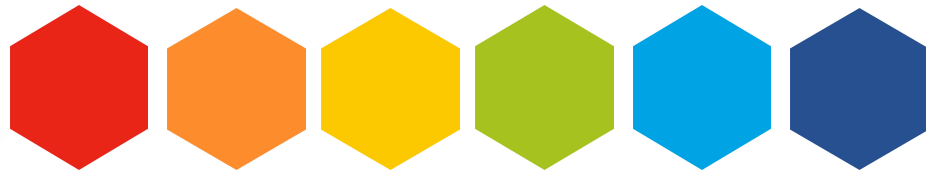


Curriculum News

July 2014



End of the school year - what have we achieved?



As we reach the end of the school year, it is a time to reflect on what we have achieved as a school this year. I am pleased to report rising educational standards at KS1, higher proportions of children gaining level 4 at age 11 and even improved results for our 5 year olds! More broadly, I have been delighted by the breadth of curriculum delivered in school and the quality and quantity of educational visits and off-site experiences that we have been able to offer our children. Much of this is detailed in this newsletter.

I have been pleased with the embedding of the new Farfield Hive and the positive personal and social attributes that it promotes. I have been so proud of our children on so many occasions this year: their good citizenship raising money for charities, musical performances, skill and determination in a host of sporting competitions and their commitment to their learning. I have been very proud of the new class blogs and the super professional practice that they showcase.

My staff now deserve their break. I would like to put on record my gratitude for all their hard work and I would also like to thank parents and governors for all their support this year. Have a great summer,

Peter Harris
Head teacher

Academic success across school

Children and staff have been working hard and making good progress.



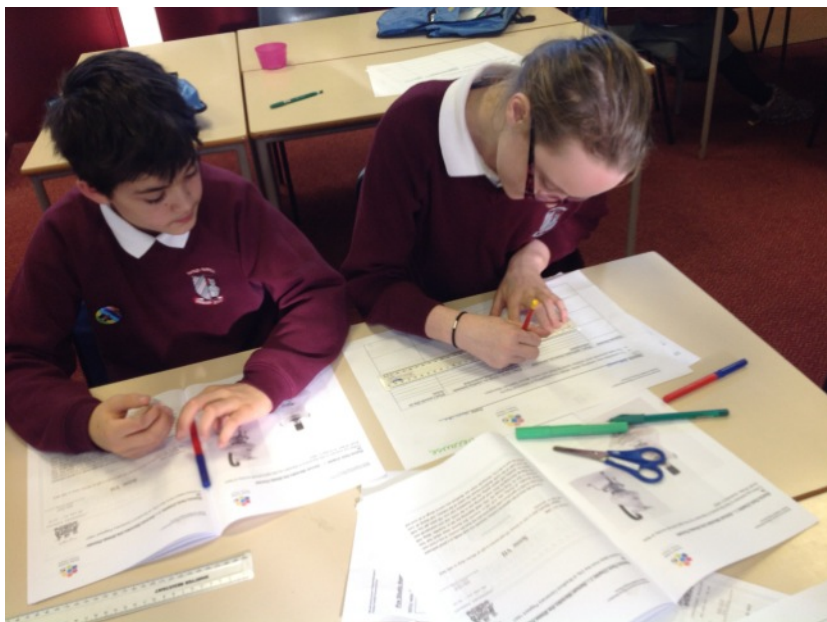
KS1 (Year 2)

Our KS1 SATS results (Year 2) are the best for many years and much higher than 2013.

90% of children achieved the national expectation of 2b or better in reading, 87% in writing and 88% in maths. 22% of children attained very high 3b standards in reading, 10% achieved the standard in writing and 17% in maths. Those children who haven't quite reached 2b standards have nevertheless generally tried hard and have made pleasing progress. It is particularly positive to see that this cohort of boys has achieved very well.

Congratulations to all the children, their families and KS1 staff.

These infant standards, especially those attaining 2b or better, are likely to be well above national averages.



KS2 (Year 6)

It has been another good year for end of KS2 SATs too.

The percentage of Y6 children reaching the expected standards of level 4 have increased in all areas compared to 2013: 92%, 87% and 87% in reading, writing and maths respectively.

The percentages of children attaining level 5 remains high in reading (over 53%), rose a little in writing (to 28%) but fell in maths to 25% - our main disappointment. Lots of children attained 4a or 4a+ but just missed out on the level 5 score that we had hoped for. A few children attained level 6 standards in writing and maths. 75% of children attained the expected level or better in the new Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar test, with half of this cohort exceeding this and attaining level 5. Over 90% of children made the expected two levels of progress since Year 2 (similar to last year).





Well done to all the children and the KS2 staff. Most of these results are likely to be higher than national averages.

Progress in years 1, 3, 4 and 5 continues to be generally good according to our internal assessment. Those children who may not have made the expected progress will generally be targeted for additional support next year.

The governors, senior leadership team and I will do more analysis of this data in the autumn term when national and local benchmarks have been published.

Key Stage 2 assessment summary table

Subject	Farsley Farfield	National (2013)
Level 4 Reading	92% (+1% on 2013)	86%
Writing	87% (+6%)	83%
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar	75% (+1%)	74%
Maths	87% (+6%)	85%

This table shows level 4+ attainment that Farfield achieved at the end of KS2 SATs for 2014 compared to the national average attainment across the country. These results are above national average.

Subject	Farsley Farfield	National (2013)
Level 5 Reading	53%	45%
Writing	28%	30%
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar	49%	48%
Maths	25%	41%

This table shows how Farfield compares nationally with children attaining level 5+ (above their expected age).



There's more to life...



I make no apology for focussing on standards in literacy and numeracy for the first few pages of this newsletter - this is very important. Thankfully, though, we appreciate that there is more to life and we have had some fantastic educational visits over this half term including: Nursery to Hesketh Farm; Reception to the Sea Life Centre in Manchester; Year 1 to Skipton Castle; Year 2 to Bridlington; Year 3 to Harlow Carr Gardens in Harrogate; Year 4 to Magna in Sheffield; and Years 5 and 6 to Malham in the Yorkshire Dales. Haven't we travelled far?



New staff joining Farfield

We are delighted to welcome a number of new members of staff to school in September: Beth Sedman to teach in Y1, Stuart Tiffany to teach a Y5/6 class and Lauren Dempsey (right) as a Learning Support Assistant in KS2.



Building work in KS2

Our new classroom should be more or less finished by the time we return to school in September. Regrettably, this work will result in the main foyer area being darker. This classroom will be occupied by a Y6 class in September 2015. In the meantime, it will be used for group teaching.



End of year goodbyes

It is with regret that we say goodbye to the Year 6 children and a number of staff. We would like to put on record our thanks to Miss Dormand, Miss Stephenson and Mr Ingham for their work and we wish them the very best of luck in the future.

School Uniform

Uniformity on Town Street in Farsley are now stocking smart grey jumpers with our new hive logo. They also have some tempting offers on the old uniform. Either badge is acceptable for the foreseeable future.



School Meals

From September, Farfield is taking responsibility for its own school meals service. All children in Reception - Year 2 will be entitled to a free school meal. We will be increasing our expenditure per meal on ingredients and investing in the kitchen and the dining room experience. The charge for KS2 meals will remain £2.00 for a tasty, 'home-cooked' two course hot meal prepared to high nutritional standards. We would strongly recommend the school meals to everyone - why not give them a try in September?

Camp Over Success

The Camp-Over in June was an amazing success! 200 people camped and another 250 were day visitors. The weather was perfect and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The Friends of Farfield PTA made about £800 and could be able to make more than that with experience if it were to be repeated. Well done and thanks to Diane and her team.



School Improvement Priorities

School Improvement priorities for next academic year include:

- Implementation of a new national curriculum
- Enhancement of subject leadership
- Further improvements to school meals
- Accelerated progress in maths for certain children and groups in KS2

Volunteers - making a difference

Regular volunteers are very important to us. They help us to deliver a more exciting, creative curriculum and provide valuable additional support in, and out, of the classroom.

This year we are sadly saying goodbye and thank you to a few long term volunteers who have worked with us for many years:

- Mrs Thornton and Mrs Holloway have been hearing readers in KS2 for 14 years. Mrs Holloway is moving away and Mrs Thornton is having a well-deserved second retirement
- Mrs Heaton has been volunteering in junior cooking lessons and, like Mrs Thornton, is having a second retirement and hanging up her pinny (although we will probably still see her in school)

Firstly, I would like to thank all these volunteers - and so many more - for their fabulous work and wish them all the best for the future. I am full of admiration for people who commit their time and volunteer; they are truly 'good citizens'.

Secondly, I would like to ask if there are others out there that would like to join our team of remaining volunteers in September? We have 'vacancies' including:

- General classroom support, particularly in the afternoons. We would particularly like additional support in Y3 (Tuesdays or Thursdays) or Y5 (on Mondays), but support in any area of the school would be welcome.
- Supporting KS2 groups on the farm (under direction of two other staff) during afternoons any days Mon-Thurs
- Supporting KS2 groups in cooking lessons (under direction of one other member of staff) during afternoons any days Mon-Thurs
- Hearing readers (across school) at any time

You might have your own ideas for other volunteering; please let us know!

Volunteers would need to complete some paperwork and a safeguarding briefing. There might also be a little training as appropriate. We would hope that you would find the time rewarding and enjoyable.

Does this appeal to you or someone else you know? If so, please contact Janet Spencer on 0113 2058130 or email janet.spencer@farsleyfarfield.org.uk



Many thanks for your on-going support and I hope that you have a great summer.

See you on Tuesday 2nd September.

Mr Harris on behalf of the governors

