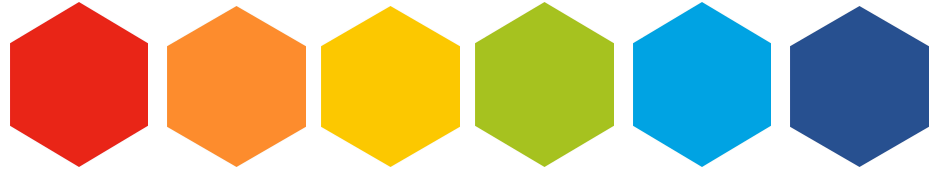


Curriculum News

November 2015



Maths Journey booklets

We all perform better in life when we know what is expected of us. With this in mind, we have published three 'Maths Learning Journey' booklets for children and teachers to work through and track progress. Different children will work through these at different rates, but the expectation for almost every child would be to have completed their 'maths journey' by the end of their time at Farfield.

The 'First Steps' maths journey is for Nursery and Reception, the second is generally for Years 1-3 and the third is for the remaining time in the juniors.

At Parents' Evening, we will distribute Maths 'Must Do' sheets of objectives for each year group for parents to keep at home. These are also available on the school website.

Families could keep a copy of Maths Journey booklet at home too, if they wish, and support their child and school by working towards the milestones. To get a copy for home, ask at either reception or download your own copy from the curriculum section of the [website](#).



Assessing without Levels

As explained in the previous newsletter, the government has abolished national curriculum levels for Y1-6.

No longer will a teacher tell you that a child is, perhaps, a level 3b in maths or level 4c in reading. Instead, we will be able to discuss whether your child is working towards, within or beyond age-related expectations. In reports and at parent evenings, it is hoped that there will be a more in-depth discussion of a child's achievements and areas for development rather than pre-occupation with opaque levels and points of progress. These new age-related expectations are a significant challenge for most children and we must all recognise that the age-related expectations are for the **end of the academic year** rather than the start.

By the end of the year, we will be in a better position to make a more summative judgement about attainment and progress, but in the first half of the year the emphasis is on celebrating achievement thus far and accurately identifying next steps in learning.



Farsley Farfield
Primary School



Maths Day and fund-raising for UNICEF

We are delighted to report that the penguin-themed World Maths Day raised a fantastic £1700 for UNICEF and the Syrian refugees. This sum will now be matched by the government. Well done to everyone involved.

Year 5 all 'geared up' for Lego learning

In the last week of last half term, the Y5 children went to the Lego Lab at Crawshaw Academy. They built a vehicle with a very complex gearing system (9 combinations) - this was a really tough build (as staff will agree!).

The children looked at how different gearing combinations produced different speeds and worked on different gradients. They learnt that a small gear meshing with a large gear makes a vehicle travel more slowly than two medium sized gears. A second visit is planned for this half term to build upon this learning.



Early sporting success

Already this academic year, Farfield has taken part in a number of sporting events and competitions. 26 children from Y6 took part in a brilliant triathlon event at the John Charles Centre for Sport. It was hosted and organised by Alistair and Jonathan Brownlee, the Olympic Triathlon gold and bronze medallists through their Brownlee Foundation. A squad of 29 children from years 4-6 competed in the cluster cross country competition at Farnley Academy running up to 1.5km. All the children did well with Y4 coming third overall, the Y5 teams coming first and the Y6 boys coming 2nd, with Sam being the overall winner. Well done!



After the first 6 matches of their season, our football team are top of their local league, whilst our rugby team begin their season this Friday at Stanningly RLFC.



New staff

Miss Sarah Ingle has joined the staff, working in Year 2.

Burglary - Hallowe'en fright!

Sadly, the school farm was broken into on the night of the Hallowe'en Disco. In the middle of the night, criminals pulled down a fence panel at the back of the school and cut their way into the main farm garage. The final bill for damage and losses will be in excess of £10,000. Almost all our professional grounds equipment has been stolen as well as the ATV and trailer. Please bear with us as the grass gets longer and hedges go unclipped for a while...

Harvest success

Many thanks for all the donations to Harvest Festival. The collected tins and packets are going to St George's Crypt.

Thanks too to the farm staff - Brian and Becky - and to all the children for their hard work over the course of the year preparing the ground, sowing, transplanting, caring for the plants and harvesting. This year, Years 5 and 6 will be visiting and working on the farm throughout the winter months ready for sowing again in the early spring. They have Jerusalem artichokes to harvest in the new year and a number of crops attempting to 'over-winter'.

Training Days

Our training day in October gave teachers the opportunity to practise using a new application called Classroom Monitor that we are using to help us to assess without levels. Our next training days, on Tuesday 15th December and on Monday 4th January, are for minibus training and child protection refresher training respectively.



School News



African Drumming in Years 3 and 4

We have an exciting addition to the curriculum in lower key stage 2: African drumming. In groups of 20, the children will have a dozen 40 minute drumming (or related 'Boomwhacker') sessions led by Ms Howells over the course of the winter. Watch out for performances posted on blogs over the coming months.

Many thanks to Calverley Parkside school for lending us their drums in the first instance.



First Aid in Years 3 and 4

Some lessons in first aid have been added to the Y3/4 curriculum. Focussing initially on what to do upon discovery of a conscious and unconscious casualty, the sessions are being led in very small groups by our Junior school first aider Mrs Hawkhead.

Barclays Volunteers

In October, fifteen fantastic volunteers from Barclays spent the day on Farfield Farm, bringing with them £500 of investment. They achieved a huge amount in 6 hours: replacing a number of rotten raised beds, building lots of new growing areas and transforming the fruit cage with marked paths. The PTA also contributed £200 towards materials. Many, many thanks go to Sarah and her team.



Does your company encourage volunteering like this?

Volunteers working alongside a group of children from Y5

PTA dates to remember

Don't forget the PTA Table Top Sale on Sunday 8th November 10-12 (infants building) and the Quiz on Friday 27th November.