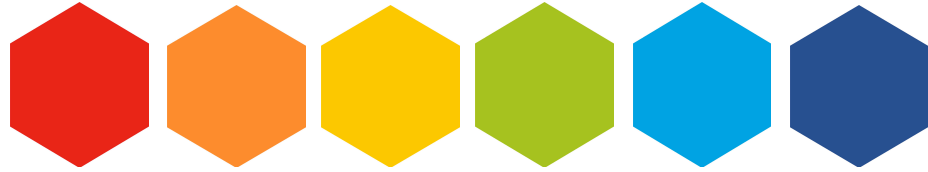


Curriculum News



October 2016



Farfield wins Leeds PE award!

Our school has won the Active Schools Leeds 'Delivering High Quality Physical Education – Innovative Curriculum PE Award 2016' at a glitzy ceremony at the John Charles Centre for Sport. Farfield was represented by David Cooke and Stuart Tiffany and they were presented with the award by Olympic athletes Jack Laugher, Yona Knight-Wisdom and Jonny Brownlee. This is a prestigious award and is recognition of the great work done by our PE leaders (David Cooke and Amy Hutchinson), our teachers and support staff. We should also remember the tremendous support that we get from voluntary partners such as East Bradford Cycle Club and other partners such as Next Generation Football, Rawdon Tennis Club, The Depot and Gym Magic. The combination of KS2 'Speed, Agility and Quickness' sessions and a menu of PE options including off-site provision particularly caught the judges' attention.



Mr Cooke and Mr Tiffany
receiving the award

Another element of our outstanding practice is the amount of Outdoors and Adventurous Activities work that we do including activities on our school grounds, visiting facilities such as Herd Farm and Fanwood, and our two adventurous residential in Y5 and Y6 at Ribbleshead and How Stean Gorge respectively. Our innovative curriculum would not be possible without the PTA's support for our fleet of minibuses and the complex administration by Rachel Hawkhead. Well done to all!



Children from Y4-6 represented the school very well at a recent Cross Country competition. Y6 girls won their competition and Ty Bowker was the Y6 boys winner!

For more information about Farfield's PE you can visit:
<http://www.farsleyfarfield.org.uk/pe/>

This year, the school is entering many more competitions against other schools, particularly in football where we have entered teams at U9, U10 and U11.

<http://www.farsleyfarfield.org.uk/sports-results/>



Investment in our youngest

Over the summer, we invested in the Foundation Stage and Year 1 to further improve the learning environment. In the Reception classes, we now have new flooring and resources including a huge sand area and two storey role play area in Miss Hutchinson's class. Outside, we have lots of brilliant new 'Community Plaything' blocks. In Year 1, the outdoor space has been transformed and the children are really enjoying having some time there.



This is what good practice looks like in the Early Years: immersion in learning through play.



Year 1 are delighted with their revamped outdoor space!

School News



Olympic Honour

Over the summer, I am sure that everyone is aware that Farfield 'old boy' Nile Wilson secured a brilliant bronze medal at the Rio Olympics.

School News



Nile visited the school in September and brought with him his weighty medal. We were delighted that Nile's sister Joanna came too as she also had exciting news from August as she was accepted to study at Cambridge after attaining superbly at A level.

We are proud of both of these former pupils and they are inspirational role models for our current pupils.



PTA News

Our new minibus is finally due for delivery in early November; we will park it in an accessible spot for a day or two so parents can see the results of the PTA's fantastic work!

The first PTA event of the year is the annual Quiz Night on Friday 11th November. This licensed event is always an enjoyable evening and the kitchen will prepare a delicious chilli supper. Get together as a team or come and meet new people on the night.

Next year's camp-over date is confirmed as 1st July 2017. Please do get it in your diaries now! Mr Sharp and Sebastian are already booked as the evening entertainment after their impressive debut last year! For many, this is the highlight of the school year so do please get involved.

If you aren't campers, don't worry. The 'Camp-Over' is like a mini festival and day visitors are very welcome. If you are new to the school, or haven't been before, please do take a look at the photos from previous years: [2014](#) [2015](#) [2016](#)

Other PTA events: Christmas Fair 7th December; Christmas Disco 13th December; Fashion Show 2nd February; Race Night 24th March.

Reasoning and Problem-Solving in maths

This year, one of our school improvement priorities is to improve the children's skills at reasoning and problem-solving in their maths work. Rote learning of number bonds and times tables is useful but can only get a child so far...

The children will be exposed to many more 'models' and representations of numbers and we will work to really embed this deep learning before moving on to other areas of maths.

Here are some reasoning examples from last half term (lower juniors):

Abdul says "If I add any two 4 digit numbers together it will make a 5 digit number."

Do you agree? Explain why.

When a number is rounded to the nearest 100 it is 200.

When the same number is rounded to the nearest 10 it is 250.

What could the number be?

Always, Sometimes, Never

- 2 odd numbers add up to make an even number.
- 3 odd numbers add up to make an even number.
- Adding 8 to a number ending in 2 makes a multiple of 10.

Children are being challenged to reason using their knowledge of number. The example from Year 6 (right) shows this well.

I happened to see a class struggle with this example. Almost all the children just wanted to do the calculation rather than reasoning that any multiple of 8 is even therefore 8541 divided by 8 must leave a remainder.



A 'part whole' model like this can be used throughout school; this one is from Year 1

Belle divides 8,541 by 8. She says

I know there will be a remainder before I start

Is she correct? Explain how you know.

School News



New opportunities for Key Stage 1

Whilst their teachers have their statutory Planning, Preparation and Assessment time on Friday afternoons, children in Years 1 and 2 are now enjoying some new curricular opportunities. The children are on a six week rota, in groups of 10, enjoying Religious Education, a nature walk, a food/cooking lesson and music in Year 1; and farming, a short local trip, RE, simple computer coding and a food/cooking lesson in Year 2.

Last half term, the Year 2 local visit was down to Rodley to see the canal, old bridge and river. The children particularly enjoyed exploding the Himalayan Balsam seed pods growing down there (but we did stress that it was an invasive plant that isn't really welcome!).

We are grateful to Zoe Briggs for her volunteering on Friday afternoons which really helps with this engaging curriculum. Are there any other family volunteers available on Fridays: we could do with help for farming, cooking, nature studies or accompanying visits off site?



Tutoring in Key Stage 2

As part of our 'Pupil Premium' work, we have engaged with [The Tutor Trust](#) and we now have 9 tutors from local universities - graduates and under-graduates - working with almost thirty children in Years 4-6 on a weekly basis for an hour's 1:1 or 1:2 tuition. The tutors are guided by link teachers and typically spend 30 minutes on maths and 30 minutes on literacy each week. The work covered will vary according to the child but might include a review of previous work and some pre-teaching of work to be covered the following week in class. The tag line 'Keep Up and then Get Ahead' is a good way of thinking about it for most children in the project.



We have high hopes for this intervention and we are pleased that The Tutor Trust are using our systems and arrangements as examples of best practice when engaging with other schools!

New maths intervention in Year 2

We are delighted to be starting a new catch up maths intervention in Year 2 from November: [1st Class @ Number](#). Delivered by Mrs Kenny, and overseen by Mrs Lace, this intensive programme will be delivered with just four children initially but may be extended to others in the future. This is another Pupil Premium-funded project.



Fuel for School: in bellies, not bins

Farfield is now part of the inspirational ['Fuel for School'](#) programme whereby food that was destined for landfill is intercepted from supermarkets and then supplied to families on a 'Pay as you Feel' basis. Most of the food is on or past its sell by date, but that doesn't mean it is bad or shouldn't be eaten.

Deliveries will be reducing from twice a week to just once a week from now on. Our new delivery day is now Thursday, so please do bring in plastic bags on that day and see what we have on offer - it changes every week.

'Pay as you Feel' does not mean the food is free. Clearly, if a family is in a desperate financial position, then they are welcome to take food for free, but for most families we would expect a reasonable donation - not least to try to cover the scheme's costs. Governors have agreed that any surpluses can be invested back into Farfield Farm for everyone's benefit.



Harvest

We have had a terrific harvest on Farfield Farm and it has been good to extend the regular farming sessions down to Year 2. It is easy to take Farfield Farm for granted, but it really is a locally-unique resource and our children do, generally, have a much better awareness of food and horticulture than most children.

Barclays Volunteers

Farfield Farm received a tremendous boost as 15 volunteers from Barclays, led by Peter Booles' father Tom, came to work on the farm recently (bringing with them, £500 of investment). They worked really hard repairing and building raised beds, creating paths and improving our rhubarb beds.

We are very grateful for Barclays' ongoing support of Farfield Farm over a number of years.



James and Mr Garlick struggle with a giant pumpkin at Harvest Festival

Farfield out and about...

The school year has only just begun but we have already enjoyed lots of exciting school trips.

Year 2 visited the Thackray Medical Museum to learn about nursing and, in particular, the story of Florence Nightingale.

Reception classes visited Blackhill Woods and found a Gruffalo as they walked... Can you spot him?

Year 1 classes have been to the Denso Nature Reserve near Shipley. The children did work on leaves and, in the afternoon, looked for 'Boggarts'. Once again, Steve was a tremendous host.

This year, we are trying to increase the number of visits to places of religious worship as part of our RE curriculum and to further improve mutual understanding between our children of differing faiths (or none). In November, Year 6 are visiting a Sikh gurdwara and other visits are planned for later in the year.

Staffing News

Sadly, Mrs Walker will be leaving us later in November. She has been with the school 14 years and has been a terrific teaching assistant, mainly in Year 1. She will be missed and she leaves with our very best wishes for the future.

We have made the following appointments:

- Alex Catto will be joining the school on a permanent basis, having previously been employed through an agency. He will continue working in Years 1 and 4.
- Amanda Ruddiford will be joining us as a learning support assistant in Year 1, moving from an academy in Bradford.
- Becky Dobson will be joining us as a learning support assistant in Year 2, moving from Westroyd School.



School News

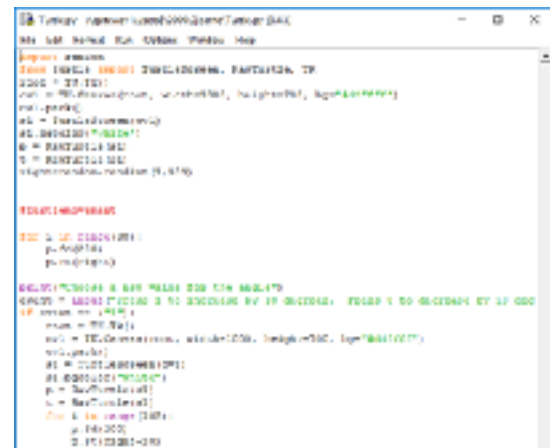
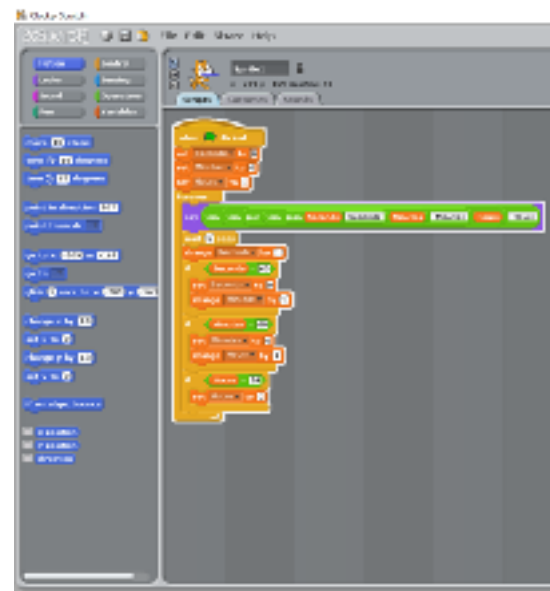


Coding for kids

A modern Computing curriculum is heavily based on coding. The government, quite rightly, is trying to recreate the buzz of the 1980s when a generation of children were inspired to code using the old BBC microcomputers. Many of these children of the 80s are now leading computer scientists; my brother, for example, learnt to code in his bedroom in the 80s and is now a senior engineer at ARM.

At Farfield, we are delighted to have Mrs Carney on the staff and she is leading coding in Years 4 to 6. Each child is getting at least 4 hours of coding tuition each half term, and many are also attending coding clubs after school. This half term, children in Years 5 and 6 will be getting to grips with tiny computers called [Raspberry Pi](#). The dozen new Raspberry Pi computers (and associated kit) have been purchased with generous support from the PTA.

These coding lessons are going very well so far and this is, in part, due to the fantastic support that we are getting from Lloyds Banking group volunteers. We have 6 volunteers, each giving an afternoon each week to support our coding lessons. Our Y4-6 coding lessons therefore have a 'staffing' ratio of 1:7 which really helps when we are trying to work out an error in lines of code!



Many of the coding apps and languages that we use are free. Last half term, for example, children were using an app called 'Tickle': <https://tickleapp.com/> Scratch is available here: <https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Tennis anyone?

Children are not naturally adept at using a tennis racquet. Thanks (again) to the PTA, Junior children now have access to tennis courts almost every lunchtime during the warmer months of the year giving them the chance to develop their skills prior to, perhaps, accessing coaching at Rawdon Tennis Club. The courts and nets are also being used in our own PE lessons.



Mr Harris, on behalf of the governors

