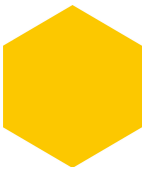
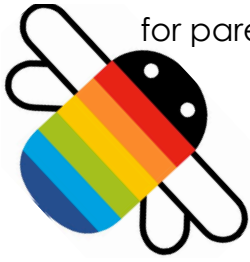


Curriculum News

for parents, carers, staff, governors and community

May 2018



Ofsted visit us at last!

As you probably know, Ofsted finally paid us a visit. It was an exceptionally intense day but the inspection was relatively straight-forward and was a positive experience. We did not get a comprehensive report - this was a one day section 8 inspection that simply confirmed that we are still good school - but the inspector's letter did highlight the breadth of the curriculum, the very good behaviour of children and the great work of our staff. The inspector made a few recommendations for further improvements; these were reasonable and things that we had identified and are working on anyway.



Everyone is pleased that the inspection went well and we can get on with providing our children with a great education!

We were very ready for the inspector and one of the things that stood out to me was the quality of the school's middle and senior leaders: they were able to swiftly and impressively answer any questions that the inspector posed. Thank you and well done!

"Your curriculum offers a wide range of learning experiences for pupils and as a result is vibrant, rich and engaging."

"Teaching in the school is consistently good, with some teaching being outstanding."

Headteacher part time secondment

Following our successful OFSTED, I was approached to take on a part-time secondment with the local authority to support the director of children's services and his senior leadership team whilst there are vacancies at the top of their educational team. I am there to give a headteacher's perspective on policy, to act as a 'conduit' between the LA and schools and to work on a number of specific projects, for example to improve policy and practice around Personal Education Plans for Children Looked After by the local authority. I am now committing half my time to that role. Whilst I am not in school, David Cooke takes on the role of headteacher.

New School Business Manager

We are delighted to welcome Laura Marshall to Farfield as our new School Business Manager. Laura will only be working part time, but will take on the strategic leadership of non-academic elements of the school.

'Daily Mile' Update

We have run the furthest of all schools registered with 'Marathon Kids': a total of over 15,000 km! 203 children have run (or walked) the equivalent of at least one marathon, 40 have run two marathons and 5 children - Zakariyah and Peter Y3, Emelia, Rhys and Dev Y5 - have run more than the equivalent of three marathons since September! In fact, Emelia has run the equivalent of four marathons!



'Daily Run' Statistics for Term1 and Term2

Average per Runner: 60km
(up from 32km at the end of T1 but
remember there was terrible
weather in Jan-Mar)

Average per Run: 1.2km
(up from 1.1km at the end of the
first term)



Well done to the many children that have now progressed to the Silver 30:30 wristband.

We would hope that lots of children will be achieving silver and even gold wristbands before the end of the school year!

Sports News

It was a busy Spring term of competitive sports at Farfield with children engaged in netball, cross country, skipping, mini tennis, rugby and **LOTS** of football competitions.

Spare a thought for our Y4 children: the boys came second overall in the Leeds Cross Country championships and then runners-up in the city mixed 6-a-side football competition too!

We are particularly pleased to have a girls' football team playing regularly this year.

There have also been a large number of less competitive sporting events including infant sports meetings involving Y1 and Y2, triathlon taster events at John Jamieson and the John Charles Centre



School News



Pigs on Farfield Farm

We are planning to have a few pigs on the farm by the end of October. **These will not be pets**; they will be bred by our partners Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, we will 'grow them on' and MVUF will collect them for slaughter. The carcasses will be prepared by a local butcher and the meat will be available to order.

The pigs will be housed in the fenced off area by the wind turbine. The children will be able to view the pigs from outside.

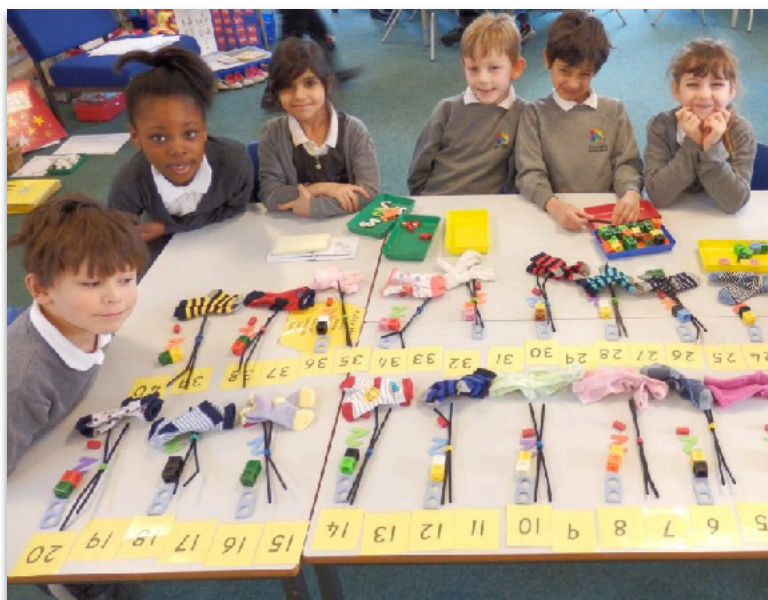
Feeding will be possible by pouring feed down chutes into the troughs. Most children, especially younger children, won't be handling the pigs at all, and it will be optional for all where there are cultural sensitivities. The pigs won't be officially named so as to minimise attachment.

Having pigs on the farm will raise children's awareness of animal welfare issues and the provenance of their food. We hope that the pigs will benefit from high standards of animal welfare and plenty of space to act naturally.

If you have any concerns about this proposal, please do contact Mr Harris for a discussion.



If things go to plan, we will get piglets from this sow's next litter in the summer.



Training Days

On Monday March 5th, we worked with both Edgehill University and Early Excellence on maths training. Maths has been a big focus for CPD this year and we have also worked with neighbouring schools on moderation of maths standards. The final training day of this academic year will be Wednesday July 25th. Monday 3rd September will be the first training day next academic year.

Online payments  ParentPay®

Are you signed up and activated yet? Two thirds of Farfield families are up and running. Any problems, contact either office or email sbm@farsleyfarfield.org.uk



tes

schools awards
2017

Winner

Healthy school of the year

Grounds development moving forward...

We have been successful in our application for an Awards for All Lottery award of £10,000. This will supplement school and PTA funds (and a parental donation) so that we can progress with plans to replace the trim trails that were removed last summer. We will not be replacing like-with-like but we think that the children will enjoy the developments that are being planned that will provide opportunities for the development of upper body strength. Some of the lottery grant is for works for the pigs enclosure.

Watch out for volunteer opportunities around this in the summer. **The new equipment should be in place for the start of the new academic year** and will be situated in the avenue area that leads to the willow tunnel.

Volunteers at Farfield

Volunteers add brilliant value to the school and help us to enhance the curriculum that we can offer. We have regular volunteers that hear readers and provide general classroom support. Some parents kindly came in to enhance Y2's Africa Day recently. Lots of parents accompany educational visits, without whom some of the trips could not take place. A volunteer has helped us twice a week for the past few winters helping Ms Howells to deliver the African Drums and Boomwhacker curriculum. Regular volunteers from Lloyds Banking provide super support for our Y4-6 coding curriculum and a brilliant volunteer group from Barclays came to Farfield Farm last half term to repair rotten raised beds and replace the tool shed.

We are always looking for more volunteers. Could you, or someone you know, support the cooking curriculum or the farm (any afternoon)? Does your company provide the opportunity to have volunteer days? Please get in touch if you think you could help.

PTA news

Friends of Farfield PTA are amongst our best volunteers: consistently raising thousands of pounds for the school. Their successful Fashion Show last term raised £400 and their annual Quiz raised a similar amount. **The legendary [Camp-Over](#) is Saturday 30th June** and lots of exciting things have been booked already including more giant inflatables, bubble football and donkey rides! The PTA are looking to part-fund a new minibus for September, replacing our very old and polluting LDV van.



Buildings News

This summer we will be having phase 2 of the infant re-roofing project (hall and admin areas) and phase 1 of the replacement of heating pipes and radiators in the juniors (halls and offices). We also hope to have some exterior painting around the juniors.

Royal Celebrations

The infants, in particular, were excited by the recent royal wedding and the event was marked by a lunchtime 'street party' on the North yard. There were even some special guests...

Budget Challenges

The school will be running a significant in-year budget deficit again this financial year. We have suffered significant cuts to our SEND budget and our expected gains from the new National Funding Formula have been capped. We are using school balances to protect school provision in the medium term but this level of funding is not sustainable in the longer term.

RAF 100 celebrations

Just before Easter, we hosted a fantastic event to mark the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force. We were joined by the mayor, local historians, members of the RAF and other guests for a morning of educational activities around the history of the RAF and it culminated in a service in the graveyard of St John's church for remembrance of the Capt. Butler: a local man who was part of the Royal Flying Corp and who died in an air crash in WW1. This was the national launch of the schools' programme for RAF100, led by a London-based group called Big Ideas. It was an honour to have been chosen.

Whilst only a couple of classes could be accommodated in the event, almost every child did contribute through the production of hundreds of paper planes, each of which bore the name of an airman lost in WW1.



Remembering Capt. Butler: St John's church



Working with Mayor Coun. Jane Dowson

An outstanding curriculum!

Ofsted praised our very broad and exciting curriculum. A key indicator of this is **engagement** - and if you want evidence of this, just look at this collection of recent photos:



Terrific Trips

Our curriculum is hugely enhanced by educational visits and visitors. Here are photos from a selection of recent trips, most of which required our school minibuses. Two of our minibuses need urgent replacement as they are relatively polluting and are likely to effectively be banned (quite rightly) under forthcoming clean air zone requirements. Please do support PTA events that are helping us to replace these buses. Would your company like to sponsor a bus?



Year 3 picked a beautiful time of year to visit RHS Harlow Carr to support their work on plants



All of Year 4 visit Fans Woods Activity Centre over the course of the year as part of their PE curriculum



Rodley Nature Reserve is a superb local trip for Year 1. We need to have a junior trip there too...



Murton Park is always a highlight of Year 4!



Reception went down to the fabulous Rainbow Factory and Years 2 and 5 have both visited a mosque recently.



Year 3 went on the 72 bus to Leeds City Museum as part of their work on Ancient Egypt



LD perfected the art of the 'photo bomb'.

Our minibuses are also used almost every day for PE: making use of local sporting resources such as Rawdon Tennis Club, Gym Magic and The Depot.

Brilliant links with Farsley Library

Farsley is lucky to still have a local library and we have had brilliant links with it this term. Nursery have been doing a great project with the library around stories and the adventures of toys on a sleepover. This included charming videos of the [toys' exploits](#).

Meanwhile, Year 4 visited the library to take part in a workshop around life in Farsley during WW1.

Farfield is joining up with Historic England's Heritage Schools programme and making useful links with Sunnybank Mills' history provision. Sunnybank Mills is really developing into a fantastic resource for our village in so many ways.

Y5 residential

Year 5 had a super residential at Ribbleshead in the Yorkshire Dales. We went caving and mountain biking as the main adventurous activities. We enjoyed a waterfall walk and **loved** extreme paddling. We also did a river study and a night walk.

Equally importantly, the children had time to be independent and take responsibility for their kit and they were expected to help with food preparation, setting the table and washing up. They were two terrific groups - well done!



AH makes a notoriously tricky section of the Gisburn Forest route look easy.

Mr Harris, on behalf of the governing body