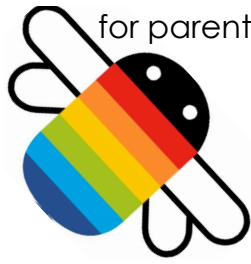
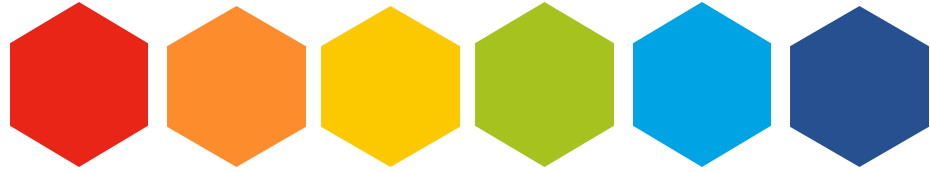


Curriculum News



for parents, carers, staff, governors and community

November 2018



Farfield Farm offer grows

Our Farfield Farm project is now over 10 years old. Over time, the project has grown and is now very well established. The governors of the school have provided consistent financial support to the project and all the children regularly spend time working and learning on the farm. This summer, we had three very successful family sessions weeding, watering and harvesting, harvesting, harvesting. As the apples (and grapes) ripened, the Friends of Farfield PTA generously provided a [crusher and press to squeeze fresh juice for the children](#): a very popular new activity on the farm!



Most recently, our two piglets have arrived on the farm. We did lots of work in the old 'community plots' area of the farm: clearing the site, building concrete slabs, providing a sty, adjusting fencing, digging a trench for a water supply and plumbing a water trough. The work was funded by a small lottery grant and a grant from Barclays. Volunteers from Barclays also did a lot of the preparation of the site on a wet Friday. Many, many thanks to them and to [Bows and Co Developments Ltd](#) who did the trench and pipework for free.



The pigs coming to school has caused some mixed interest online. The pigs are not pets and they will enter the food supply chain next summer. We are getting pigs to increase the children's understanding of where their food comes from, provide practical awareness of the importance of animal welfare and to consider how much meat should be in [a modern, sustainable diet](#). We have consulted with our Muslim families to ensure that children's engagement with the pigs doesn't offend cultural sensitivities.



New Playground (can you do it?)

The junior children appear to be [really enjoying their new playground](#) equipment: challenging gym-like elements designed to develop upper body strength whilst having fun. The equipment was generously funded by lottery, PTA and school monies, plus a kind family donation. The equipment was installed by a fantastic team of parent and staff volunteers over the summer (led by Karl Brennan), plus generous support from [Bows and Co Developments Ltd](#). We also need to offer huge thanks to local business [Gibbs and Dandy Builder's Merchant](#) on Richardshaw Lane that supplied huge amounts of sand and concrete for free!



We have some further funds to provide a smaller installation in the infant grounds and then our sights will move to the area beyond the willow dome (beyond and slightly left of the infant yard) for the next stage of grounds development. Next summer?



A summer weekend volunteer session setting out play equipment prior to concreting in



The new play equipment seems particularly popular amongst the girls: are they stronger than the boys?



New (cleaner) Minibus

We now have a smart, modern fleet of three minibuses following the delivery of our new 17 seater Peugeot. These minibuses are essential for our curriculum offer: providing cheap or free transport for dozens of educational visits, Y4 swimming, residentials, KS2 PE off-site enhancements and sporting events. The old minibuses have been great servants to the school over the years and were amazing value for money. They were, however, increasingly unreliable and shamefully

polluting. Our two newest minibuses will now be in line with the requirements of the forthcoming Leeds Clean Air Zone but the Ford Transit may need to be replaced in a couple of years.



Many thanks to the Friends of Farfield PTA for a big donation towards the costs of the new minibus: what a great asset to the school you are!

We need to get rid of the old LDV. If you are interested in buying it, please contact Rachel in the junior office.

Buildings news

Over the summer we had phase 2 of the infant re-roofing and phase 1 of the junior replacement of heating pipework and radiators. Both these projects will continue next summer. We are grateful for Leeds City Council funding and project management of both these projects.



Historic England

History and Heritage

This year the school is engaging heavily with [Historic England](#) for training for staff around using our local heritage to bring history alive for our children. We have already had one 'twilight' training session and this is being followed up in January. According to Mrs Loveridge, our History leader: "The teachers are buzzing with how they can use the ideas provided and everyone I have spoken to is really excited about the project." Farsley and district has a rich history and we look forward to exciting learning later in the year.

Linked to this, 6H are honoured to have been asked to be involved in another very special commemoration project for the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. After the Farsley Airfield research and the RAF100 project we were involved with last March, 6H have taken part in the Unremembered100 project. Our children were provided with the name of Edith Nattress who was 24 when she died on 2nd April 1919 while serving in the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps in France. She is buried there in St Lazare Cemetery in Bourges. Edith was the daughter of Emily Jackson, of Knaresborough, Yorkshire. [More detail can be found on the 6H blog.](#)



Autumn sports

We have engaged in lots of competitive sports already this year. Results and some reports are always available on the school website: <https://www.farsleyfarfield.org.uk/sports-results/> We are again running four football teams this year, with our girls' team once again very busy thanks to Mr Beevers and Mrs Harding. Our netball team have also had a number of fixtures.

We were delighted to take a team of nearly 30 children to the first cross country competition of the year in September. Our children all ran very well and our Y5 boys and Y5 girls both won their team competitions. We didn't have any outstanding runners – our best finish was 5th – but we had great strength in depth which reflects very well on the school. We also had 20 children at the first Saturday morning cross country event but these were almost all from Years 3 and 4: where were all the fantastic runners in Y5 and Y6?

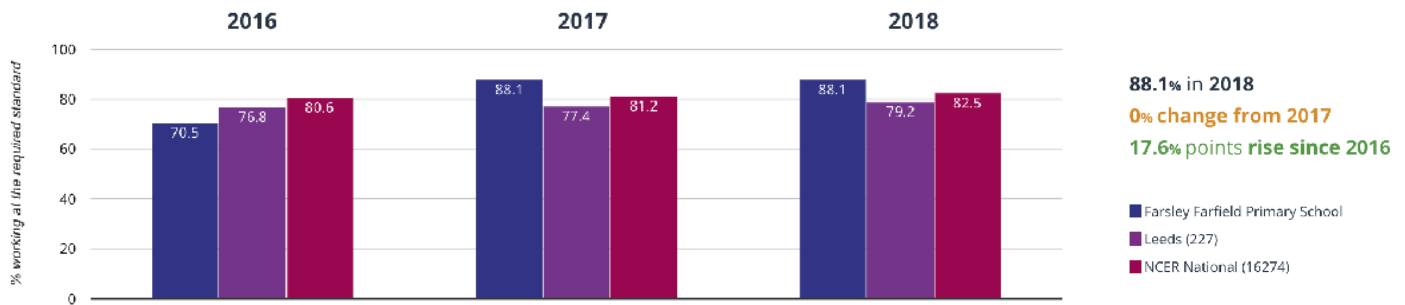


How well are we doing academically?

Over the summer, we received lots of statutory assessment results. On the whole, this paints a positive picture of standards across the school. Well done to all the children and staff for their hard work and thank you to families for their support at home. [More detail is available on our website](#), but some of the headlines are shown in graphs below:

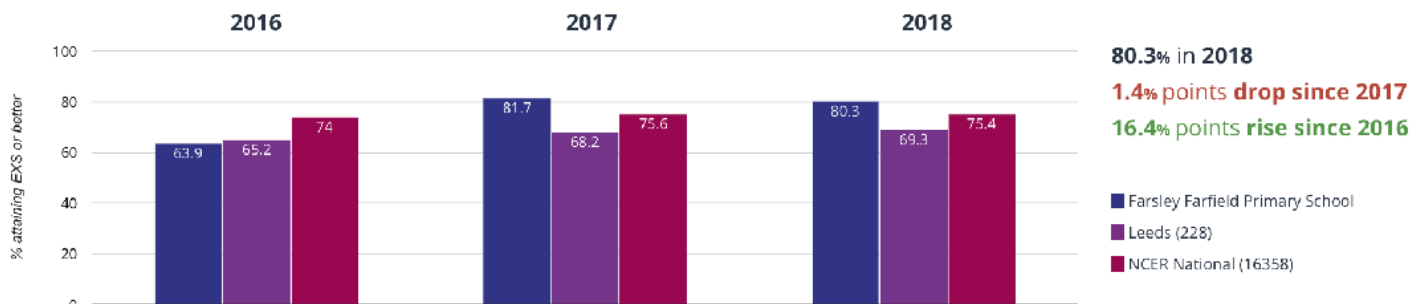
Year 1 Phonics

Year 1: Working At

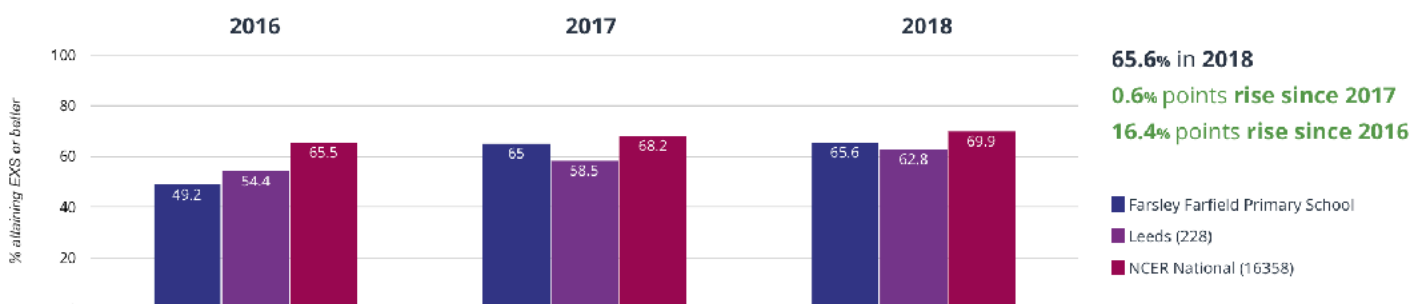


Year 2 SATs

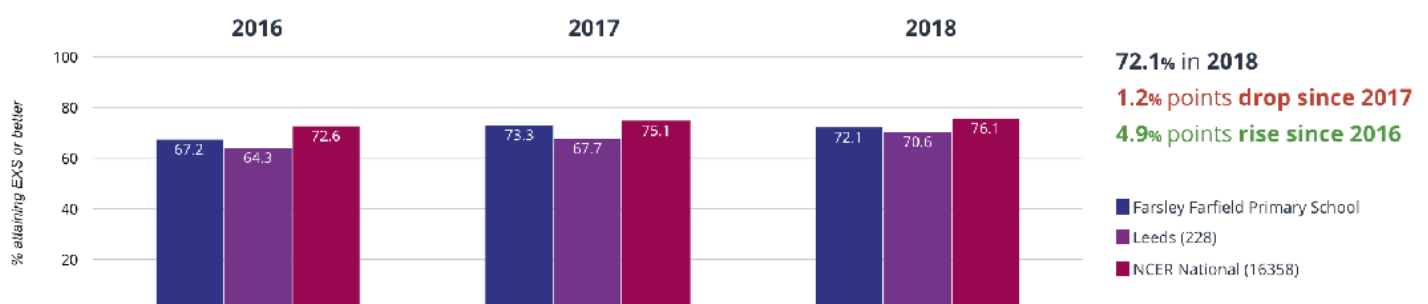
Reading - attaining EXS or better



Writing - attaining EXS or better



Maths - attaining EXS or better



School News



Year 6 SATs

KS2 Attainment 2018

Average Scaled Score (Re, Ma)

104.8

FFT Rank



KS2 Progress 2018

Average Scaled Score (Re, Ma)

+0.1

FFT Rank



A scaled score of 100 is the national expectation. An FFT rank of 50 is average - which is good!

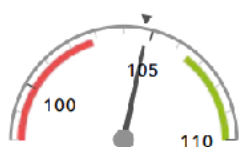
Overview

KS2 Attainment 2018 · Actual results

60 pupils

Average Scaled Score (Re, Ma)

104.8



In line with the national average (104.7) ◀

% Expected standard+ (Re, Wr, Ma)

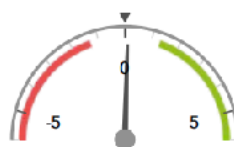
62%



In line with the national average (64%) ◀

Average Scaled Score (Re, Ma)

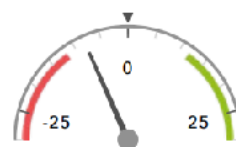
+0.1



In line with the national average (0) ◀

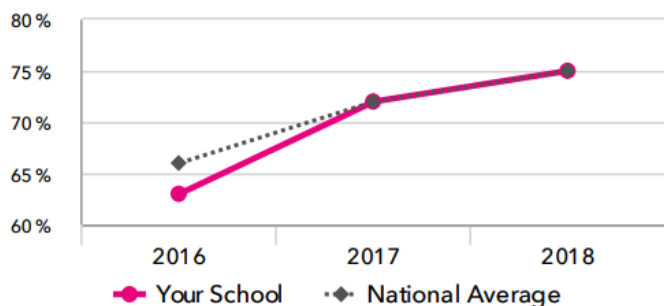
% Expected standard+ (Re, Wr, Ma)

-8%

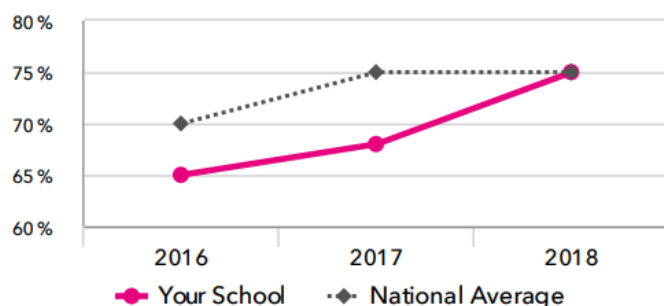


In line with the national average (0%) ◀

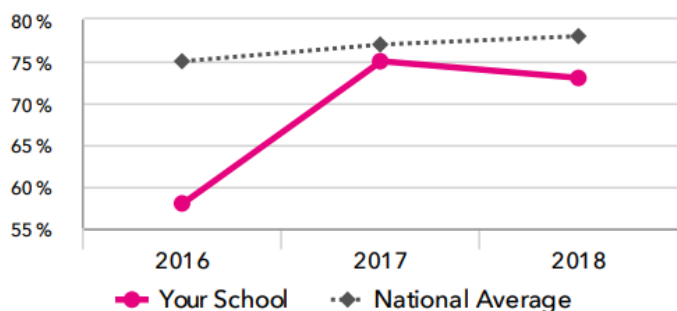
% Expected standard+ Reading



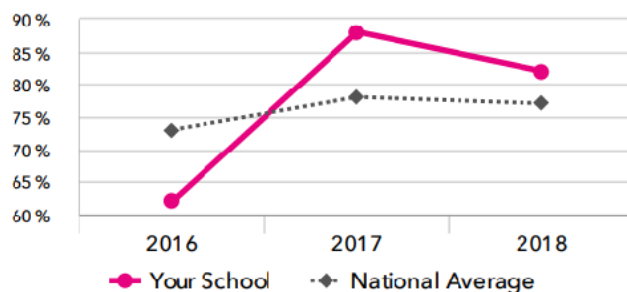
% Expected standard+ Maths



% Expected standard+ Writing



% Expected standard+ Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling



These results inform 'School Improvement' priorities. We are working on improving standards in writing and focussing on further improvements in maths and provision for children with SEND in 2018-19. We also need to increase the % of children reaching the expected standards in each of Reading, Writing and Maths: at the moment, we are around national averages in each individual element, but below in the combined figure. Overall, however, these results confirm that we are a 'good' school but there is certainly room for further improvement!

Computing curriculum revamp

Redrafting our computing curriculum and investing in some new IT resources are key objectives this year. Led by Miss Bray, a number of pioneer classes will be trialling using Google Classroom to organise some of their lessons and work and we will be making use of Chromebooks as well as our conventional laptops. We are very grateful to parent Francisco Massenet-Nicolau for supporting us in this.

Super Trips bring the Curriculum to Life

The first half term of the school year included lots of exciting school trips. Reception has an adventure taking the train to visit the central library for a workshop about a favourite author. Year 2 had a visit to the Leeds medical Museum to find out about Florence Nightingale: they missed out one of the more gruesome bits of the museum! Year 4 have had a workshop about recycling in school but also had a lovely day out learning about trees on the Ledston Estate. Year 6 had a brilliant day up at Yeadon Tarn with a series of activities around their book study: Kensuke's Kingdom. The highlight was sailing across the Tarn.



They said lean over...

Revamped School Council and almost a Children's Mayor

Miss Bray and Mrs Du Preez have established the School Council differently this year, with almost 50(!) children attending on a Monday after school. One of the first areas that they have led is planning for the forthcoming Children in Need day.



Four older School Council members went with Mrs Du Preez to Leeds Civic Hall for the annual Outer West Youth Summit. This gave the children the chance to have a voice in their wider community, have discussions about the issues that affect young people and tell councillors what they should fund in the area. The pupils learnt about democracy, took part in activities and influenced local decision making.

Over the summer, Charlie (now in Y6) ran a fantastic campaign around school music education in her bid to become Leeds Children's Mayor. She was a very strong runner up in the city-wide election and can be very proud of her efforts. Charlie has now been made a member of Leeds' Youth Council: a good, active citizen indeed!



Charlie at Leeds Civic Hall with the mayor

Child-Friendly Leeds

We are lucky to be part of Leeds. Leeds is trying hard to be a Child-Friendly city and schools contribute £4.5m per year towards our [cluster arrangements](#) and 'Early Help' that provides support for families and children, including counselling, emotional well-being work and psychotherapy. Leeds City Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS) also provide funds through the cluster of schools mechanism. This is a unique model.

Leeds City Council's Children's Services are very successful and have the status of 'Partners in Practice'. They have secured additional funds into the city, including the forthcoming Early Help Hubs that will bring even more resource into our cluster arrangements.



Leeds Children's Services were inspected by Ofsted over the half term. The results of this inspection are not yet published but I know that the report will be much more positive than those received recently in other councils in West Yorkshire.



Show Time!

A new club this year for Y5 and 6 children is 'Show Time': a series of 6 events at local theatres and halls that will provide a rich cultural experience for our older children at an accessible price (£90 or free for children in receipt of 'Pupil Premium'). 33 children have signed up for these evening and weekend shows and lots of staff have volunteered to drive minibuses and supervise the children. The six shows are: a reading of War Horse by Michael Morpurgo, The Nutcracker Ballet, a concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Matilda the Musical, Annie and Horrible Histories on Stage.

If it is a success, we hope to repeat the club again in 2019-20 with an even wider range of shows.



Finance news

Along with just about every other school, finances are looking very challenging. We have already reduced the number of class TAs in the older classes but we will need to make further savings next year. Teachers' modest pay rises haven't been fully funded and promised gains for Leeds from the new National Funding Formula have been delayed or capped. Across Leeds, schools are having [to subsidise the High Needs Block](#) (funding provision for SEND) with another £2.5 million transfer from Schools Block in 2019-20. The Chancellor's budget gift for some 'little extras' will be useful but generally [hasn't gone down well](#) and is nowhere near enough to sustain budgets.

Impressive School Meal Stats

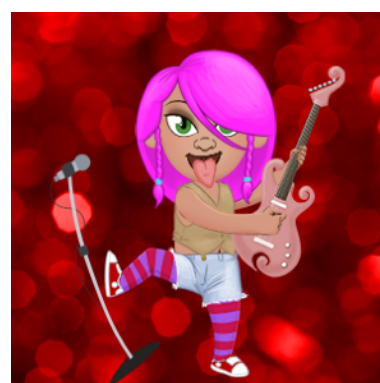
We don't usually report on school meals in this newsletter. On this occasion, we thought that we ought to report on something remarkable.

At the October census, only 3 children from R-Y2 were not taking up the option of a free school meal. This is 97.5% take-up compared to 86% nationally (2017).

We are also serving good numbers of meals to nursery and to Junior children: a total of over 300 meals a day. This figure is the highest it has ever been; to think, the school used to have two kitchens to serve fewer meals...



This is all testament to the fantastic hard work of Claire Hansell and our kitchen staff. Bravo!



We are having a big push on times tables. Current Year 3 will be the first cohort to sit the government's new statutory times tables test in Spring/Summer 2020. To help the children, we have invested in and launched Times Tables Rock Stars in school allowing the children to get lots of fast paced practice in school and at home. Is your child engaging? Any time spent on TT Rockstars contributes to Extreme Learning Records.

Children from Y1 upwards can get a log in (but should only be encouraged to do so if **they** want to and are developmentally ready. Some schools do run TT Rockstars very successfully with young children as they are like sponges - so ready to learn!).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	1x1	1x2	1x3	1x4	1x5	1x6	1x7	1x8	1x9	1x10	1x11	1x12
2	2x1	2x2	2x3	2x4	2x5	2x6	2x7	2x8	2x9	2x10	2x11	2x12
3	3x1	3x2	3x3	3x4	3x5	3x6	3x7	3x8	3x9	3x10	3x11	3x12
4	4x1	4x2	4x3	4x4	4x5	4x6	4x7	4x8	4x9	4x10	4x11	4x12
5	5x1	5x2	5x3	5x4	5x5	5x6	5x7	5x8	5x9	5x10	5x11	5x12
6	6x1	6x2	6x3	6x4	6x5	6x6	6x7	6x8	6x9	6x10	6x11	6x12
7	7x1	7x2	7x3	7x4	7x5	7x6	7x7	7x8	7x9	7x10	7x11	7x12
8	8x1	8x2	8x3	8x4	8x5	8x6	8x7	8x8	8x9	8x10	8x11	8x12
9	9x1	9x2	9x3	9x4	9x5	9x6	9x7	9x8	9x9	9x10	9x11	9x12
10	10x1	10x2	10x3	10x4	10x5	10x6	10x7	10x8	10x9	10x10	10x11	10x12
11	11x1	11x2	11x3	11x4	11x5	11x6	11x7	11x8	11x9	11x10	11x11	11x12
12	12x1	12x2	12x3	12x4	12x5	12x6	12x7	12x8	12x9	12x10	12x11	12x12

59

Next : 6×2

4×10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Delete

0

Submit

After some use, TT Rockstars provides a heat map to show which particular times tables need to be learnt most. The green is good and quick; focus on the red and orange (and anything still grey).

Mr Harris on behalf of the governors of Farsley Farfield Primary School