



A belated "Happy Diwali" to our Hindu and Sikh families

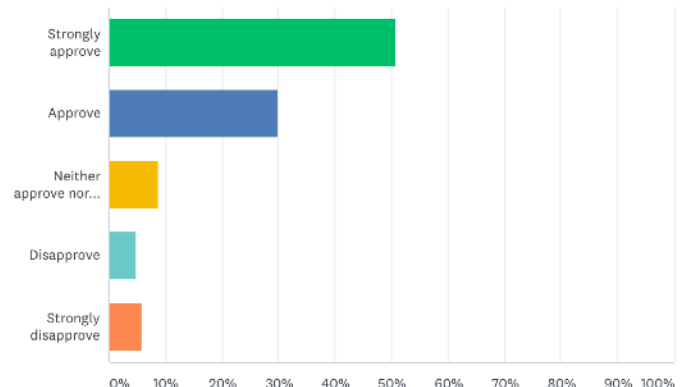


Pigs in a poke?

The origin of this phrase is medieval and relates to checking the details of a deal before committing to it. We thought we had planned last year's project very well - and much of it went smoothly - but there was unexpected interest and a commotion outside school.

275 parents, children, staff and governors responded to the recent school community survey relating to the pigs on site last academic year and consideration of whether to repeat the project. Thank you for so many thoughtful and considered responses.

Roughly 80% of respondents would agree with the project being repeated with about 10% unsure. 10% would prefer not to repeat the project, with about half of those objecting on ethical grounds and half of those wanting to avoid the 'trouble' caused last year. If the project is repeated, the protesters have said that they will return. The decision on this will be made by the full governing body this month. The headline figures from the consultation can be viewed on the school website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-YV592YJ7/> The detailed text responses will also be considered by governors.



Woodlands Room and Rainbow Sensory Room

The space formerly known as 'The Cafe' is now called the Woodlands Room. This space has benefitted from some refurbishment and is now the base for much of the junior school's pastoral and 'social and emotional' support. Adjacent to the Woodlands Room is an office and counselling space, and there is a small sensory space called The Rainbow Room. The next phase will be to remodel and improve the outside courtyard space in this area of the school.

SATS: some successes but could do better...

Our statutory assessment over the summer brought some pleasing successes and some areas to improve. Recent changes to how we teach number in Reception brought a significant improvement to performance in this strand of the curriculum and our average points score in EYFS assessments were above national average. Year 1 phonics scores were good again and Year 2 'greater depth' performance in maths was particularly impressive (amongst the top 20% in the country). Our Year 6 combined scores continue to slowly improve, performance in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling continues to be strong, reading was above average but there was relatively disappointing performance in maths overall. Improvements in maths continue to be a prime focus of the school improvement plan (and was a focus of the recent training day).

More KS2 detail is available on the school website: <https://www.farsleyfarfield.org.uk/assessment/>

Show Time!

After the success of last year's Show Time club, we are putting together another programme of evening and weekend events for the remainder of this school year. This club is aimed at Years 5 and 6, is free for families in receipt of 'Pupil Premium' and is an opportunity to experience a wide range of theatrical and cultural events at a cost-effective price. Look out for a letter and programme to be published soon.



Amazing Year 5 duathlon performance

Two mixed teams of six Y5 children took part in the Leeds Schools' Duathlon at the Brownlee Centre. The children had to run 750m, cycle 2.5km and then run another 350m. In our part of the day, there were 6 teams - 36 competitors in total. Our twelve children did really well, filling 8 of the first 10 places! Stan was the fastest boy and Lillie was the fastest girl. We were proud of all the children's great efforts.



We were astonished when we got the full day's results: Farfield A were first and Farfield B were second out of 37 teams! This really is a stupendous result and shows what a fit group we have in Year 5. They are well-known as a terrific cohort and they do try hard in their daily runs. We know that some of them also run with parents and clubs. Well done!



Leading the way: three Farfield children at the head of the run.



Buildings news

Over the summer, all the KS2 junior classrooms and the corridor had replacement piping and radiators. This is year 2 of a 3 year programme to replace the junior heating system. We are very grateful to Leeds City Council for support with this.

Unfortunately, phase 3 of the infant re-roofing was cancelled at the last moment as the contractor dropped out. This will be re-tendered in the spring, to take place next summer. Temporary repairs are being undertaken this autumn.

Other work this term will be replacement of guttering and drainpipes around the junior building.

Active Travel

Our Active Travel reward scheme has now finished but we hope that families will continue to walk, scoot and bike to school over the winter.



This term we have been able to open up the Pudsey Civic car park to all our families that wish to use it at the start and the end of the day - an amazing resource right on our door-step. We would like to thank Leeds City Council, Pudsey Civic Hall and Coun. Carlill for their help with this. Many thanks also to Mr Stanton for the fabulous parking map that he drafted for us and for the voluntary one-way on Cote Lane suggestion that he made.

We would hope that infant families would also use the Pudsey Civic car park and walk to school. Although things have improved somewhat around the juniors as regards congestion, things are still tight at the Westway end of Cote Lane and I was appalled to hear that there was a parking-related incident of verbal abuse on one day that included derogatory racial comment. This is wholly unacceptable anywhere, and particularly near our school.

We hope that those picking up and dropping off will also take notice of the 'No idling' banner and signage that has appeared outside the Juniors and along Cote Lane. Although the weather is getting colder, modern cars are easily able to be kept warm for 10 minutes without leaving the engine on.



Year 6 had an experience of wind-powered transport when they went sailing on Yeadon Tarn in September. This 'work' related to their book study 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and the school's 'Outdoor and Adventurous Activities' strand of the PE curriculum.

New Governors

Following an election in the summer, our new parent governors are **Andy Wood** and **Davina Bhanabhai**. **Karl Brennan** has been co-opted to the governing body.

Details of the governing body and its work is available on the school website: <https://www.farsleyfarfield.org.uk/our-governing-body/>

Increased access to IT in the Juniors

Over the summer the school invested in 60 new Chromebook laptops for use in KS2. These cheap, quick, low-energy devices seem well-suited to a school environment.

Over the course of the year, we expect to begin using [Google Classroom](#), and this will be accessible from home too. 6J are leading the way in this, with their recent Kensuke's Kingdom creative writing work being submitted, marked and edited online.

School Funding

I have been criticised before for using the Curriculum Newsletter to complain about school funding. This time, I can report more positively that school funding 2020-21 is due to increase by 7%, although a significant chunk of that increase is likely to be taken to subsidise the High Needs Block (SEND funding and expenditure, which is likely to be £7million over-spent in Leeds this year). Nevertheless this is, hopefully, the beginning of a 'turning of the curve' as regards school funding. There's not an election coming is there...?

(Lots of) Staffing news

At the start of term we welcomed Mrs Sykes to the school as a new Y6 teacher and Upper KS2 leader, Miss Ellis as Y3 teacher and Lower KS2 English lead, Miss Pinnock as Y1 teacher and infant maths lead and Miss Wetherill as a newly qualified teacher in Y5. Mrs Swindlehurst has joined the school as new SENCO (pictured).



We have also welcomed Mrs Thornton, Mr Barraclough and Miss Littlewood to the school as Teaching Assistants (TAs). Mr Knowles has joined us as grounds person and assistant site manager.

More recently, we have welcomed new teaching assistants Mrs Dennison and Mrs Carter to Farfield. Mrs Dennison is working in Reception and Mrs Carter is in Y5 in the morning and playing a leading role in sports and PE in the afternoon. Mrs Newall is joining us as a TA in Reception this half term.



In January we will be welcoming a new deputy headteacher to the school: Mr Daniel Hemming (right). Daniel is an experienced deputy headteacher who was outstanding during a rigorous selection process.

Tower growing salad

Working with Rethink Food, we have been growing tasty salad leaves using our new Tower Garden (sponsored by Savills). The tower is a more modern, 'high tech' way of growing food, making very efficient use of space and water. The plants get energy from bright LED lights and they get water and nutrients every 15 minutes. The plants don't even grow in soil...



Y5 pupils adding plug plants in rock wool to the tower.



A photo from one of the two family sessions run on the school farm over the summer holidays. In recognition of our school's commitment to this sort of work, our school has been invited to present at the national conference of Learning Outside the Classroom and to chair the Northern School Food Conference at Leeds Civic Hall.

More support from Barclays

Once again, volunteers from Barclays Bank have excelled themselves during a day working on our school farm. Dodging the rain, they stripped back and relaid all the paths between the raised beds in our large, original growing area (right). They also cut down a shelter belt, built a new set of compost bins and installed a new irrigation system for the first polytunnel. Fabulous work!

Thank you again to Mr Booles for organising the day.

Training Days

The remaining two training days this year are on Friday 31st January and Monday July 20th 2020.

