

# Curriculum News

Newsletter of Farsley Farfield Primary School

*"Ready, Respectful, Kind"*

## City Skipping Champions!

Our Y4 skipping team - half the cohort - beat 60 other schools to become Leeds Skipping Champions 2023! Well done!



Farfield: Y4 Leeds Skipping Champions 2023

## Performance in the Music Curriculum

Earlier this year, we used one of our training days for input around music education. Following this, more and more classes have been publishing final performance recording. Wherever possible, performances include children playing their own instruments such as recorders, guitars and keyboards. Performances also typically include glockenspiels - class sets of which were recently purchased with help from the PTA.



<https://youtu.be/gnWowqhZ8fA>

Most of the performances are on the class blogs. One of the most enjoyable was made by 3S recently: a charming 4 minute video with strong inclusion, amusing choreography, obvious enjoyment and the lots of children's own instruments. The performance goes on for 4 minutes, but there are delightful moments throughout. Check out the blogs for more performances.





# Y5 residential

Year 5 had a very successful residential at Ribbleshead in the Yorkshire Dales.

Away for three days and two nights, the children did caving, mountain biking, a river study, a night walk and a waterfall walk.

Many thanks to Chris Young and British Cycling, Phil Jackson (caving) and to Northern Rail for their generous support that allowed us to run an exciting trip and to keep costs down. (We asked for £80 for the trip but came in a bit under. We expect to be able to run a trip to Malham for these children in the summer for free, including a cool treat!)

Thank you to all the staff for attending. Particular thanks go to Mrs Hawkhead for all her effort and excellent organisation.

This month, Year 6 go on residential to How Stean Gorge.



Caving near Seaside



Ghoulish finds on the Night Walk



Mountain biking at Gisburn Forest

## Governors retiring

Many, many thanks to Andy Wood and to Clem Pickering both of whom are retiring from the governing body after long service and chairing of the Pupil Support and the Teaching and Learning Sub-Committees respectively.

Look out for new parent governor elections soon.





# Football Success

We are one of only two schools in the Calverley/Pudsey/Farsley area to run regular competitive football teams. We have run U11, U10 and U9 teams this year, as well as a dedicated girls' team that has played a number of tournaments.

Our U10 team (Y5) won their league and progressed to the semi finals of the Champions of Champions competition. The U11s got to the quarter final of the Falkingham Cup and came a close third in their league.

Many thanks to Mr Hemming, Mr Beevers, Mrs Powell and Mrs Dickinson for giving their time all year to support this.

## Changes to the Blogs

Our class blogs are an important part of our offer to families: multimedia updates on a weekly basis. The blogs showcase good work and provide parents and carers with information to support learning at home and prompt discussion.

Our current blog hosting provider is closing down its service in July. We intend to migrate all the blogs to the main website but old content will be lost. Parents should see little change.

Our blogs don't have hit counters so we don't know how many parents are actually looking at the blog. Could you please give the posts a 'thumbs up' each week to let the teachers know that their efforts with the blogs are appreciated?



## Farfield is (almost) full again

It was a shock to be less than full in Reception this year for the first time in decades: reflecting 1500 excess Reception places around the city. We are delighted that we are projected to be full again in Reception this September with a significant waiting list. Financially, this is better for the school.

September 2024 will be a challenge for us as there are reported to be less than 30 children of the requisite age for whom we are the nearest school. As usual, we will need to show off our school to prospective families to attract more children to our school. We have a space in **current** Year 4 and **current** Y5, as well as a few spaces in **current** Reception if anyone would like to transfer to us. Other year groups are full.



The infant fort: exciting climbing and role play, as well as a shady spot to enjoy



Some dens engage in trading and may even have their own currency



# Punctuality Matters!

Post-COVID, school attendance at Farfield and across the country is down but is slowly recovering.

Punctuality is much worse. This week, many families will get letters about this including our estimate of the lost learning for each child based on minutes late. One child has missed over 1000 minutes this year due to lateness! At primary schools, lateness is almost always the fault of the parent.

Lateness is a really bad habit: it is disrespectful to staff and harms all children's learning. Every late child takes administrators' time and disrupts a lesson. Very occasional lateness is understandable but a minority of families are habitually 10 or 20 minutes late. This is not acceptable.

The junior school starts at 8.40 and the infants starts at 8.45. Please do try to arrive on time.



## PTA: making a difference

Our fabulous PTA continue to run brilliant events and raise lots of money for school. Recently, the PTA provided new playtime equipment for both buildings which is proving very popular.

The biggest event of the year is the locally unique annual Camp-Over festival on Saturday July 1st. If you attend just one event this year, make it this one.



PTA Family Quiz winners!



Easter Fair Bake-Off

