



Foreland Fields School Newsletter

October 2024



Whilst this has been a long term, it has certainly flown by!

To anyone new to the school, we send newsletters out termly (6 times per year) to pass on information, celebrate school success and achievement and remind parents/carers of upcoming events.

For day-to-day news, parents/carers should sign up to ClassDojo, the app we use for daily communication. If you have not yet signed up, please contact your child's class teacher for further details.



Fireworks Event

We will be holding our annual firework event on Wednesday 6th November. Doors will open at 5.45pm, with fireworks at 6.30pm. Tickets are priced at £5 per head for adults and £3 for children aged 16 and under. Under 3s go free. Please purchase tickets from the main office.

Could we please ask that everyone arrive promptly as doors will be shut at 6.30pm in order to ensure that everyone can enjoy the display.

Please note, Foreland Fields School is a no smoking site. The use of sparklers or any other kind of personal firework is not permitted, so please do not bring them with you to the event. Dogs will not be admitted.

Should the event need to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, we will notify parents/carers on the day through ClassDojo and our website. Please note, the decision to cancel is made purely by Viking Fireworks who stage the display, not the school.

Vacancy for Co-opted Governor

We are excited to announce that we have a rewarding opportunity for a Co-opted Governor to join our school's governing body. Co-opted Governors are appointed by the governing board based on the skills and experience they bring to help our school thrive.

This is a wonderful opportunity for someone to contribute to the leadership and direction of our school, ensuring the best outcomes for our pupils/students. Becoming a Co-opted Governor offers a unique opportunity to develop new skills, network with a diverse group of people, and make a real difference in the lives of children in our community.

Role Overview: As a Co-opted Governor, they will play a crucial role in overseeing the strategic development of the school, providing governance and leadership. Responsibilities include attending meetings, supporting the leadership team, and contributing to important areas such as policies, budget oversight and curriculum development.



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Who We're Looking For: We welcome applications from individuals passionate about education and committed to supporting the future success of our pupils/students. Experience in areas such as finance, HR, premises or education is advantageous but not essential - all applications are welcome.



Time Commitment: The role typically involves attending 1-2 evening meetings per term, along with occasional school visits and participation in sub-committees. The expected time commitment is approximately 6-8 hours per term.

We understand that stepping into a governor role may feel like a big commitment, but rest assured that full training and ongoing support will be provided. No prior experience in school governance is required, and they will have access to resources, mentorship, and guidance from experienced members of the governing body.

This particular role is open to members of the wider community, not current parents or carers of children at our school. However, we greatly appreciate your involvement and ask that you kindly spread the word to your friends, family, or colleagues who may have the skills and interest to support our school in this important role.

If you know anyone who is passionate about education and community service, please encourage them to consider applying. Contact can be made with Steve Pamphilon, Chair of Governors at stevepamphilon@foreland.kent.sch.uk to arrange for an informal chat. We welcome applications from all backgrounds and are keen to have a diverse range of voices on our governing board.

Singing Hands



We had a visit on Wednesday 2nd October from Suzanne and Tracey from Singing Hands.

As well as holding many workshops across the day, they joined in with an upper school lunchtime Pop Party.

At the end of the day, Suzanne and Tracey led a family session. Huge thanks to the parents/carers who came to enjoy this special session with their children, which wrapped up this wonderful day beautifully.



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Arrangements for the Beginning and End of the School Day

Outside the front of the school are a number of disabled parking bays. These spaces, which are marked as disabled bays, have dropped kerbs and are wider to accommodate vehicles with tail/side lifts. They are intended to be used by parents/carers of children who require the use of a wheelchair. Could we please ask that any parents/carers whose child does not use a wheelchair does not park in these bays in order to ensure all children can enter and exit school with ease.

Could we also remind parents/carers not to walk on the roads outside school but to use the pathways. We need to set an example to our young people and show them that it is not safe to walk around busy traffic.

As you are aware, we are having ongoing issues regarding the volume of traffic on the school site and, in particular, vehicles parking on Newlands Lane which is blocking traffic coming on and off the school site. We ask that parents/carers do not park on Newlands Lane or the grass verge by the farmers field, especially in front of the farmers gates, as this is making traffic movement more difficult and is also doing nothing for neighbour relations.

Gymkhana (July 2024)



This event occurred at the end of the last academic year, but unfortunately due to the timing was not included on the end of term newsletter. We however, feel it was to good an event not to report about.

Our pupils, who accessed horse riding throughout the year, were able to attend a Gymkhana, designed especially for them, to show off their skills. Each pupil was observed by a judge and at the end they were awarded rosettes and medals for their differing achievements. It was lovely to see the parents who came to support too.



Thanet Disabled Riding Centre are amazing with our pupils, accommodating their needs, building positive relationships, supporting their social and communication skills as well as their physical skills.





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The Hive

The Hive pavilion is open and is now being used by the school for horticulture, cycling and PE, with many more activities planned. Outside of school hours, the Hive is also now home to Thanet Galaxy Pan Disability Football Team, Beecycle and Inclusive Sport. Sharon Bremner (Family Liaison Officer) has worked with Jeremy Edwards (Deputy Headteacher) and Emily Hollis (Director of the Hive CIC) to put in place workshops for parents/carers across the school year. We also have a group of staff who are hoping to offer social events at the Hive for pupils outside of school hours. Staff will be making this offer on a voluntary basis. With this in mind, over the coming months we will be running 'test' events for the Hive ahead of creating a programme of more regular events. We have a really diverse school population, so we want to try to ensure that across the offer, we are able to meet all pupil needs.

We are currently developing more and more programmes along with opportunities which will be advertised shortly. Please see details on the website: <https://www.thehivethanet.com/>

The project is still in need of corporate sponsors, donations and partnerships to ensure we have the best facilities and opportunities available and if you have any contact details for companies who may be interested please contact our Director of Philanthropy Diarmuid Molloy at: fundraising@foreland.kent.sch.uk

We are also delighted to say The Hive has been awarded the Inclusive Excellence Committed award which further highlights the drive towards having the most accessible facility in Kent!



Harvest Festival

On Friday 18th October, we celebrated Harvest Festival. We held a harvest assembly, which was led by the Reverend Samuel Hearle from the Queens Road Baptist Church.

Many thanks to everyone for sending in donations of food items. This was presented to the GAP charity for homeless and poorly housed local people.



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Illness

Many of our pupils and students are vulnerable to infections which can spread quickly at this time of year. Remember, your child should be kept away from school for 48 hours from the last period of sickness or diarrhoea.

Details from Public Health England about infectious diseases and exclusion periods can be found on the school website or through the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases>

Details for Respiratory Infections (including COVID-19) can be found on the school website:

<https://www.foreland.kent.sch.uk/assets/Respiratory-Outbreak-Action-Card-Education-and-Childcare-Settings-September-2022.pdf>

Staff Training Day

Please remember that Monday 4th November is a Staff Training Day and school will therefore be closed to all pupils and students.

Playground Opening During the Half-Term Break



Over the October half-term, we will be opening our playgrounds to parents/carers of children within our infant and junior departments.

Playgrounds will be open between 9am and 12pm on Thursday 31st October.

The infant playground should be used by pupils in Year R/KS1 (Year 2 and under). The junior playground should be used by pupils in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and over). Siblings who do not attend the school are also welcome to attend.

A staff member will be on site however, parents/carers are responsible for the supervision and support of their own children. Whilst we will have toilets for children to use, we are unable to provide any drinks or snacks. If any parent/carer would like to bring anything with them, they are more than welcome.

Should any of these arrangements change, or there be a need to cancel the session, we will post a message on ClassDojo.



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Goodbye

Since the end of last term, we have said a sad goodbye to a number of our staff. Rachel Eberlin, Ali Knight, Stephanie Samuel and Tracey Coombe have all moved on to pastures new. We have also said goodbye to our minibus driver, Michelle Voss.



Last week we said a sad goodbye to David Ward, our site manager. David had worked at Foreland Fields for over 23 years. David's replacement, Steve Harkness started at the school at the end of last term. This ensured a good handover between him and David.

Hello



We would like to welcome the following staff to our school. New Classroom support assistants, Laura Appleton, Isla Bryant, Emma Humby and Shelby Ashton. We have a new midday meal supervisor, Lily Lai. We also have a number of new teaching assistants; Heidi Deakin, Maria Gisby, Bethany Greenstreet, Miranda Leighton, Emma Woodward, Nathalia Corley, Mimi Keefe and Jenny Abedin. In addition, we have a new member of First Leap Nursery team, Darcey Lally.

We would also like to say hello to our new minibus driver, Luke Cramp and new supply teaching assistants, Megan Paul and Alex Borer. In addition, we soon have Yasmin Malhotra and Sian Smith joining us in the role of teaching assistants.

Reporting Child Absences / Lateness

Could we remind all parents/carers to phone into the main office to report a child's absence. Parents/carers whose children travel on school transport should inform the driver or passenger assistant that their child is not attending however, parents/carers still have a responsibility to inform the school - messages cannot be passed through drivers or passenger assistants.



School times are 8.30am (school starts at 8.40am) until 2.50pm other than Thursdays when school ends at 2.00pm.

In the event that a child is late for school, they need to be brought to the main reception where classroom staff will be contacted to collect the child. If you need to collect your child early for an appointment, please ensure that the school know in advance.

Please note, late arrivals (after registers have closed) are marked as unauthorised absence. Please could parents/carers make every effort to ensure pupils/students arrive on time in order that they are prepared for the school day.



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Dates for your Diary

2024

- Monday 4th November 2024 – Staff Training Day. School is closed to all pupils and students.
- Tuesday 5th November 2024 – Start of Term 2
- Wednesday 6th November 2024 – School Firework Event
- Friday 20th December 2024 – End of Term 2

2025

- Monday 6th January 2025 – Start of Term 3

For term dates for academic years 2024/25 and 2025/26, see the school website

<https://www.foreland.kent.sch.uk/>

I hope you all have a great break and we look forward to seeing all pupils and students back on Tuesday 5th November.

Have a great

Adrian

