



Fairholme

Primary School

‘We believe we can achieve’

Respect
Honesty
Responsibility
Kindness
Self-belief
Aspiration

Autumn Term – Nov 2025 – Issue 3

A message from our Headteacher Mrs Harris:

The first week back after half term has been fantastic! Thank you to everyone who came along to Parents’ Evening to find out about their child’s learning and how you can support them at home. If you weren’t able to attend, please do arrange a meeting with your child’s teacher to find out how they are getting on. New topics are already underway, and it’s wonderful to see the children so curious, asking thoughtful questions, and diving into their learning with enthusiasm. Learning walks around the school have shown them working hard on two of our key learning muscles – collaboration and listening. These skills are so important, helping children share ideas, work well with others, and grow into independent, successful learners.

Behind the scenes, we are busy preparing for our Christmas Fair on **Friday 5th December at 4pm** – please do share this date with your friends and family, as the more the merrier! Keep an eye out for information about our Christmas celebrations this year, as things will be a little different from previous years. Singing practice is already in full swing, and the children are thoroughly enjoying themselves!

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Staffing Update

We are thrilled to share that Miss Nicholls will be going on maternity leave in December! We are so excited for her and the wonderful times ahead. We are also pleased to welcome Miss Hodkiewicz to Fairholme, who will be covering Miss Nicholls' maternity leave. Miss Hodkiewicz has already spent time in the Year 2 classroom getting to know the children, and we are confident she will provide a smooth and supportive learning experience during this time.

We are sad to share that Miss Daniels, who has been our Pastoral Lead for the past year, will be moving on to a new challenge this Friday and leaving Fairholme. Miss Daniels has been a wonderful member of staff and has made a real difference in her short time at Fairholme. We wish her all the very best in her next chapter and thank her for everything she has contributed.

We would like to share that Mrs Okyere will be leaving us at the end of the Autumn Term to take on an exciting new challenge teaching in America. We sincerely thank Mrs Okyere for her hard work, dedication, and the positive impact she has made on our school community. At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome Mrs Singh to Fairholme as the new Turquoise Teacher, starting from the Spring Term. We look forward to the energy and expertise she will bring to the classroom.

We are very pleased to announce that Miss McManus will be returning from her maternity leave in December. She will be joining us three days a week as our new Family Support Practitioner and is really looking forward to working with some of the children and their families. We are excited to welcome her back to the team!

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Dates for your Diary

5 DEC: Christmas Fair

11 DEC: Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

12 DEC: Years 1 & 2 Carols by candlelight at St Marys Church

15 DEC: Years 3,4,5 & 6 Carols by candlelight at School

17 DEC: Reception – Carols by candlelight at School

13 FEB: Curriculum Showcase

3 JUN: Early Years Sports Day

4 JUN: KS1 Sports Day

5 JUN: KS2 Sports Day

2 JUL: Summer Fair

10 JUL: Dance Festival

PE Days

Early Years: Friday

Year 1: Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 2: Wednesday (&Thursday for Purple class only)

Year 3: Wednesday &Thursday

Year 4: Thursday & Friday

Year 5: Tuesday

Year 6: Tuesday

School Lunches

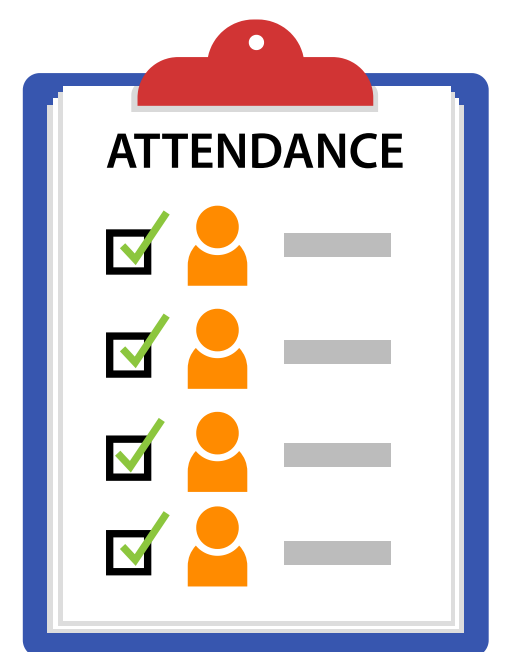
You can book your child's lunches up to 3 weeks in advance via Parent Pay. If you need a Parent Pay letter for account access please contact the School office

Attendance

Current whole school attendance:

94.95%

Target: 96.4%



Management Information System

We are changing the management information system we use in school.

It is vital that we have up to date and correct information about all pupils in our school so that our records are up to date when the migration is complete. The migration will take place on the 20th November.

To ensure we have the right information about your child, please can you come along to the school office as soon as possible.

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Mufti Day for Our Christmas Fair 🎄

To help prepare for our Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December, we'll be holding another Mufti Day this month:

Monday 24th November – Please bring a bottle donation for our Bottle Tombola.

Children can wear their own clothes on this day in exchange for their donation.

Thank you for your generous support — it helps make our Christmas Fair a great success! 🎅 ✨

It has come to our attention that we have had a few parents on mobile phones at pick up and drop off. This is a gentle reminder that our policy is no mobile phones at this time. This is for many reasons, one of which is safeguarding.

Thank you so much to all those who are following this already.

Christmas Concerts

We kindly ask that children in KS1 wear school uniform plus a Christmas jumper for their Carol Concert on Friday 12th December.

For KS2 Christmas singing, which is the 15th December at 4pm, we kindly ask the children to wear a Christmas jumper and whatever ever trousers they are warm and comfortable in as we will be outside.

We are back in Tesco!

Please support our school by adding blue tokens to the Fairholme Primary School box in Ashford express and superstore.

Thank you for your support!

Reception 2026

Are you looking for a school place for your child for September 2026?

If so, please do come along to one of our school tours, meet some of our pupils and have a look around our school.

Tuesday 21st October: 9.30 – 10.30
Thursday 23rd October: 9.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 4th November: 9.30 – 10.30
Thursday 6th November: 9.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 18th November: 9.30 – 10.30
Thursday 20th November: 9.30 – 10.30
Thursday 8th January: 9.30 – 10.30

There is no need to book, please just turn up at the school office.

We are looking forward to meeting you.

Are you rocking with Times Tables?!



Practice 5-10 minutes a day on Times Tables Rock Stars. Improve your speed, improve your knowledge of times tables. Younger children can use Numbots to learn simple addition and subtraction facts too.

Your child's log in information is stuck into their home learning journal.



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Christmas

by Candlelight

Please join us to celebrate
Christmas at our Year 1 and 2
Carol Concert.

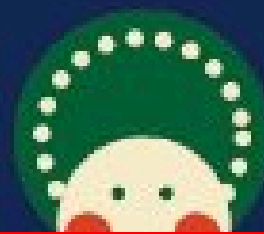


Friday **12th** December

At St Mary's Church in Bedfont

We ask families to attend one of the
two performances please.

10am or 2pm



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KS2 present.... Christmas by Candlelight

Join us for a magical evening under the stars as our school and local community comes together to celebrate the spirit of Christmas with music, laughter, and light!

Bring your family, friends and sing along to your favourite carols, and share in the joy of the season.



- SINGING
- COMMUNITY
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- MINCE PIES

Monday 15th December 2025
Starting at 4pm at school

Let's make it a night to remember - everyone in the community is welcome!



Little Kickers®

We are delighted to be bringing **Little Kickers** to **Fairholme School**, running football classes every **Saturday** morning.

Why Choose Little Kickers?

- ✓ Fun, age-appropriate classes (18 months – 8 years)
- ✓ Expert coaches who make learning engaging
- ✓ Girls & Boys
- ✓ Indoor Facilities ideal for winter



SPECIAL OFFER

NO Joining Fee & **FREE** Kit worth £27 for Fairholme Families.

Interested? Text Us - 07944 412 836



How are you getting on with Cut Your Carbon Month?

In school, the children have been revisiting the checklist shared in the last newsletter and talking about the actions they have tried, from choosing low-energy habits to cutting back on waste. They've enjoyed comparing ideas across classes and gathering simple changes that make a difference. As an Eco-School, we are now shifting our attention to our next theme: Marine. Over the coming weeks, pupils will explore how what we do on land can affect the sea and will bring home small challenges you can try together.

Rock and pop band lessons with Rocksteady

Did you know, we partner with Rocksteady Music School to deliver fun and inclusive rock and pop band lessons, right here at Fairholme Primary School! These weekly music lessons take place in school and are led by professional musicians who make learning music fun.

It's the perfect way for children to learn new musical skills, make friends and have a great time – all at school!

Rocksteady lessons are also shown to amplify confidence, wellbeing and social skills.

Here's what else you need to know:

- There's no experience necessary and all instruments for lessons are provided.
- Watch as your child performs in their end of term concerts, showing just how far they have come.
- Children learn up to 300 instrument, band, and performance skills, whilst playing songs they love.
- Children can achieve an Ofqual-regulated Music qualification, accredited by Trinity College London, without having to take a single exam.
- You'll receive regular progress updates, including photos and videos.

There's a money-back guarantee for the first month and you can cancel at any time. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Sign your child up for band lessons online at rocksteadymusicschool.com/parents

If you have any questions about Rocksteady, call 0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate) or email info@rocksteadymusicschool.com.



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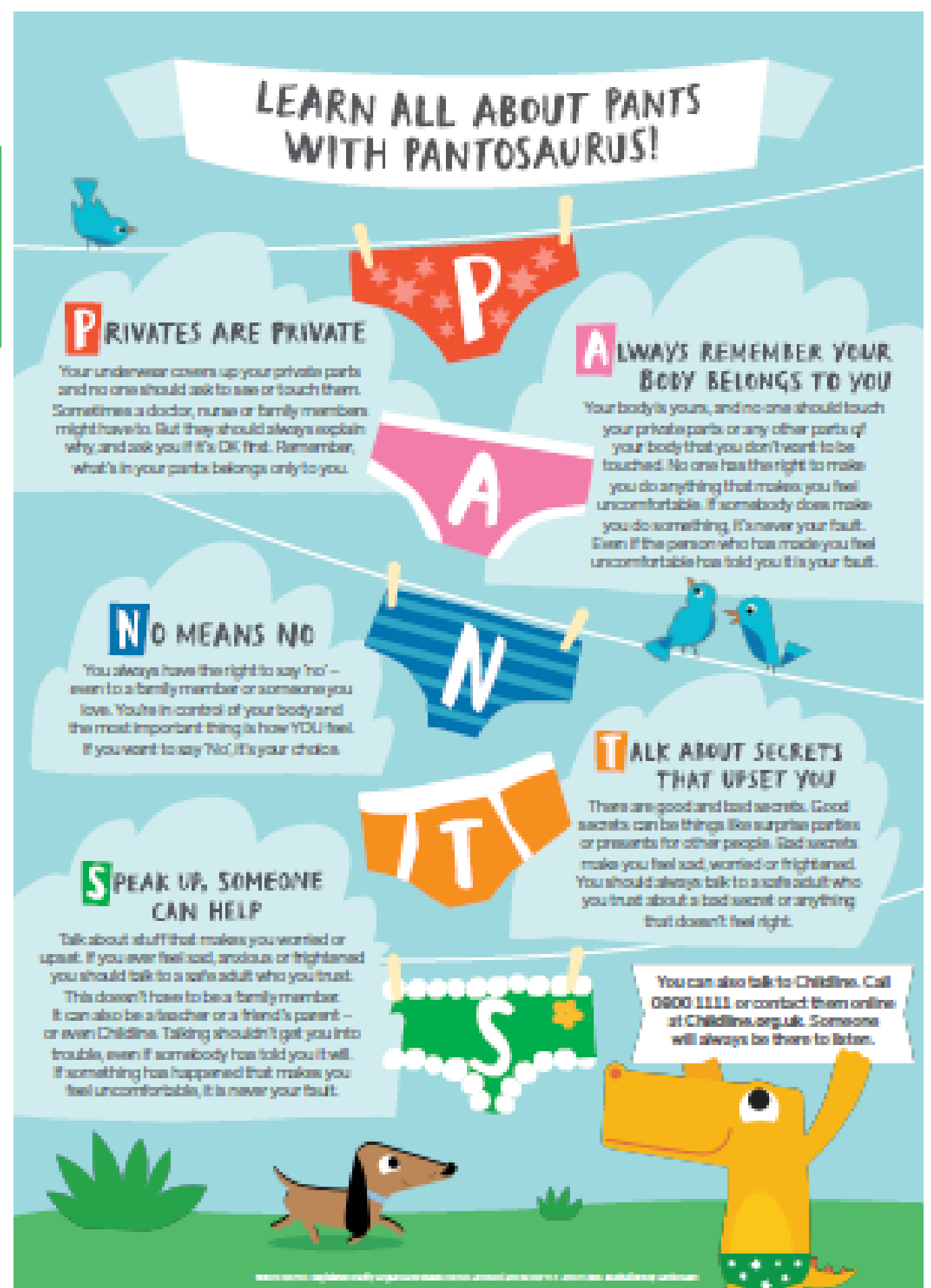
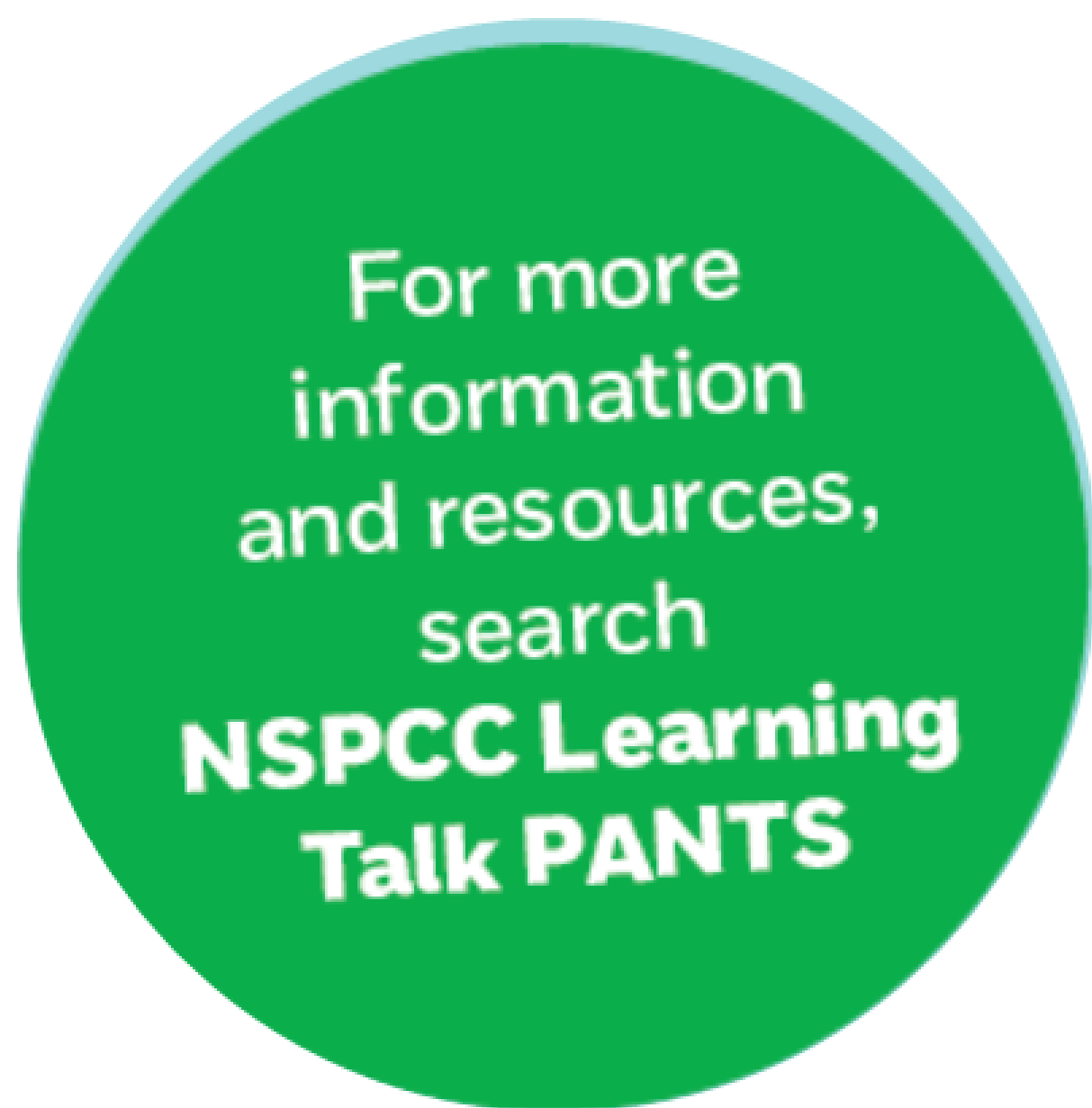
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Next week we will be teaching the children the five PANTS rule. Talk PANTS is all about having important conversations with children to help keep them safe from sexual abuse - with the help of Pantosaurus, of course!

From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides a simple but valuable rule.

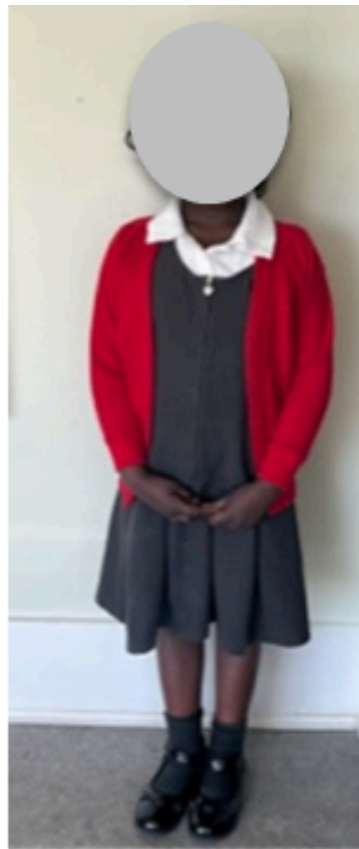




Daily uniform list

- Plain white polo shirt with collar
- Plain red sweatshirt or cardigan, with or without the school logo (no hoods or other markings)
- Grey school trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress (not sports/PE shorts)
- Red and white checked summer dress (including culottes style)
- Plain grey, white or red socks or tights
- Black shoes (not trainers or boots); in summer, smart black or white sandals may also be worn
- Simple hair accessories should be black, grey, red or white
- Plain black, grey, red or white hijabs, patkas or turbans

Nursery children are required to wear the white polo shirt and red sweatshirt or cardigan



PE kit list to be worn only on days when your child has PE lessons

- Plain red round-neck t-shirt (no collar or logos)
- Plain black jogging bottoms, plain black leggings or plain black loose shorts (not cycling/tight shorts)
- Plain red sweatshirt or cardigan, with or without the school logo (no hoods or other markings)
- Comfortable trainers with good grip or black plimsolls (no studs or 'heelies')



School shoes

All children should wear comfortable plain black school shoes. Trainers are only permitted on PE days. Some examples of suitable school shoes include:





What is happening across our school?

Another day in the life of Early Years.

We have spent the last few weeks reading 'We're going on a bear hunt' by Michael Rosen. We acted out the story, Bear Hunt yoga and Reception wrote their first sentence together.

The children loved learning about remembrance and made poppies in free flow.

We have been learning about circles and triangles and the children used the iPads to take photos of those shapes around school.

We've continued to be imaginative in our outside area, including making castles and developing our early understanding of gravity with guttering and balls.





What is happening across our school?

Following their **R.E learning about Christianity**, the children in **Year 1** enjoyed a visit to St. Mary's Church. They were able to look around the church and ask Reverend Smith lots of questions. They really enjoyed listening to the church bells being rung !

This week the Year 1 all enjoyed watching a visiting theatre company perform a **Pantomime** called **The Reluctant Dragon**.





What is happening across our school?

It has been another exciting few weeks of learning in **Year 2** as last week we visited our local church. The children explored religious artefacts and showed great respect throughout the trip. In our Geography learning, we have been walking around our school and completing maps to show the borders and where our classrooms are. The children have shown great resilience at this and showed good positional language discussion such as; it must be here because the hall is next to the KS1 playground!





What is happening across our school?

Our new **Year 3** topic, “**Time Team**,” is now well under way, and the children are enjoying learning and discovering a range of fascinating facts about the **Stone Age**. They are beginning to use exciting new vocabulary such as *Palaeolithic*, *Mesolithic* and *Neolithic*. The children would love to tell you all about these periods - please ask them what they have learned! This week, we have also been busy acting as detectives, observing and recording the features and properties of a range of rocks.

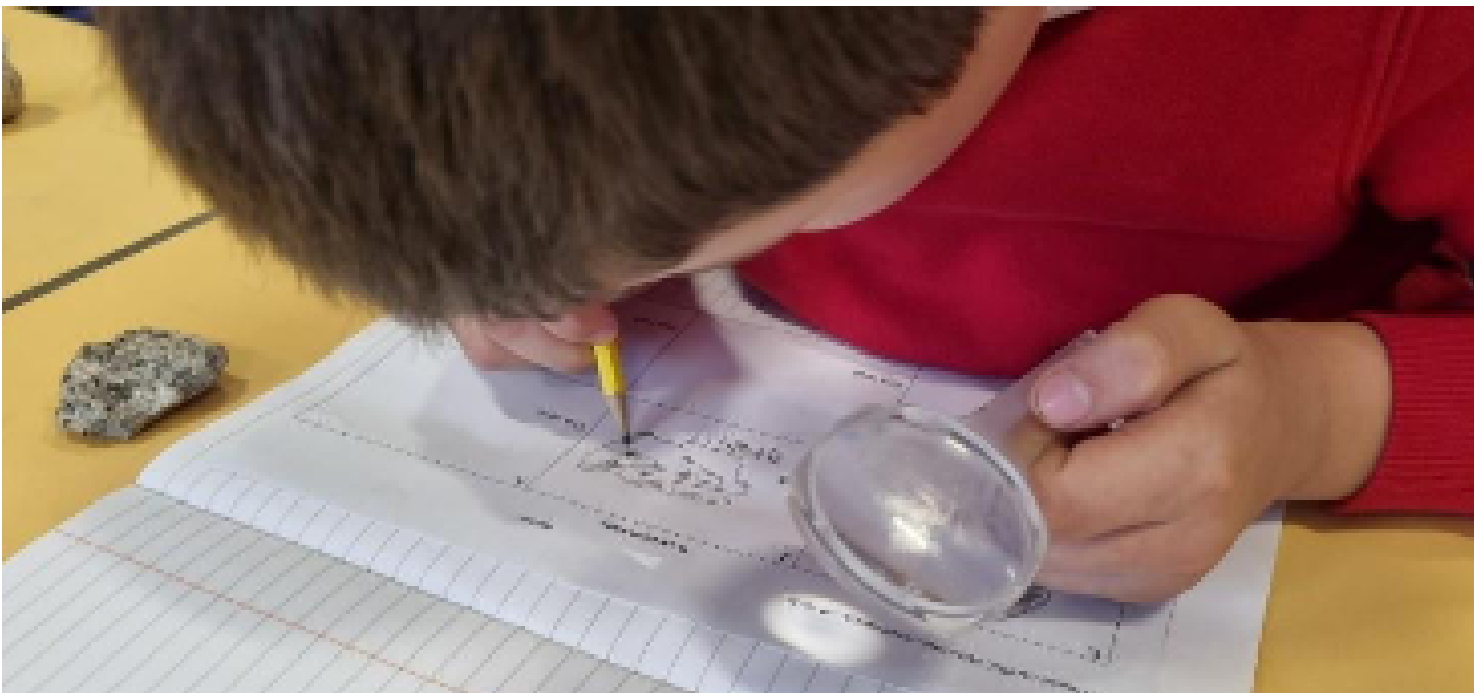
Did you know...

Sandstone can show beautiful layers because it forms from sand building up over time—each layer tells part of Earth’s story.

Chalk is actually made from the tiny skeletons of sea creatures that lived millions of years ago.

Granite is one of the hardest rocks on Earth and forms deep underground from slowly cooled magma—its crystals are big enough to see with the naked eye!

We can’t wait to continue exploring the wonders of the past in the weeks ahead.



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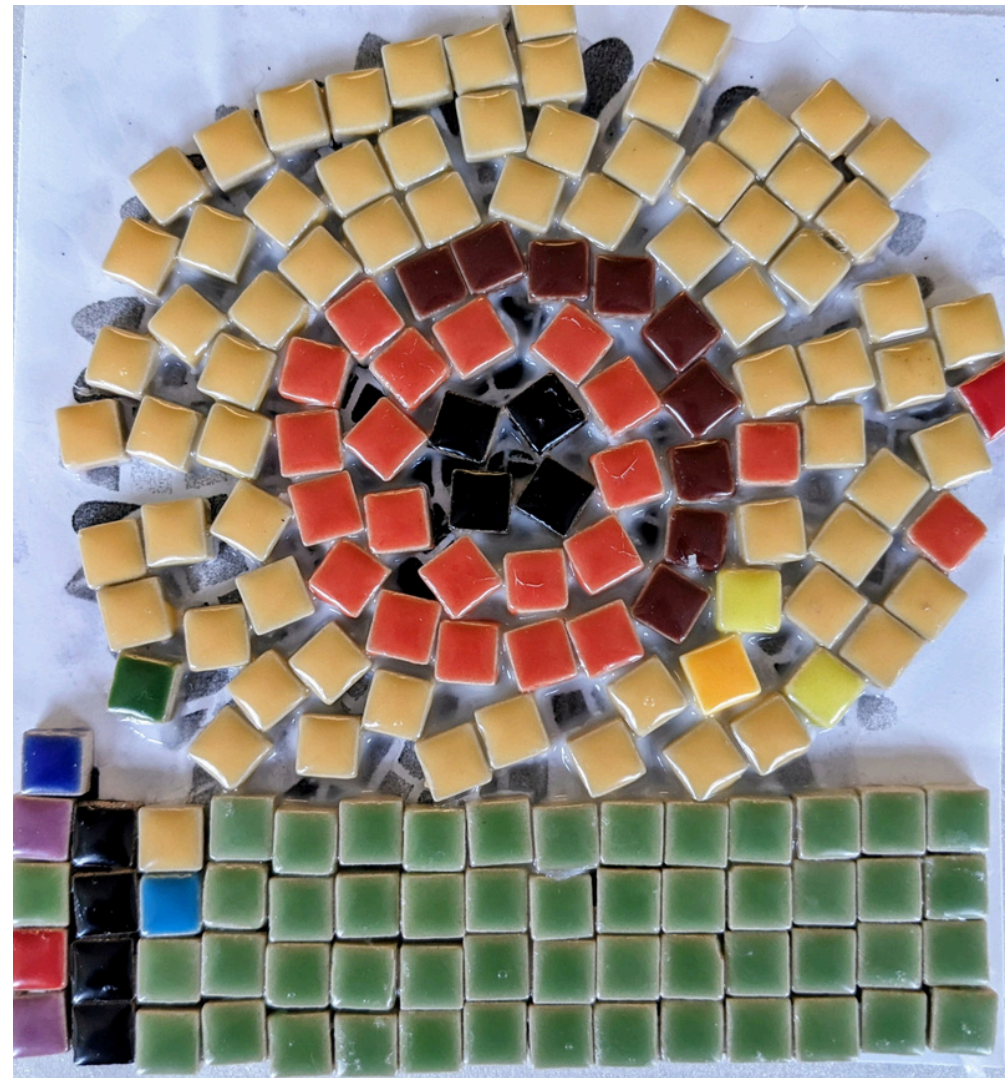


What is happening across our school?

Year 4 have been **exploring Roman life and culture through a hands-on art project**. The children studied examples of ancient mosaics and then created their own designs using small tiles, patterns, and colour choices inspired by real Roman artwork. They have been proud of the detail and creativity in their finished pieces, and this project has helped them deepen their understanding of how Romans decorated their homes and public spaces.

The children also enjoyed a memorable trip to the Royal Albert Hall to see Future Makers.

Experiencing live performance in such an iconic venue sparked a great deal of excitement and curiosity. Pupils returned to school talking enthusiastically about the musicians, the atmosphere, and the opportunity to see a world famous space that many of them had only heard about.



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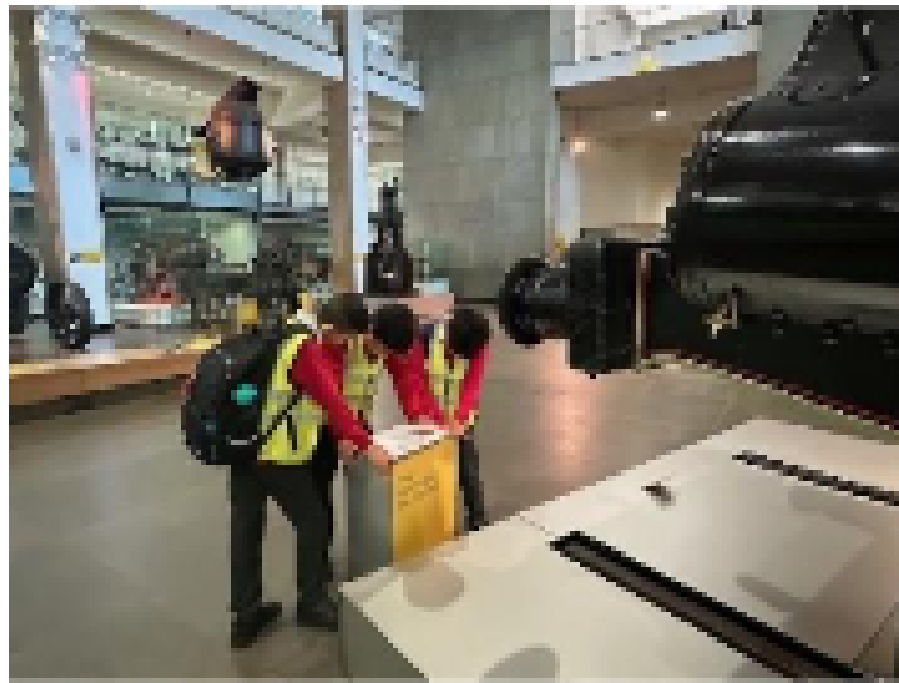
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What is happening across our school?

This half term, **Year 5** have launched into our exciting new topic: **Cosmic!** This theme is all about exploring the wonders of space—how our solar system works, what lies beyond our planet, and how humans have used science, imagination, and technology to understand the universe. Throughout the unit, children will be discovering the movements of the Earth, Sun, and Moon, learning about the history of space exploration, and investigating what it might be like to travel beyond our world.

To kick-start our learning, we began with an inspiring trip to the **Science Museum**. The children were captivated by the incredible space exhibits, from rockets and satellites to real astronaut equipment. They asked brilliant questions, made thoughtful observations, and left buzzing with curiosity about the mysteries of space.





What is happening across our school?

We also enjoyed a fantastic **hands-on science workshop**, where **Year 5** took part in practical investigations and launched their own rockets! The workshop was filled with excitement and offered the perfect opportunity to apply scientific thinking in a fun and memorable way.

In **art**, our creativity is truly taking off as we experiment with textures, colours, and techniques to create cosmic-themed artwork. From swirling galaxy paintings to detailed planet studies, Year 5 are producing imaginative and vibrant pieces inspired by the mysteries of outer space.

It has been an excellent start to the half term, and the children are eager to continue their cosmic adventure. We cannot wait to see where their learning takes them next!





What is happening across our school?

Year 6 have had an exciting and creative term so far!

In **science**, we've been exploring the human circulatory system. The highlight was our heart dissection workshop - it was amazing to see the children so engaged, examining real hearts and asking thoughtful questions. Clearly, we have some budding scientists and doctors in the making!

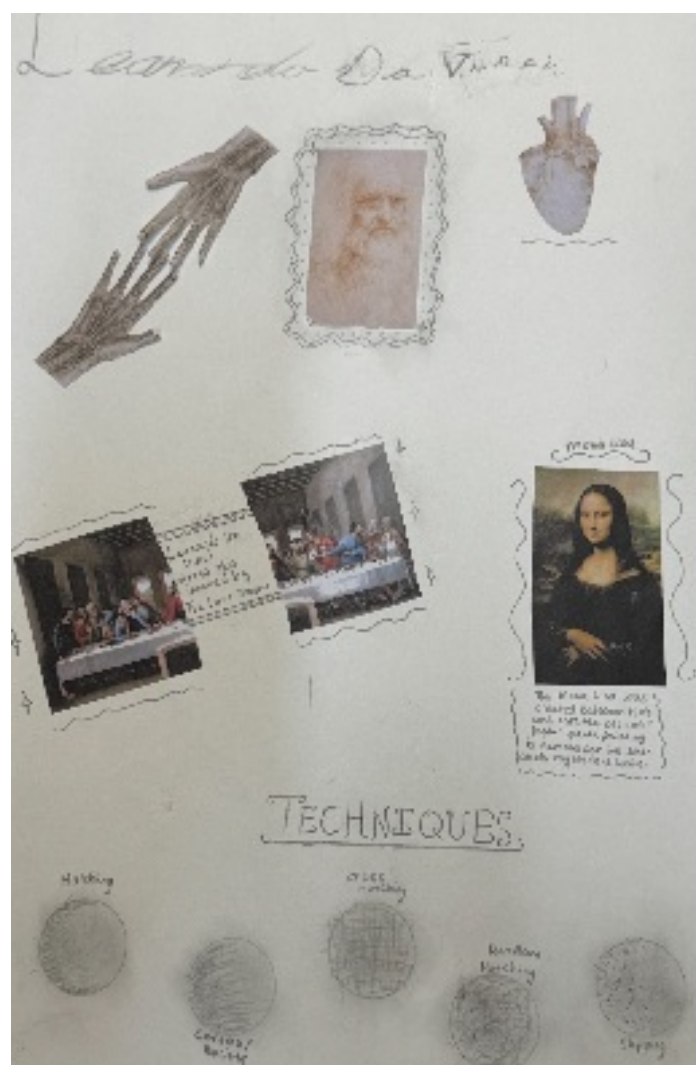
In **art**, the children have been studying the life and methods of Leonardo da Vinci. They have explored his sketches, techniques, and inventive approach to combining art and science. Now they are putting their skills to the test by recreating his famous Da Vinci Heart sketch, carefully observing details and bringing their own creativity to the work.

In **computing**, we've been focusing on staying safe online. The children have explored topics such as cyberbullying, the impact of social media on wellbeing and self-image, and how to use technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly. It's been fantastic to see them thinking critically about their online behaviour and discussing ways to protect themselves and others.

In **reading**, we have begun our adventure into the world of Alex Rider with Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz. The children are already hooked by the action, suspense, and clever twists, and it's been wonderful to see them discussing characters and predicting what might happen next.

The festive spirit is also alive and well in Year 6, as the corridors fill with the sound of rehearsals for our **Christmas Carol concert**. It's been lovely to see the children working together, practicing with enthusiasm, and embracing the joy of the season.

With such a busy term so far, we're proud of the children's curiosity, creativity, teamwork, and thoughtfulness.



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What is happening across our school?

History at Fairholme!

We want to send a huge thank-you to all the parents who've already jumped in and completed our History survey! Your responses have been fantastic, and we've loved hearing your thoughts. If you haven't had the chance yet, there's still time—just click the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/tU9vpTkFu8>

The more voices we hear, the better we can make history come alive for our students!

Here are some of the responses we have received for the following question...

What skills do you think your child learns through History?



Celebrating Black History Month

We were absolutely blown away by the incredible response to our Black History Month competition! So many children took part, and the level of care, creativity, and research that went into their work was nothing short of amazing. From beautifully presented projects to thoughtful explorations of inspirational figures, it was clear that a lot of time and enthusiasm went in at home. We're so proud of all our young historians—well done to everyone who entered!



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Inter-Faith Week

Inter Faith Week 2025 took place from 9th to 16th November. The theme for this year was '**Community: Together We Serve**'. The week was designed to strengthen inter-faith relations and deepen understanding between people of different beliefs, and the children learned about these ideas through discussions and activities.

Also during the week, Mr Harvey and the kitchen staff organised inter-faith menus for lunch. The children loved exploring dishes from different cultures and discovered many new foods they enjoyed. Our favourite snack was the vegetable samosa!



We are also inviting children to take part in our Inter-Faith poetry competition linked to this year's theme, "**Community: Together We Serve.**" Children may choose to write **acrostic poems, rhyming poems**, or use any other creative style they prefer. The winning entries will be sent to the Inter-Faith Week team for national judging, and there will be exciting prizes and certificates to be won!

Children may hand any poems completed at home to their class teacher. The closing date for entries is **28th November.**



👁️ OracyMatters

Look out in our newsletters for our **Talking Point**. An idea or topic to start *reciprocal* (back and forth) *conversations* with your children.

Conversations where we take turns to talk will develop children's thinking, listening, speaking and concentration.

We will provide you with a starting point, topic or question, along with some suggestions of sentence stems, and words to support your child to use in their answers.

🗣️ Talking Point

Question: What would you like to be when you are a grown up/older?

Sentence stem: When I am older I would like to be.....

Question: Why have you chosen this? **OR**
What appeals to you about this job?

Sentence stem: I would like this job because.... **OR**
This job/career appeals to me because.....

Question: What could we do to find out more about this job? **OR**
Who could we talk to about this to find out more information?

Sentence stem: I think that we could....