



The Federation of  
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,



Welcome to our most recent newsletter - a jammed packed edition for the end of what has been a busy term! As always, please do spend some time looking through all the various pages - we are delighted to have some of our young writers also contribute again to this newsletter. Writing has been a real focus for us this academic year and I am delighted to be able to see how well our children are responding to the teaching that is taking place in this area.

Thank you for continuing to support us by encouraging strong and positive attendance at school for your children this term. Every school day really does count and an attendance rate of 90% equates to 20 days off school each year (4 weeks in total) which is a significant amount of learning time lost. We do understand that there are times when children inevitably are unwell and will need to be absent from school - to support parents in these decisions I have included some guidance on minor illnesses and when it is appropriate to send children to school (page 2).

I hope that you can all have a good Easter break and we look forward to seeing the children back to school on Monday 15th April

Best wishes and kind regards

*Mr Mark Girling*

Headteacher

### Every School Day Counts



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2024

# What to do

## Advice on childhood illnesses



Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required



Some restrictions for school attendance



Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
<b>Asthma flare up</b>	Worsening of usual symptoms		Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
<b>Chicken pox</b>	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
<b>Common cold</b>	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)		Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
<b>Flu</b>	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
<b>German measles/ Rubella</b>	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards		GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
<b>Glandular fever</b>	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before		GP	*
<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth disease</b>	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)		GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
<b>Head lice</b>	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)		Pharmacy	
<b>Impetigo</b>	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness		GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
<b>Measles</b>	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash		GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
<b>Ringworm</b>	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty		Pharmacy	
<b>Scabies</b>	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm		GP	Back to school after first treatment
<b>Scarlet fever</b>	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash		GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
<b>Shingles</b>	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash		GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
<b>Sickness bug/ diarrhoea</b>	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
<b>Threadworms</b>	Intense itchiness around anus		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
<b>Tonsillitis/ Strep throat</b>	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day		Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow. Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
<b>Whooping cough</b>	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'		GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
<b>Covid</b>				Visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> for latest guidance

\*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

# News from Nursery

## Red Nose Day 2024

Our whole school values include acceptance and compassion and Red Nose Day provides us with the opportunity to instil these values in our children whilst having fun and supporting a great cause.

We loved seeing each child's splash of red and were able to discuss and compare our red items at carpet time.

The children enjoyed exploring all things red including button placement lady-birds and some rather exciting slime!

They were able to explore their creative side and invited to make their own 'crazy hair' hats. Strips of red paper were added to a headband before it was decorated with red finger-painting. We think they look amazing!



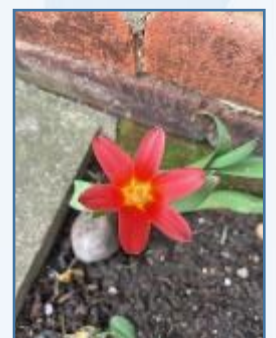
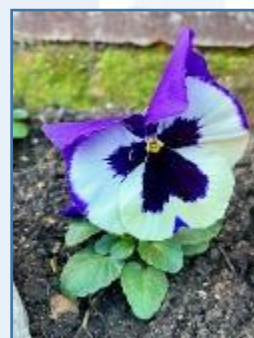
Red Nose Day also gave us the opportunity to explore our own feelings. Children were able to add features to our face templates and choose an emotion to depict.



## Spring has arrived!

The children have been sharing their own knowledge and experiences of the natural world whilst spotting signs of spring, in and around the Nursery garden. The recent sunshine and rise in temperature has brought a smile to all of our faces. Though it may be short-lived!

Please remember to provide the necessary clothing to allow your child/children to explore the outside area comfortably and safely whatever the weather.



# News from Reception

## Outdoor Construction

The children have really enjoyed exploring our new outdoor construction equipment. They have been using imagination and construction skills to build a range of things including, cars, obstacle courses, boats and bridges. They have had to think about safety, ensuring their creations were safe for children to sit/walk on. The children are encouraged to write signs for their constructions and create their own stories.



## Trip to the Library

This term the children visited the Felixstowe Library. Following on from World Book Day the children were excited to visit the library. We enjoyed a story read by the librarians. We talked about the difference between fiction and non-fiction books. The librarian asked for help to identify a range of book characters, including Peter Rabbit, Winnie The Pooh and The Gruffalo. The children then had time to explore the books in the library and enjoyed reading books and listening to stories. What a lovely morning we all had.



# News from Year One

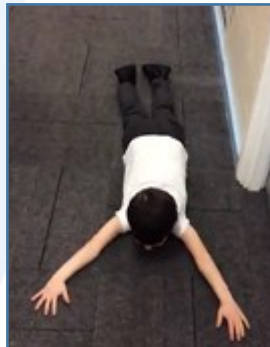
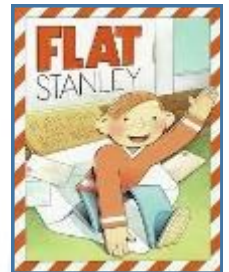
## Our visit to the cinema - Elemental

The children enjoyed their recent visit to the Palace Cinema to support their recount writing. They walked safely along the busy roads, applying their work in PSHE on road safety. Once at the cinema, children chose their seats and settled down to watch the film, Elemental. There were some great recounts produced with the use of time words and adjectives, to develop their sentence writing.



## Performance Poetry

The children have been studying calligram words (written to show the meaning) and shape poems. Their recent performance poetry was inspired by their study of the chapter book and character, Flat Stanley. Children used movements and their voice to perform the extract, Stanley got flatter and flatter and flatter. Their impressive performances were shared on Tapestry.



## Science Week—working as palaeontologists

The children have been exploring this year's theme of time. Class discussions shared their knowledge of time including showing time (watches, clocks, calendars), measuring time (hours, minutes) and the passing of time (Victorians, dinosaurs). We learnt about a palaeontologist, a scientist who studies the history of life on Earth. We completed class experiments to excavate bones (chocolate chips) from the ground (a biscuit) working carefully as a palaeontologist would.



# News from Year 2

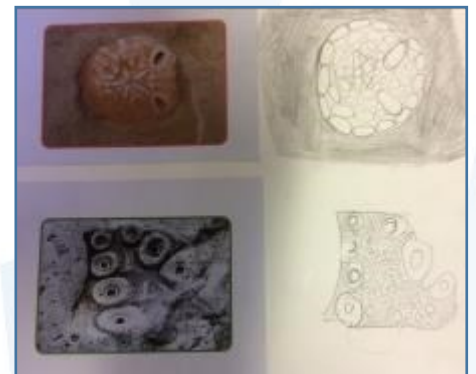
## Cheerleading

In dance the children are enthusiastically learning a cheerleading routine. They have worked on posture, timing, teamwork and performance. They have tried to combine different cheer positions such as high V, punch, touchdown and half T. We are really impressed so far!



## Mary Anning

In history the children have loved learning about Mary Anning and why she is such an important historical figure. They have enjoyed finding out about the rocks, fossils, animals and bones found in the clay cliffs of Lyme Regis. They were excited to discover that she uncovered the most famous fossil ever found and that scientists from all over the world travelled to see it! In art the children enjoyed sketching fossils and are all really looking forward to creating fossils out of clay.



## Red Nose Day 2024

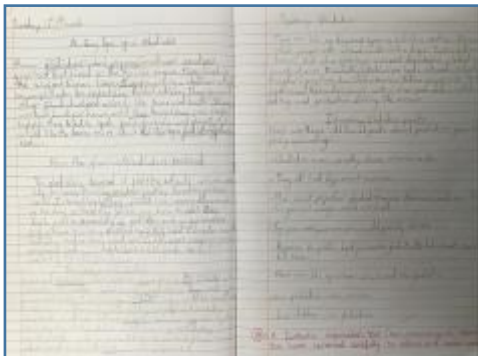
In PSHE the children were interested to find out about the reasons why we celebrate Comic Relief. They enjoyed listening to stories about people who have benefitted from money raised by the charity and loved learning and performing a Red Nose Day song which incorporated both dance moves and Makaton. The children also had a great time designing a red nose and looked fantastic wearing their splashes of red!



# News from Year 3

This has been a very busy term for the children which has been full of fantastic experiences. We have finished our History topic, Invaders and Settlers, and we are now learning about Felixstowe and Rainforests. In our assemblies, we have focused on kindness and have been rewarding those showing kindness and compassion towards others. Finally, we would like to thank you for supporting our Year 3 Maths afternoon. It was great to see many of you spending time with your children, taking part in a range of times table activities.

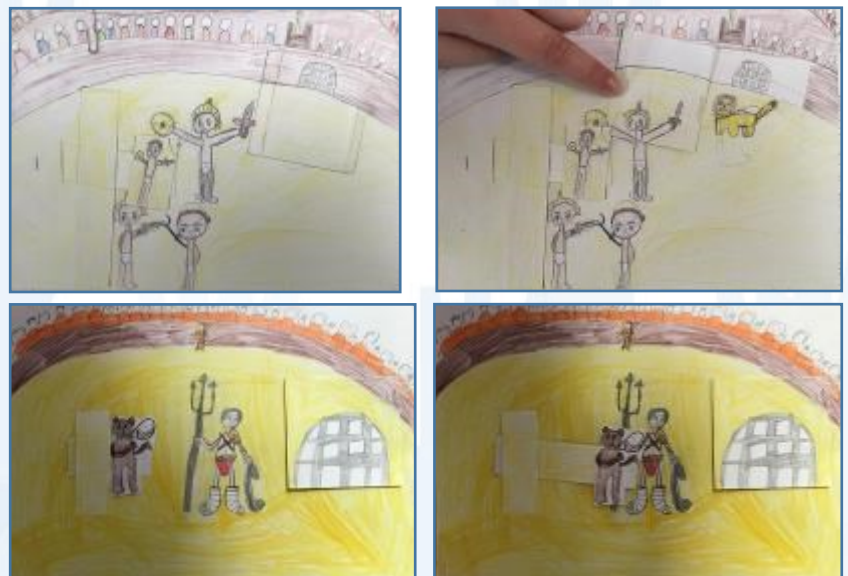
In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about gladiators (unfortunately, not the TV show) and instructional texts.



In music, the children have been learning to appraise songs and have learnt to read music. We can play some songs using the notes B, A and G.



In DT, the children have made Viking long ships and have been learning about basic mechanisms to produce a gladiator scene in a Roman amphitheatre.



In PE, the children have been learning to move and balance using the apparatus in the hall. They have also been learning cricket. The Year 3's are working really hard to perfect their catching, bowling and batting techniques.

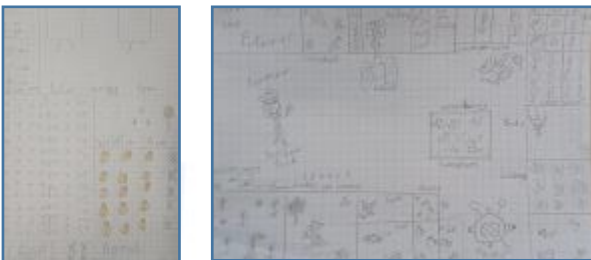
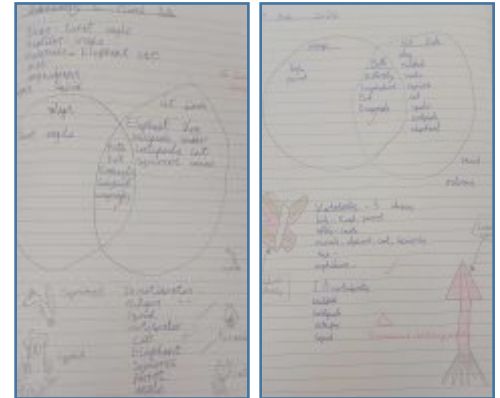


# News from Year 4

Year 4 have been busy with their learning. They continue to enjoy the outdoor learning activities and have loved seeing the signs of spring, including finding a newt! In Maths, we have been working on fractions and have learnt about mixed numbers and improper fractions. In PE, we have begun to learn our Samba dance ready for St Lucia week.

## Science

In Science, we have been learning about food chains. In outdoor learning, we made food chains and identified producers, primary and secondary consumers and predators.



## British Science Week

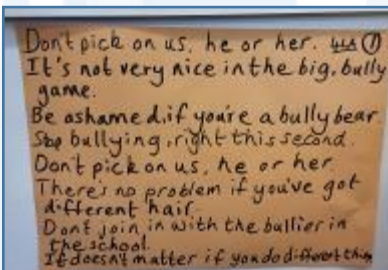
British Science Week was celebrated in school between the 8th and 17th March. The theme this year was 'Time'. In Year 4, we have been thinking about farms of the future and how we can face the challenges of climate change, sustainability and population growth. The children designed their own farms including features like drones.

## Music

The music topic this half term has been entitled 'STOP!'. Children have been learning to copy riffs and using the note 'C' on the glockenspiels and recorders. We have also been writing our own rap!

## World Book Day 2024

On Thursday 7th March we celebrated World Book Day in school. Each class made a mask of a favourite book character. As part of our day we spent time reading our books and writing book reviews.





# News from Year 5

## World Book Day Celebrations

As always, Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed this year's World Book Day celebrations in March. A highlight of the day was showcasing the fantastic masks and badges the children had created. The task allowed them to demonstrate their creativity as well as their enthusiasm for their favourite books and characters. It was wonderful to see the children expressing themselves through their artistic talents. Our assembly on the day provided students with some valuable tips on how to find books that align with their interests and foster a love for reading. In addition, everyone (adults included), delighted in an extended period of time engrossed in a book during 'Drop Everything and Read'.



## Premier Dance Showcase

This term 5ST have been working to learn a choreographed dance routine in their Friday PE lessons. All the children worked exceptionally hard, and a number of them were able to then perform the routine at Felixstowe High School, in the Premier Showcase. It was a fantastic evening and all the classes involved did an amazing job. Opportunities to perform in front of an audience are such a boost to the children's confidence and the performers were so proud of themselves, as they should be.



## Scientific Investigation

Our Year 5 Science topic this term has been about exploring different materials, their properties and changes to these materials or states. We have undertaken several investigations to separate mixtures using different scientific apparatus and processes, looking closely at the process of evaporation. Our work on reversible and irreversible changes coincided excellently with the school's British National Science Week assembly with 'Science Dude Kev'.

# News from Year 6

This half term, Year 6 have enjoyed a variety of cross-curricular activities.

## English

The children have continued to learn about World War Two. We have recently learned about The Battle of Britain and The Blitz. Children wrote a newspaper report and enjoyed presenting them using the Chromebooks.



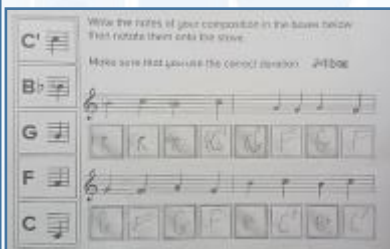
## Gymnastics

The children have continued to develop sequences concentrating on linking movement and travelling across apparatus. Each week they have evaluated, improved and peer assessed their work.



## Music

The pupils have been learning about Jazz. They have improvised and composed their own music. We took our learning outside to practise.



## Science Week 2024

The theme for this year was 'Time'. The children used their predicting and recording skills to explore size of particles in the air and how these affect the respiratory system.



## World Book Day 2024



# World Book Day 2024

## Trip to Felixstowe Library

To celebrate World Book Day, Year 2 visited the Library to share our love of reading. The children had a quiz and they had time to explore the books before sharing a story altogether about using our imaginations. We are so lucky that Felixstowe Library is in our community and we love that we can encourage the children to go there in their own time.



## Marvellous Masks

The children were so creative in choosing their masks and characters to dress up in. The teachers loved sharing these in class with the children and talking about what their favourite books are and why. Teachers chose some of their favourite masks which the children had made and they received a prize book for their hard work and creativity.



## World Book Day Celebrations

To celebrate the day we had a range of activities going on throughout school. It was very busy and full of excitement! The children brought in their favourite books to read and shared these, and their masks with the class. They had time to read these books during 'Drop Everything and Read'. The children had the chance to make a badge of their favourite book or character which they wore on their uniform for the day. They went outside in the sunshine and completed Miss Maitland's treasure book hunt. They worked hard to complete the quiz and find the title of Miss Maitland's favourite book. We all had a lovely day celebrating reading, books and our favourite characters.



# Science Week 2024

## Our Special Science Assembly

To launch our school's celebration of National Science Week, we invited 'Science Dude Kev' to host an assembly at each school. Fairfield enjoyed the 'air' assembly and Colneis enjoyed the 'chemistry' assembly. We learnt about the scientific terminology for air and the effects of air under pressure. Colneis enjoyed a range of experiments looking at chemical reactions. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm for science!



## Science all around us!

Children have a varied curriculum when studying science from Nursery to Year 6. It is always lovely to see the scientific work being studied in classrooms, outdoor areas and at home, using Tapestry accounts.





## Help! I feel like don't understand my child...

Have you ever wondered what is going on in your child's mind? Why do they have a tantrum? Why do they seem to go from 0 to 100 with their anger? How can I stop them from answering back all the time?

The good news is that you are not alone, and we hear this from many, many parents. We know that raising children of all ages is fun, difficult, rewarding and challenging all at the same time! Being parents ourselves we have, and are walking in your shoes and this is why the Federation decided to start to run Family Thrive courses.

We have been running courses during the day and in the evenings for the past 3 years and have been proud to have supported over 60 parents who have attended the 6-week course. During the course they all began to see changes in their children and themselves, often leading to calmer and more harmonious times together.

Here's what a handful of our Family Thrive graduates had to say:

*"Excellent, would have liked to do this 18 years ago. Thank you"* Dad, Year 6 pupil

*"Thank you so much for the great opportunity, I thoroughly enjoyed the course. It was very informative with a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. A very beneficial course, 100% recommend."* Mum Year 1,4,6 pupils

*"Thankyou very much for making my family life a little easier, this has been a great experience"* Dad, Year 6 & 3 pupils

*"An excellent course! I was not sure what to expect but have really enjoyed the course. I feel more confident in how to handle my emotions and support my daughters in time of stress or worry. Thank you"* Mum Year 6, 3 pupils

*"I really enjoyed the course and found it informative and thought provoking. I also enjoyed meeting other parents and chatting as an informal group."* Mum Year 1 pupil

If you think you might be interested in attending here is what you will learn about:

How our brains develop \* How your right brain talks to your left \* Why play and creativity are so important to you and your child \* How to support your child at times of change and difficulty \* Everyday trigger times and how to keep calm \* How to be a behaviour detective \* Thrive in your school

The course will be run by Mrs Carolyn Shaw who is a Thrive approved course leader and a Thrive practitioner and Mrs Dawn Piper, Pastoral Lead. The course will run for six sessions that will last for 2 hours (so that there is time for coffee, biscuits and chat!). The sessions will be structured yet informal sessions that will allow time to interact with other parents and carers, ask questions, get help and practical suggestions to use with your child aged 2-16 years.

The next course will run on Monday evenings from **6-8pm** at Colneis and we encourage mums, dads, carers, grandparents - anyone who is caring for your children to attend. We have had several couples attend together which they found really helpful so that they could have the same language and understanding at home.

**DATES: 13<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**A ParentMail will come out after Easter, so if you would like to come along, please register quickly as we only have 15 spaces per course.**

**Looking forward to meeting you!**

**Mrs Shaw and Mrs Piper**



# PE

## U11 and U9 Futsal

An enrichment activity, hosted and supported brilliantly by the sports leaders at Felixstowe School. We are working closely with them to ensure that the children can start to create more and more local links and support transition for those in Year 6 and planning on attending FXS!

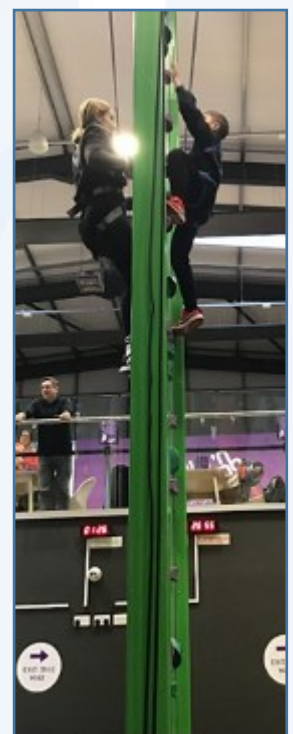


## Clip and Climb

A wonderful event organised by our School Games team. This was an enrichment activity and the children that attended definitely enjoyed themselves and were able to really push themselves. It is always so lovely to look back on the pictures and see the smiles on their faces.

Miss Fuller took the lead for the trip and was even able to conquer some of her own fears; there is a very funny video of her too scared to jump from her first visit there!!

Well done everyone. A lovely start to the new term!



# PE

## Sportshall Athletics

This is always a very loud and raucous event. The children are up against around 15 other schools, all crammed into a sportshall where the volume can reach incredible decibels!

They all competed brilliantly in a number of different events across the afternoon.



## U11 Dodgeball

A development competition. The children played really well and were incredibly supportive of each other and their opponents.

They enjoyed the event, definitely learnt some new skills and enjoyed winning a few games along the way too.

Well done everyone. As ever, you represented our school beautifully.



## Felixstowe Swimming Gala

What a fantastic event. This event involved a large number of children from year 6, who have to compete in a number of different races. There are some individual races but there are also plenty of team events too and they all supported and cheered each other on with real passion.

Returning to an event as the reigning champions can add a little pressure but they delivered a brilliant performance, bringing home the trophy for another year!!

Well done to all involved!



# PE

## U11 Rotary Football @ ITFC

An amazing competition. All of the Felixstowe schools were invited to take part in a competition organised and funded by the Felixstowe Rotary Club.

In what was an extremely competitive morning, Colneis managed 3 wins out of 3 to qualify for the semi finals. A 5 - 0 victory in the semi final saw them through to a repeat of last years final against Trimley St Martin.

The final was a very tight affair. Colneis conceded their first goal of the tournament early on but fought back well, equalising in the final 30 seconds of the game before hanging on a little right at the death!

To penalties.....

The penalty shootout ended with Trimley St Martin as the champions, winning 5 - 4 but I couldn't have been prouder of how Colneis dealt with it. Sport is all about winning and losing and they showed real resilience.

Hopefully we will get the chance for a rematch soon!





# PE

## Panathlon Bowling Event

Another panathlon event and one heavily focused on fun and participation. The bowling alley has the lights turned down and the children have their totals added together to calculate a winner of the event.

The 'winner' is always a very secondary outcome of these events. The most important thing is that the children have enjoyed themselves and had an opportunity to complete for the school.



## U11 Basketball - Enrichment

Lots of fun was had by both the U9 and U11 teams that we were able to send.

They learned some new skills with the basketball, expertly led by the high school students who were very patient and kind. We ended by playing some fun games against the other schools!

Fun was had by all.



## U9 Basketball - Enrichment

A local Felixstowe initiative. These events were designed to mirror events that were happening at a competitive level in Ipswich and provide an extra opportunity for a wide range of children. It also works as a really good transition opportunity for the children who get to see Felixstowe School and some supporting students and teachers too.



Stock photo from Google

## U11 Tag Rugby

A very good afternoon for tag rugby. The weather was atrocious and poor Mr Crump and the girls got absolutely drenched! So much so there were no pictures of the event because they were all so cold and wet!

They still gave their absolute all, representing the school beautifully, even if a little soggy!

# PE

## Rotary Club - Clip and Climb

Another fantastic opportunity afforded to us by the lovely people at Felixstowe Rotary Club. They have sponsored this event for the last few years and our children continue to benefit massively from their generosity. Thank you to all involved!



## U8 and U10 Girls Football

A wonderful couple of events. Both of these events are aimed at getting more girls playing football. They are non-competitive and allow the girls to play matches against other schools whilst not worrying too much about who is winning or losing. They all had a great few afternoons and were able play with a smile on their faces!



## U11 Felixstowe Football competition

A fantastic afternoon from both teams. The A team were playing for the trophy and went unbeaten throughout the afternoon, winning three games and drawing one. The B team were equally as effective in their games, winning a few and scoring lots of goals.



# PE

## Panathlon Swimming

A great opportunity for our children, organised by the people at Panathlon, who look to provide competitive sports to those children who wouldn't always be able to access every other competition. The children had a fantastic afternoon, worked hard and earned lots of points as a team, eventually finishing fourth! A super effort all round!



## U11 Futsal - Boys

We took a compete and development team to the event held at Ipswich Hockey Club.

There were a lot of very close games. The development team played 6 games, winning three, drawing one and losing two. All of their games featured high levels of effort and sportsmanship, with all the children improving from the first game to the last.

The compete team started slowly, conceding 2 late goals to lose 3 - 2 but responded with two excellent wins against Dale Hall and Sidegate. Their league ended with a 1-1 draw against Heath. Unfortunately, they finished third in their group on goal difference, just one behind Heath! The playoff game ended in a 1-1 draw with Claydon with us keeping our fingers crossed for a place at the county finals!



# PE

## Cross Country

A typically blustery, wet morning for cross country but our team performed brilliantly. They supported each other as they rounded a difficult course that got muddier as the races went on! Fortunately no lost shoes from our team and I so incredibly proud of the effort that all of the children put in to make it round in one piece!



Year 4 boys- featuring a 16th, 28th and 29th place finish!



Year 4 girls - featuring a 25th and 28th place finish!



Year 5 girls - featuring a 3rd, 4th, 5th and 30th place finish!!



Year 5 boys- featuring a 12th place finish!



Year 6 boys- featuring a 5th and 21st place finish!



Year 6 girls - featuring a 17th place finish!



# PE

## Premier Showdown

Another hugely successful event, kindly hosted and supported by Felixstowe School. Children across Year 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been taking part in dance enrichment sessions over the term culminating in a performance to their adults. Our musical theatre afterschool club have also been working really hard and were part of the performance too.

All the children did themselves really proud. Their hard work has clearly paid off and they were able to produce an incredibly accomplished and confident performance. We are hoping to do more and more work with Felixstowe School over the next few years and this works as an excellent transition opportunity for those children selecting the school as the next stage of their educational journey.



# Colneis News



## Hoppy Easter!

Welcome to issue 2 of the 'Colneis News', brought to you by the members of Year 4 Creative Club - a talented group of children who just love writing and graphics. The children have worked incredibly hard, often in their own time, to produce this packed Easter edition of our school magazine.

We hope you will enjoy some of the new features in this second edition of the 'Colneis News', which reflects the passion and enthusiasm of the children themselves. These include: puzzles, maths challenges, nature reports, poetry and football, as well as some of the favourite topics from the first edition, such as cookery, art and craft.

So sit down on the sofa and enjoy 'The Easter Bunny' edition of the Colneis News - it promises to be a hopping good read!!!!

Wishing all our readers in the Colneis and Fairfield family a Very Happy Easter from everyone at the Year 4 'Creative Club'.



## Spring Life

Robins tweet upon the trees  
and the buzz of the bees  
and the blackbirds sing one more time  
Spring life.

## It's Spring!

When I  
look out my door  
and when I hear the caw  
of birds returning today  
It's Spring!

Poems by

*Robin Coyle Gilchrist*



## Spring Flower Facts

Spring is here and all around us there are the signs of nature reawakening. Here is Everly Wishart's detailed round-up on what signs of life to look out for in your garden or when out and about in nature!

### Snowdrop Spotting!

Snowdrops are one of the very first signs of Spring. These delicate flowers emerge in the depths of winter, as early as the 1st January.

By February, snowdrops flower in woodlands, parks and gardens all over the UK.

They're small, measuring just 15cm tall, but their beautiful white flowers make them easy to spot.

Due to climate change, snowdrops seem to be appearing earlier and earlier each year!



### Blossom Blooming

The white flowers of the Blackthorn are one of the first blossoms every year, they appear even before the shrub has leaves!

Pink blossoms, like Cherry and Apple, follow shortly after and then pinkish-white Hawthorn blossom in May. Blossom trees (and the fruit that follows after them, after the blossom ends) are an important habitat and food source for lots of other animals. Bees, caterpillars, blackbirds and even mammals such as voles and badgers, all rely on these trees for food and shelter.

By Everly Wishart

### Bluebell Woodlands

Believe it or not, but half the world's Bluebell population grow in the UK and in Spring they are out in full force.

These strongly-scented blooms form carpets across shady woodland floors from mid-April onwards. Bluebell colonies take a long time to establish and they're often found in ancient woodland.

Bluebell flowers are very delicate, so it's important not to touch them and be careful not to trample on them. If you are visiting a Bluebell wood, be sure to stick to the path, to keep these fab flowers safe!

*By Everly Wishart*



### Easter Fun

I woke up at sunrise,

Not expecting to see Easter Eggs in the garden

Waiting for me.

I ran downstairs, grabbing my bucket, and went into the garden.

I saw a chocolate egg, sitting next to a peg

On the washing line

And another one leaning up against a tree.

Easter fun had begun!

*By Daisy Treasure and Felicity Currey*

**Q. Why was the Easter Bunny hired for the job?**

**A. Because he had the most eggs-perience!**

### How to Make an Easter Chick!



- 1 First of all, take an empty egg box and cut it into six.
2. Next, take each section and paint half yellow (or any colour you want)
3. When the paint is dry, you can add some decoration e.g. googly eyes, wings and a beak. If you wish to make an Easter basket to store them in you can use the top part of the egg box.

### How to make an Easter Bunny!

You will need: an empty toilet roll, white paint, a pink pen, pencil, paper and a normal pen.

1. Paint the toilet roll and when it is dry, you need to draw a face on it.
2. Next you need to make ears (unless you want an earless bunny) You can draw them on a separate piece of paper and then colour them in and cut them out to stick at the top of the toilet roll.
3. Do the same to make a pair of feet. Now you have a perfect Easter Bunny.

*Craft idea by Lucy Richardson*

**Back of the Net! Football Highlights to look forward to over the coming months by Noah Page.**

#### Premier League

Spurs v Arsenal – 27th April

#### Championship

Ipswich v Southampton—1st April

Leicester v Norwich—1st April

Norwich v Ipswich –6th April

#### La Liga

Real Madrid v Barcelona—21st April

#### Serie A

AC Milan v Inter—21st April

#### Euros

Spain v Croatia—15th June

Serbia v England—16th June

Denmark v England—20th June

Spain v Italy -,20th June



## Bunny Biscuits

### Recipe for biscuit dough.

175g dark muscovado sugar

85g golden syrup

100g butter

350g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

1 tbsp ground ginger

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1 egg, beaten

### Method

#### STEP 1

With an adult, melt the sugar, golden syrup and butter in a saucepan, then bubble for 1-2 mins. Leave to cool for about 10 mins.

#### STEP 2

Tip the flour, bicarbonate of soda and spices into a large bowl. Add the warm syrup mixture and the egg, stir everything together, then gently knead in the bowl until smooth and streak-free. The dough will firm up once cooled. Wrap in cling film and chill for at least 30 mins.

#### STEP 3

When chilled, roll out the biscuit mixture until it is the thickness of a one pound coin.

Then, press a gingerbread man cutter into the dough and cut out the shape. Turn it upside down so the legs are now the ears.

#### STEP 4

Fold the arms around a chocolate egg and use a cocktail stick to decorate the face. Next, place a mini-egg in the middle of the bunny and fold around the gingerbread man's arms to hug it tight.

#### STEP 5

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6 and line two baking trays with baking parchment. Lift the biscuits onto the trays and bake for 10-12 mins. Leave to cool.

*Photographs and Instructions by  
Felicity Currey*



## Meet our very own Spring Expert!

Interview with Mrs Churchyard by Lucy  
Richardson and Daisy Treasure



### Q1. Why did you want children to engage in outdoor learning?

I think lots of children don't see all the little details in nature, so I wanted them to have the chance to explore the world around them.

### Q2. What made you love gardening so much?

I have always enjoyed being outside and seeing when new plants appear.

### Q3. Why do you get children to garden?

Because gardening sessions take time and it gives children the space to explore, get excited and be more social with nature.

### What to feed Garden Birds.

Everly Wishart's 'Bird-tastic' snacks to encourage wildlife into your garden.

- ◆ Apples
- ◆ Seeds
- ◆ Bread
- ◆ Bird cakes



# Bouncy Bunnies

## Groups

Rabbits live in social groups. These can be as little as 2 but as big as 30!

## Did you know?

Rabbits teeth never stop growing. They eat hard things to wear them down!

Find out all about the wonderful world of bunnies, with our resident rabbit enthusiast—Jess Farrell.

Do you like rabbits? Well, if you do you should keep on reading, on the other hand, if you don't like rabbits then maybe I can convince you otherwise!

## What do bunnies eat?

McDonalds? No. Burger King? No. How about carrots? Still no. Bunnies eat grasses, cereals, crops, root vegetables and young plant shoots. In the winter they even eat tree bark.

## Names

A kit is a baby.  
Doe is a Female.  
Buck is a male.

## When are rabbits active?

Rabbits are active at night, especially at dawn and dusk. They do sometimes come out by day, but they prefer nocturnal hours.

## Life of a rabbit

Rabbits can live up to 12 years!  
Most rabbits in the wild live up to a year at most.  
Does give birth to between 3—7 kits every month from March to August.

## Where do rabbits live?

Rabbits live in warrens, woodland areas, farmland, grassland, sand dunes and even gardens.

**Size:** Rabbit's bodies can be as big as 40cm tall, but as small as 5-8cm.

**Weight:** They grow to 1.2-2 kg in Spring. Bucks can be bigger!

## Mad about Bunnies!

It's not just the Easter Bunny that we love. Many of us are also crackers about our pet rabbits. Read Maria Briscan's facts about bunnies and find out why our floppy-eared friends are so very special!



1. Rabbits live underground because it's the safest place to hide from predators.



2. A rabbit can rotate its ears 180 degrees to pinpoint the exact location of a sound.



3. Rabbit's ears let them know their body temperature—that's why they are so floppy!



4. Pet rabbits don't like to be picked up or held.



5. Though bunnies don't like to be cuddled, that doesn't mean they don't enjoy human contact.



6. Bunnies may hop along happily, but they can also jump with force.



7. Rabbits teeth never stop growing and they can use litter boxes!

By Maria Briscan

**Q:** What did the bunny say to the carrot?

**A:** It's been nice gnawing you!

Spring Garden watch by Noah Page - As well as birds like starlings, sparrows, robins, blackbirds and wood pigeons— this Spring look out for hedgehogs, foxes and bats. If you look closely enough, you might also spot ants, worms and earwigs. Have fun in your garden!



### Winter has left

Winter snow

is now no more, sun is now shining down

I am so happy, right now today.

### Spring is Born

Birds are born today

and farm animals like chicks

the birthday of Spring.

### Spring

Now chicks are growing up

birds come back from migration

Spring is returning.

### The Reign of the Sun

Happy times, Spring is back

sun bakes over the snowflakes.

There is no more pain.

### Poems by Robin Coyle-Gilchrist

**Q:** Why don't chicks play baseball?

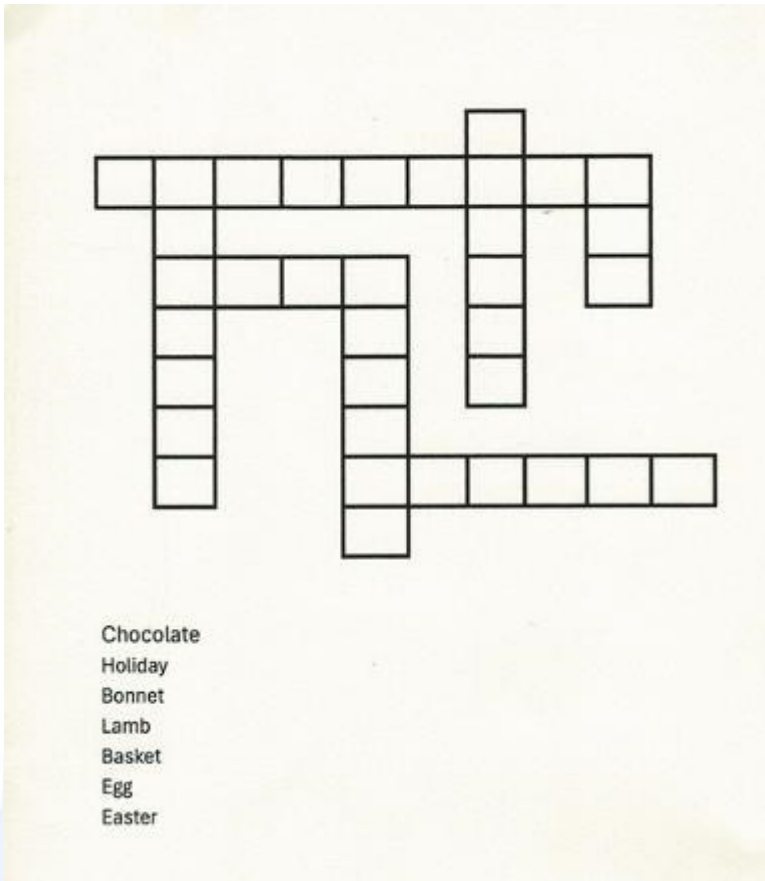
**A:** Too many fowl balls!

## Spoon Bunnies by Lucy Richardson

Make one of these cute Spoon Bunnies to decorate your Easter table. Fold pipe cleaners to form ears and attach them to a wooden spoon with craft glue. Draw a bunny face on the spoons using a felt tip, paint or coloured pencils. Dip the end of a pencil rubber into some pink paint to "stamp" on cheeks.

Put one spoon in each person's place setting at your Easter table and celebrate with your family.

Place these Easter words on the crossword template or try writing Your own clues to tease your family. By Lara Bone.



## Spring Birdwatch

By Noah Page

Spring is a great time to look out for migratory birds returning back to our gardens. Our resident ornithologist Noah Page gives you a few pointers on what you might see as the weather improves.

### Swallows

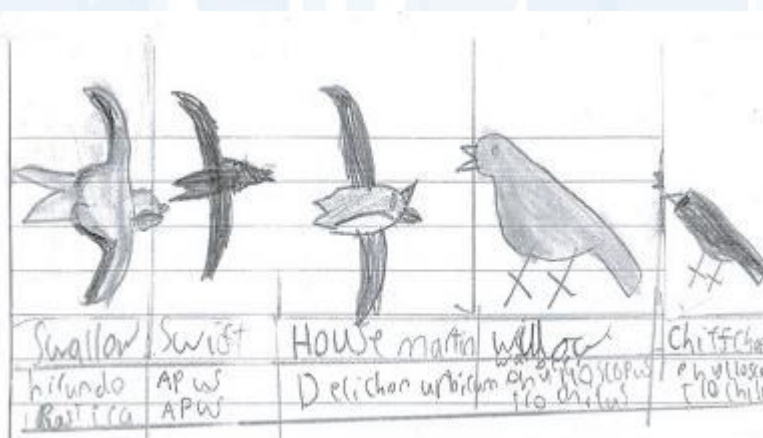
Swallows are mostly Summer visitors to the UK. They are in Africa from November to February when they return.

They tend to have a black beak and a buff orange, blue, red, black and white feathers.

These majestic birds live in farmland and in urban areas.

### Swifts

Swifts have streamlined bodies, long wings which are sickle shaped. Their tail is forked but it looks pointed when it is not spread. Their plumage is blackish brown, with a paler throat. Both the male and the female look very similar to each other. They look very like Swallows and Martins.



Continued on the next page...

### House Martin

As the name suggests, these birds live in houses. The upper part of a Martin's body is a glossy blue black, with a startling white underpart.

They fly to Africa in October, but return to the UK in April and are associated with both towns and villages.

### Willow Warbler

These birds live in woodland, favouring bushier areas along edges and in clearings. They are also less associated with tall trees.

These birds look very similar to the Chiff-Chaff and the Wood Warbler.

Willow Warblers have pale bellies, and darker bodies but juveniles (young birds) have more olive coloured underparts.

### Chiff Chaffs

The Chiff Chaff looks almost identical to the willow Warbler. It breeds in open woodland sand scrub. They can be found in England for most of the year, but are most popular in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Their call sounds like it is saying; "Chiff Chaff, Chiff Chaff!"



With thanks to Year 4 Creative Club:

Lucy Richardson, Maria Briscan, Jess Farrell, Robin Coyle-Gilchrist, Daisy Treasure, Felicity Currey, Everly Wishart, Lara Bone and Noah Page. With special thanks to Mrs Churchyard and Mrs Ozanne.

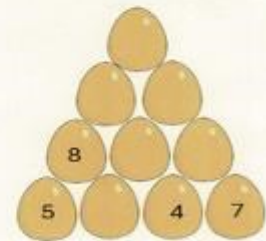
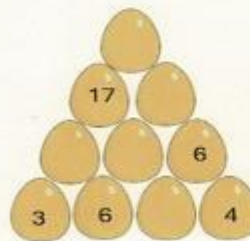
A	G	B	K	Y	Z	N	P	P	G	S	P	Z	Q	T
W	A	L	T	Z	C	X	K	S	T	P	R	O	T	I
Z	K	S	U	P	R	W	S	U	Q	R	T	K	S	A
W	E	X	B	M	E	G	G	H	T	I	V	U	W	Q
O	U	D	F	S	A	N	M	Y	E	N	M	X	K	O
Y	T	E	K	P	T	N	G	F	K	G	V	X	H	A
B	E	R	A	S	H	Y	W	Q	S	P	V	M	O	E
O	K	L	M	S	A	W	N	R	A	B	B	I	T	T
Q	B	V	S	A	T	U	V	Q	B	V	S	X	W	A
P	W	M	C	X	Q	E	Z	X	C	R	G	A	B	L
H	K	B	A	C	D	E	R	W	Y	Y	C	S	S	O
W	C	A	L	L	B	G	T	S	Q	V	Y	J	K	C
A	I	S	L	A	N	T	N	U	H	H	P	T	M	O
Y	H	A	B	T	R	F	O	U	R	J	L	N	X	H
I	C	O	L	N	E	I	S	T	R	L	A	X	F	C

EASTER  
EGG  
CHICK  
RABBIT  
SPRING

BASKET  
LAMB  
CHOCOLATE  
HUNT

### Easter Wordsearch and Egg Puzzle by Lara Bone

Each Egg is made by adding up to the numbers in the two egg below it. Fill in the missing numbers in these puzzles.

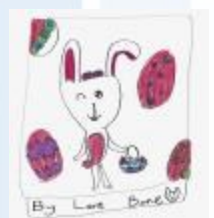


Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

A: Bugs Bunny!

Q: What do you get if you cross a rabbit with a shell fish?

A: An Oyster Bunny!



# Term Dates

## Current Academic Year: Term dates for 2023-2024

### Autumn term:

<b>Start of Autumn term:</b>	Wednesday 6th September 2023
<b>Half term:</b>	Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2023
<b>End of Autumn term:</b>	Wednesday 20th December 2023
<b>PD (non school) days:</b>	Monday 4th September 2023 Tuesday 5th September 2023

### Spring term:

<b>Start of Spring term:</b>	Thursday 4th January 2024
<b>Half term:</b>	Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2024
<b>End of Spring term:</b>	Thursday 28th March 2024
<b>PD (non school) day:</b>	Wednesday 3rd January 2024

### Summer term:

<b>Start of Summer term:</b>	Monday 15th April 2024
<b>May Bank Holiday:</b>	Monday 6th May 2024
<b>Half term:</b>	Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024
<b>End of Summer term:</b>	Friday 19th July 2024
<b>PD (non school) days:</b>	Friday 12th April 2024 Monday 3rd June 2024

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## Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2024-2025

### Autumn term:

<b>Start of Autumn term:</b>	Wednesday 4th September 2024
<b>Half term:</b>	Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024
<b>End of Autumn term:</b>	Friday 20th December 2024
<b>PD (non school) days:</b>	Monday 2nd September 2024 Tuesday 3rd September 2024

### Spring term:

<b>Start of Spring term:</b>	Tuesday 7th January 2025
<b>Half term:</b>	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025
<b>End of Spring term:</b>	Friday 4th April 2025
<b>PD (non school) day:</b>	Monday 6th January 2025

### Summer term:

<b>Start of Summer term:</b>	Wednesday 23rd April 2025
<b>May Bank Holiday:</b>	Monday 5th May 2025
<b>Half term:</b>	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025
<b>End of Summer term:</b>	Tuesday 22nd July 2025
<b>PD (non school) days:</b>	Tuesday 22nd April 2025 Friday 23rd May 2025