Dream it. Believe it. Achieve it.

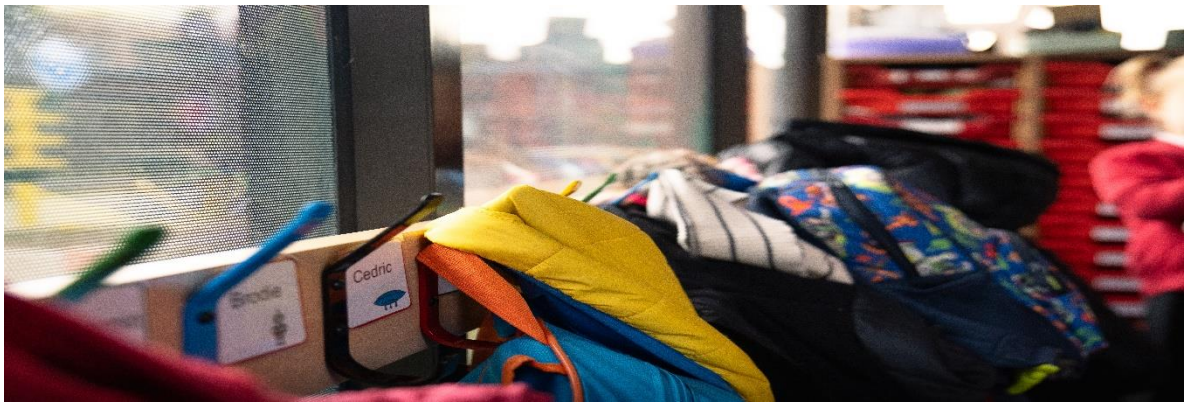


Fairmeadows Foundation Primary School

Prospectus

The Award for TEACHER OF THE YEAR IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL

SILVER WINNER



WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

Fairmeadows Foundation Primary School is a school for children aged from 4 years to 11 years old. Our school is a happy, welcoming place in which we aim to give your child every opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Our school is a friendly, secure place to learn, where we want the best for every unique child in our care. Support and encouragement are key, and we believe that every child can achieve excellence, fulfilment, and lasting happiness through development of their individual talents.

Our open and approachable staff work in partnership with all parents and carers to see the children flourish – and we ensure the children work hard, with support to realise their potential. We look beyond mere academic success and seek to expose pupils to a range of experiences that widen their horizons and allow their individuality to thrive.

Fairmeadows nursery is a wonderful place for children to start their Fairmeadows adventure and really is the best way to get their education underway, building the best foundation for success to Year 6 and beyond.

We are partners with parents, giving you a voice, involving you in the school community and supporting you to ensure your child thrives in and out of school. You are always welcome to visit us in our school; simply pop in, or phone to make an appointment. We can also arrange virtual tours, meetings via Zoom or Microsoft Teams and we are always available by phone.

Mr. Reeves

Headteacher





Our Mission

All children deserve to feel safe, be nurtured and grow through structured challenge into confident, independent, and responsible members of the community. We aim to provide the tools and experiences through which this may be achieved, inspiring a love for learning and a mind-set that can conquer adversity and overcome the challenges of the future.

Vision

We aim to provide an inspirational, safe space for children to grow into the best version of themselves, where equality of opportunity is implicit and equity is the goal as barriers are overcome, allowing every child the chance to shine.

Values

- We strive for **equity**, providing each student with the tools they need to overcome their personal barriers, building their confidence and skills.
- We help develop caring members of society who benefit our world in thought, word, and deed.
- We put safety, kindness, and respect at the heart of our school.
- We value wellbeing and the emotional needs of individuals as a priority throughout the school.
- We listen, learn, and lean into the future.



GOVERNING BOARD

What does the Governing Board do?

The Governing Board provides the strategic management and long-term direction for the school; it acts as a 'critical friend' to ensure that standards are high and maintained.

Governors act, not as individuals, but as a group to support the work of the Headteacher, staff and pupils. School Governing Boards are unpaid and give up their time freely. Governors attend two or three meetings per term and can dial in remotely when required. Governors also visit school and support the senior leadership team to make improvements and support during the inspection process. New governors can expect training and support from the school to enable them to thrive in their role.

They are the largest voluntary group in the United Kingdom and are legally entitled to paid leave from work to carry out duties relating to their role.



ADMISSIONS

Please remember we have a 48-place Nursery class and the maximum number admitted to school in any one year is limited to 30 pupils. A place in Nursery does not automatically mean admission to school through Reception.

The school now operates a single point entry system in line with the majority of Derbyshire schools. All children born between 1st September and 30th August in an academic year will normally start in Reception at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Admission to Main School

Parents seeking a place in the Reception Class should apply through the Derbyshire Admissions team, either online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions or by telephone on 01629 537 479. Where applications for admission into the school exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit.

1. Children in Care or a child who was previously in care but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order.

2. Children who have siblings currently attending the school at the time of their admission. The term sibling includes a half-brother or half-sister, a legally adopted child who is regarded as a brother or sister, a step-brother or step-sister who resides in the same family unit;

3. Where there are clear medical or social grounds provided and these are supported by a written statement of evidence from a doctor, social worker or education welfare officer at the time of original application.

4. Children of staff at the school - where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made.

5. Proximity of the child's home to school, as measured by the Local Authority computer generated measuring system (information on this is available on request) with those living nearest being given priority. Proximity will also be used as a tiebreaker in the event of over subscription in any of the above criteria.

For full details, please see our Admissions Policy on the school website, or ask for a copy from the school office.



Parents' Visits

All parents are welcome to visit. Please contact the office, who will make arrangements.

So that you can get to know us we arrange:

Meetings with Staff

Interviews with the Headteacher, copies of leaflets and newsletters, visits around the School

The school operates an open-door policy where access to staff is seen as an important priority to support the child's educational and emotional wellbeing.

In Year Admissions

All in year admissions should be made either online or via an application form to the Local Authority. Parents are welcome to speak to the school in advance of making an application, and in some instances, places may be offered directly by the school.

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 you should apply for their infant/primary school place by January 2026.

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 and is in their last year at infant school, you should apply for their junior place by January 2026.

Moving On: Secondary Education

Children normally transfer to Mercia Academy, Newhall; Pingle Academy, Swadlincote and Granville Academy, Woodville, at the age of 11 years. If you wish your child to attend a different school, you should obtain information from the Area Education Office. Admissions are co-ordinated by the local authority and closes on 31st October every year.



ORGANISATION

The School Day

8.20 a.m.	Supervision begins (school gates are opened)
8.30 a.m.	Children are collected from playground
8.40 a.m.	School begins/registers taken
8.45am	Collective Worship
9.00am	Lessons Begin
10.20 a.m.	Lower School Break time (15 minutes)
11.00 a.m.	Upper School Break time (25 minutes)
11.30 a.m.	Reception Lunchtime (60 minutes)
11.45 a.m.	Lower School (KS1) Lunch time begins
12.15 p.m.	Upper School (KS2) Lunch time begins
12.30 p.m.	Reception afternoon session begins
12.35 p.m.	Lower School afternoon session begins
12.45 p.m.	Reception afternoon session begins
1.00 p.m.	Upper School afternoon session begins
1.45 p.m.	Lower School Break (15 minutes)
3.00 p.m.	End of School Day
3.00 p.m.	Supervision ends

Total hours of school session = 6 hours and 30 minutes.



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Groups

The children are grouped into three Key Stages: The Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception), Lower School (Key Stage 1) comprised of Year 1 and Year 2 and Upper School (Key Stage 2) comprised of Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. Within these areas there exist several combinations of groupings to cater for age, ability and aptitude.

Your child will have a pastoral teacher who is responsible for monitoring their achievement and progress and is directly concerned with the welfare of your child. During the school day there will be contact with other adults who work as a team to provide the most appropriate education for your child. Each teacher reports to a team leader responsible for their phase who is in turn supervised by two Assistant Headteachers.

Movement between the areas is flexible depending on the needs of your child and the ratio of children to adults within the area. Pupils will often participate in bespoke interventions, small group work and other sessional work such as nurture groups.

Team Leaders have a responsibility to lead and manage the work of the staff and groups within their areas, as well as fostering a positive spirit throughout the school. They co-ordinate the curriculum across their teams to ensure consistency, progression, and continuity. They are supported by the Assistant Headteachers who monitor whole school areas such as teaching and learning and assessment.

If your child's pastoral teacher cannot solve a problem, then you should discuss it with the appropriate Team Leader.

Communication with staff at school is usually face to face but we also use SEESAW to communicate directly with parents. If you feel that you need to speak to a Team Leader, then you should call the school on 01283 211019.





UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

All children attending Fairmeadows Foundation Primary School are expected to follow the school dress code established by the Governors. Active Uniform is a key component of our school, it establishes an identity, a sense of belonging and a pride in not only their appearance but in their school. We believe an active uniform allows pupils to forget their socio-economic status and begin each day on a level playing field where they can focus on learning, building relationships and growing into the best version of themselves. The uniform is intended to support movement, a healthy lifestyle and a neurodivergent friendly approach.

Active Uniform

Black sweatshirt or zip-up jacket (no hood) - with or without logo
Team colour t-shirt - with logo
Black or white t-shirt for non-PE Days (Optional) – with or without logo
Plain black shorts or appropriate length cycling shorts
Plain black jogging bottoms or leggings
Plain black trainers
Plain black or white socks
Black book bag – with logo

(PE items should have the school logo where possible as they will be worn to represent the school at events.)

Hair Accessories

Headbands, bobbles and slides should be in school colours (red or black). They should be plain and non- decorative, i.e. without large bows, flowers etc. Long hair should be tied up for all children regardless; this helps tremendously with the battle against head lice.

Hairstyles

Extreme hairstyles, shaved patterns and colours are inappropriate for school. Long hair below the shirt line must be tied up.

Jewellery

One pair of plain stud earrings only. No rings or bracelets other than for religious or medical reasons.

Make Up

Children are not permitted to wear make-up, including nail varnish, gel nails, acrylic nails and eyelashes etc.

Equipment

Book bags with the school logo on are available to buy from our school uniform suppliers, to carry reading material to and from school. These are compulsory, please do not send your child into school with a rucksack or any other bag unless requested for specific purposes by the teacher.

All pupils have their own stationary labelled with their name provided for them throughout the school year.

Please provide a named water bottle for your child, this should come home with them each day to be washed and refilled.

Please mark all clothes and items with your child's name. This is a regret that many parents express to us come term time. A few seconds spent writing a name on a label can save many £££.



LUNCHES

Children may have a school lunch or bring their own packed lunch. Our school lunches follow all School Food Standards, and we apply the same guidelines to our packed lunches too, requesting that parents do not send fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate bars in to school.

Money for lunches should be paid using ParentMail our online payment system. Meals in September will cost **£3.15 per day.**

Good, healthy eating habits and good manners at the table are something we insist upon. Fruit is provided for Early years and lower school children daily at morning break time you are welcome to send in a healthy snack for upper school children and **milk is provided for children in Foundation Stage until the age of 5.**

Application forms for free school meals are available on the DCC Website.

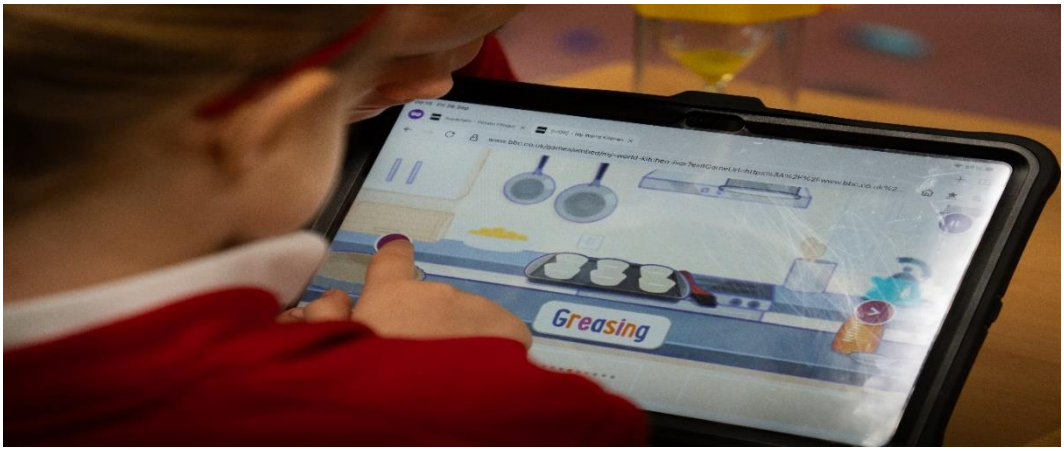
Lunches have never been so popular and the convenience that comes with sending your child to school and not having to pack their lunch cannot be underestimated. We teach responsible and positive attitudes to food and present pupils with a variety of choices for their meals. Please look at the menu on our website which is set and allows you to plan with your child which meals they would prefer for the coming week.

Our Menu consists of items that are freshly prepared on the day and always provides healthy options, such as sandwich bags for those pupils who are very specific in their dietary needs.

Pupils have 45 minutes for lunch and this length of break is intended to provide time enough to collect food, eat it and have a lengthy, and hopefully active break outside. Children will be asked their preferences of meal during register in the morning and whether they have sandwiches from home. This means you do not need to book meals in advance.

Meals are paid for via ParentMail and Mrs Baker is always available to discuss the Menu, your dinner bill and any other issues relating to payment, ordering food or issues with ParentMail.

Should your child have any allergies or specific dietary requirements it is imperative that you inform us and that you speak to the office.



At Fairmeadows Foundation Primary School the curriculum is designed to recognise children's prior learning, provide first hand learning experiences, allow the children to develop interpersonal skills, build resilience and become creative, critical thinkers.

Every child is recognised as a unique individual. We celebrate and welcome differences within our school community. The ability to learn is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and values. We constantly provide enhancement opportunities to engage learning and believe that childhood should be a happy, investigative and an interesting time in our lives where there are no limits to curiosity and there is a thirst for new experiences and knowledge.

We use Learning Powers to promote SMSC/British Values and positive attitudes to learning which reflect the values and skills needed to promote responsibility for learning and future success. We have a specialist teacher covering PSHE and RE. Music is a huge focus as we work with the South Derbyshire Music Partnership to ensure that over their school career at Fairmeadows each child has the chance to regularly learn and play an instrument.

We believe that successful learning takes place when children are actively involved in the learning process. We call this 'Active Learning'. Learning at Fairmeadows takes place both indoors and outdoors, with planned experiences taking account of the different ways in which learners attain; reinforce new skills and knowledge. Children will leave the school with a sense of belonging where they have the confidence and skills to make decisions, self-evaluate, make connections and become lifelong learners able to thrive as they move forward to secondary school.

Pupils will be taught maths, literacy, PE, PSHE, RE and Music every week. Other subjects will be taught in week long blocks, so a week of Art lessons, History and so on. This is intended to fully immerse pupils in the subject rather than doing an hour one week and another the next, pupils will complete 6 hours+ during a single week.

There are regular acts of Collective Worship. These form a close link with our Religious Education teaching and PSHE, and set the tone for the whole school. Collective Worship is non-denominational and follows ideals, beliefs and attitudes shared by the major religions of the world. They are also used to introduce themes for the week ahead or new initiatives to the Whole School Community.

Parents who wish their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship should contact the Headteacher.

We do not tell children what to think, but only ask that they do think.

HOMEWORK

Homework should be meaningful, enjoyable and a shared experience that takes learning out of the classroom and into the home. We focus on 3 key principles for homework from an early age, and these are proven to improve the life chances of children hugely.

- **Reading** at home with a parent every night.
- **Counting** items and sorting objects into sets.
- Learning **letters,** and the **sounds** that go with these.

These three areas expand as children grow older but remain fundamental.

- Reading at least 3 x a week
- Learning Times Tables or doing activities on Mathletics
- Completing additional challenges relating to specific curriculum areas including spelling.

Our homework is not intended to add additional burdens to family life but to enhance it. Where possible activities should be completed together. Children will spend six and a half hours at school but around ten hours asleep. The time between 3pm and their bedtime provides a window where consolidation and practice of skills learned at school can be enhanced.

Remember: whilst your child is at school, the work is physically and intellectually challenging. There should be time to relax and follow different interests.

In Reception and Year 1 phonics is the key focus and in this year group children will bring letters, words and special books home to support the learning of these.

All children in school are expected to have 3 reading comments recorded on Seesaw each week to show that they are reading with somebody at home – this is vital to supporting their learning and earns them one team point per comment. We hope they are reading more often but three times a week is key.

In Years 2 - 6 children may also receive times tables work but this will usually stop when they have mastered these. In Year 4 children complete a Times Tables check that tests their knowledge of 1x1 – 12x12.

Children throughout school have a Mathletics login and they should spend some time during the week on Mathletics – teachers track their points for the week and reward them in class. Mathletics has proven to be the single biggest tool in preparing pupils for the next stage of their education for almost a decade.

Homework is rewarded with Team Points that accumulate for the teams and sometimes other rewards such as certificates or Headteacher Awards. Our Learning Warrior Reward Scheme is also closely tied to Home Learning.



House Teams

Children in school are separated into four teams. These Teams are **Darwin**, **Newton**, **Nightingale** and **Bronte**. Named for British historical figures who have achieved remarkable and lasting renown: the teams were chosen by the school council in 2014 and have been a huge success.

Pupils earn team points for conduct, work and homework. These points accumulate and every time a pupil completes a **SUPERSTAR (25 team points)** they add a token to the team score.

During the year we hold events such as Talent Shows, Sporting Events and Concerts. Good performance is rewarded with additional points for teams.

Each Summer the House Cup is awarded to the team who has accumulated the most points during the year.

In years Reception to Year 6 all pupils wear a PE T-shirt that is the colour of their team. This is used to group them in PE lessons, to wear to sporting events and help them identify with their team. Bronte wear Red, Darwin wear Green, Nightingale wear Purple and Newton wear blue.

Every team has won the House Cup at least once since its inception in 2015.

Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to stand for election as Team Captains and lead their teams, wearing badges to denote this status.

On entry to Reception, new students are enrolled into the same team as any siblings in school. If there are no siblings then teams are selected randomly according to the balance of the team, including overall numbers and gender. If the age gap between siblings is significant then siblings may be placed in different teams although this is very rare.



ASSESSMENT

Children are assessed in all areas of the curriculum continuously. We use assessment information to target our teaching, so pupils learn the specific skills and knowledge they need. Three times a year all information is collated, examined and reported to senior leaders who use this to analyse the picture of teaching and learning across school and act accordingly.

Assessment information is shared at Parent Consultations in Autumn and Spring as well as in written reports.

Reports

You will receive regular reports about your child:

Progress discussions and target setting meetings are held with you in Autumn and Spring Terms each year (Parent Consultations). A consultation is also offered in the final weeks of the Summer Term.

Levels of achievement are recorded and shared with parents and children in the annual written report and at consultations.

Annual Written Reports are issued early in the Summer Term.

You are welcome to contact the class teacher to discuss any aspect of your child's progress and attainment throughout the year.

Updates on SEESAW and through face to face interactions.

On occasions pupils require additional support and when this happens school staff may meet more regularly with parents and provide additional support in the form of Individual Education Plans, Behaviour Plans or targeted Home Learning.



Special Educational Needs

Our Principles

- Every pupil regardless of individual needs, is entitled to a broad, balanced, relevant, differentiated curriculum
- All pupils should be supported to reach standards which reflect their potential
- Every teacher is a teacher of SEND with the support and advice from the SENCO and Headteacher
- We have strong, collaborative partnerships with our parents
- We have excellent pastoral care for our pupils and families, including access to Family Support Workers through the Pingle Academy Early Help Team
- A systemic approach to identifying SEND and assessing them in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice
- We work closely external specialists and agencies
- Regular, relevant and robust training is offered to all Teaching Assistants and Teachers to support their work with all students, including those with SEND

Our Practices

- We have a whole-school inclusive ethos founded on the principle of equity
- Teachers and Learning Assistants help support pupils with their academic, physical, communication, social, emotional and mental health development. Our staff are trained and skilled in offering provision to meet a range of need
- Children at Fairmeadows are grouped into classes according to their age, however; using a quality-first teaching approach, we offer support and work at differentiated levels appropriate for their stage of development
- If parents have developmental concerns, this is first discussed with the class teacher and then an appointment can be made with our SENCO, Mrs Balcon if required
- We keep parents informed of their child's individual targets, progress and of any outside agencies involvement
- We work closely with the Early Help Team at The Pingle Academy who can offer family support for those who need it

Support Services

- We are able to call upon a range of services for those children who have specialised needs. These services include medical personnel, the Educational Welfare Officer, the Educational Psychologist and Social Care, amongst others
- Following our general policy of keeping you informed about your child's progress, you would be aware of any occasions when any of the outside agencies above are involved
- The school has an open-door policy and parents should feel free to contact school and arrange appointments as required. We also communicate through SEESAW, ParentMail, by phone, email and on Facebook Messenger



A telephone call is all it takes if you wish to see staff or inform us of illness (you can also inform us of absence on the ParentMail app).

It is important that we know the reason for a child's absence. Please telephone or let us know via ParentMail. We operate a first day absence calling system to ensure children are safe.

Please let us know by 9am on the first day of your child's absence why they are not in school, either by phone, on ParentMail or in person.

Illness

Children cannot work at school if they feel ill so keep them at home if there is evidence of infection or sickness.

We ask that parents keep children away from school for a minimum of 48 hours following any vomiting or diarrhoea, to minimise risk of spreading.

If your child has any of the following infections, please take advice from your GP or school on suitable periods of absence:

a) Common communicable illnesses e.g. mumps, chickenpox

b) Scabies

c) Impetigo

If your child is taken ill at school and we are concerned, we will contact you so that you can collect your child. It is therefore essential contact details are kept up to date.

If parents or relatives are not available when a child becomes seriously unwell or injured, medical advice is sought and if necessary the ambulance service is used. Efforts are made continually to contact parents under such circumstances. Please keep us updated if you change your contact numbers

Medicine and Infections

Staff will administer medicines from either a doctor or other pain relief such as paracetamol. You Must COMPLETE a medical form on ParentMail.

If your child has **any medical requirements** you **MUST** report these to **MRS PAGE** in the office. Mrs Page is responsible for logging and managing medications, medical conditions and medical requirements of any sort. Call the office on 01283 211019 and speak to Mrs Page.

Occasionally you may need to visit to collect a child. You should always go to Reception first of all. No child is allowed to leave the premises unless you inform Reception. Children need to be 'signed in/out' if they arrive or leave at other than normal times. This is a Health and Safety requirement.

At breaks and lunchtimes parents are not allowed to approach children on the play yard; they must go to Reception to seek assistance. This is for very real Health and Safety reasons. Parents are requested to observe this rule **at all times to ensure the children's safety.**

CREATING A CARING COMMUNITY

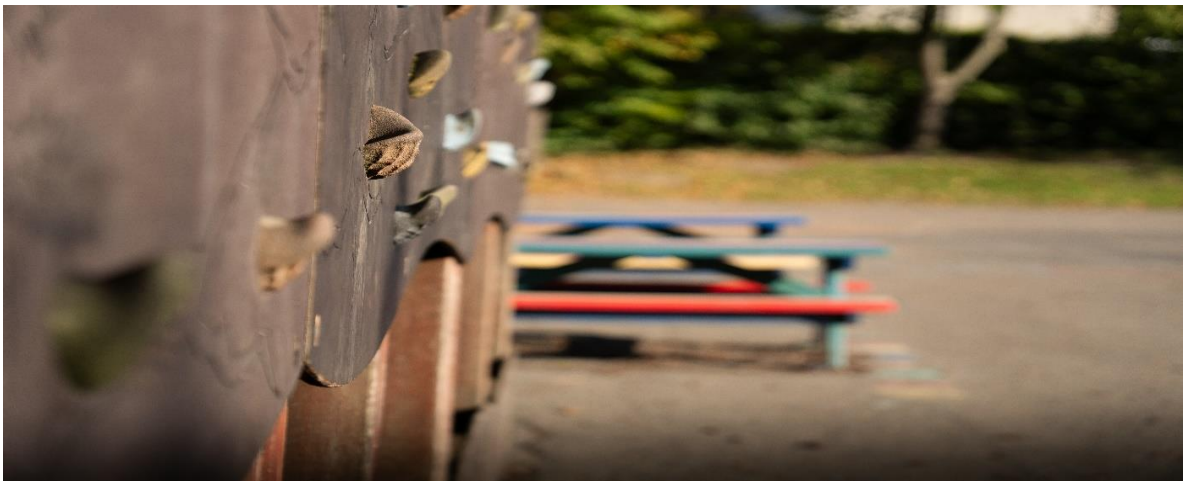
We want to work with you in ensuring that school life is happy, meaningful and successful. We need your involvement and welcome your comments because children are more likely to succeed when the relationship between home and school is strong.

SEESAW plays a huge role in engaging with the community as do our Twitter and Facebook accounts. We seek to keep you informed, interested and part of your child's daily experience at school.

Some parents have had negative experiences of school and find it difficult to approach staff, being reluctant to come into the building and to engage in homework that they themselves may find challenging. Remember: we put the needs of the child first – always. That means **you matter to us, you are the core of your child's worldly experience, so we are here to help you, because helping you helps your children.**

We have a Parent Forum designed to give you a voice and a chance to find out more about school behind the scenes, we also have SEN Groups where parents who have children with SEND can come along and chat to like-minded parents who have children facing their own challenges. We are here for you and want you to feel comfortable coming in to see us, talking to us about your child and letting us know if you need some help.

Parents are welcome in school at any time, either to see the work that their child has been doing or to help staff. If you decide that you want to come in please contact your child's teacher, one of our Assistant Headteacher's Mr Boulter or Miss Bartlam, or our School Business Manager, Mrs Page, all of whom will be pleased to make the arrangements.



Behaviour

We create an environment based on self-discipline where children are happy, secure and confident. We stress respect for others and their property, consideration, kindness and self-control. Staff take great care to provide your child with a range of learning experiences through which confidence and self-esteem can be developed.

We expect parents to fully support our efforts in maintaining a courteous, considerate and caring atmosphere in school. A copy of our current Behaviour Policy is available on the school website or from Reception as are details of our R-Time provision.

Children require praise for all positive effort and achievements, and the school has a system of Team Points which are used to reward anything from excellent work to helpfulness. Each child is a member of one of four school teams, and points are earned as part of a whole school competition.

R-time stickers are awarded weekly at our Friday Celebratory Collective Worship. Headteacher awards are a special recognition that children can earn in various ways and are celebrated throughout school and online.

Sanctions

Where children fail to satisfy the expectations of the school then staff deal with this in a number of ways, which commonly include:

We warn pupils three times about poor behaviour and encourage them to try and model the Learning Powers and behaviours expected. When this fails there might be a repeat of work, additional work to complete during lunch times, being sent to senior staff, loss of privileges such as involvement in extracurricular activities, loss of freedoms within school, an individual work programme, internal isolation or suspensions.

Parents will be involved in any decisions around poor behaviour. Regular contact between children, parents and teachers help to maintain our high standards of self-discipline. In very severe cases a child may be excluded from school. Your child's teacher is always the first point of contact.



Parents

Parents should remember that we operate a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to abuse of staff. Whether this is online, in person or over the phone this will not be tolerated. We respect the huge effort it takes to parent young children and accommodate family's needs as best we can. Respect is something we give, and in turn expect to receive.

We will always seek to resolve issues amicably and sometimes simple misunderstandings are the most common issue and these cases can be resolved swiftly. We have a complaints policy that is on the school website should parents have a grievance they feel is not being addressed. This is the document that can guide you to the next steps.

Please know that the right to enter school premises can be revoked when behaviour is deemed unacceptable.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Extended Day

We run a Breakfast Club every morning before school, from 7.30am - 8.30am for a cost of **£3.50 for half an hour or £7 per hour**, and **After School Club runs from 3.00pm - 6.00pm** for a cost of **£3.50 for half an hour or £7 per hour**. For this charge, children have a healthy breakfast (snack at After School Club) and join in with a variety of activities such as games, colouring and puzzles as well as an opportunity to complete any homework. Places can be booked weekly via ParentMail.

Clubs are Out of School Hours Learning Opportunities: activities that take place at the end of the school day, usually finishing at 4.00p.m. The range of OSHLOs on offer varies according to what staff are able to run. OHSLOs change termly and cover a range of areas such as Art, Sport, Early Years Activities, Craft and Cooking. They may be delivered by school staff, but frequently they may be delivered by external providers with specific expertise.

These are charged at £3.00.



Visits

We regularly take children out of school to a range of places, such as Theatres, Historic Houses, Factories, Concerts, Farms, Shopping Centres, and in the older year groups on residential visits to France or London. These visits usually support the work being done in school and can offer excitement, challenge and adventure. We try to subsidise any curriculum visits wherever possible.

In addition, we arrange a variety of visitors to school, including theatre groups, artists, local people and educational workshops.

Swimming Lessons

We will be running swimming lessons on-site next year. A mobile heated pool will be erected on the playground and qualified swim teachers will instruct Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 for 4 weeks in June.

We also hope to start after school clubs and group swimming during this period.






Music Partnership

From Years 3-6 students take part in lessons run by The Music Partnership. Currently this means that 120 pupils are receiving weekly tuition in an instrument.

The instruments may change year on year but we are committed to these opportunities and also provide subsidised 1:1 music lesson for interested students. Anyone from Year 3–6 can find out more about instrument tuition by contacting the school office.

Forest Schools

Fairmeadows has a strongly established Forest School culture. Children from Reception to Year 6 will spend a minimum of one session a week during a designated term working in nature as part of our Forest School. This provides opportunities and experiences for the children to challenge their own boundaries, whilst developing their skills and physical development and engagement within a natural environment.

Each child will learn from a bespoke curriculum and more information about Forest Schools is available on the school website. Our three-year plan puts outdoor learning at the heart of our school community. There is a close down of Forest School from 31st October to the 1st March. During this time it will run as a club only.









School Sports Partnership

Fairmeadows is a long-time service user of and collaborator with the South Derbyshire School Sports Partnership. We are committed to providing sporting opportunities and the partnership ensures our staff have access to the latest, high quality training and that our pupil scan participate in superbly organised and excellently run festivals and competitions.

At Fairmeadows we aim to maximise the number of students engaged in these opportunities and will always look to take multiple teams to events. Rather than taking our best 5 students to a Basketball tournament and aiming to win. We take 4 teams of ten students, which includes gifted and talented students who excel in the sport but also provides those with less of a flair for the game with the chance to improve, test themselves and succeed. We are not always permitted to take this many teams for every event but we always endeavour to maximise the number of pupils in receipt of an opportunity and this is reflected in our Platinum School Sport Games Mark status.

We believe important life lessons come in the heat of competition and that all students should have experienced the feeling of winning and losing as part of a team as part of their primary school career.

We use the £18,000 Sports Premium provided by the government to fund access to these events and to transport, coach and kit out the children. Regular investment in new balls, equipment and teaching resources is required to maintain our offer and this funding helps us do this. Competitions are also run within school and these include Tennis, Cricket, Basketball, Rugby and Athletics. **EVERY** child in school experiences these events and Years 3-6 swim at least twice during KS2 thanks to Sports Premium.

Bikeability

The partnership also provides part funded access to Bikeability training so that in Year 5, the pupils participate in Bikeability lessons designed to teach them safety when riding on the roads.

An active pursuit and one that enables them to grow in confidence and stay safe, this is a vital part of our school sport offer.



Closures

In exceptional circumstances, for example during heavy snow or heating failure, school may have to be closed. You will be informed in advance but if this is not possible, we do everything we can to get the information to you. We use the ParentMail app to do this in the first instance, as this is a good way to communicate with a large number of people quickly. It may also be helpful for you to check the school website or www.derbyshire.gov.uk.

Leave of Absence

Your child is disadvantaged if you arrange holidays or other absences during term time. Valuable work is missed and can disrupt progress. Absences must be authorised and this is done at the discretion of the Headteacher, in only very exceptional circumstances. A form to request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances can be collected from school.

Medical and dentist appointments should always be made outside of the school day, wherever possible. Appointment cards may be required to be shown when asking to collect children from school earlier than the end of the school day.

Senior Leaders handle attendance issues and can support with strategies to combat persistent absence.

Every day matters.