

Newsletter

24th October 2025

Key Dates

Fri 24th Oct - Non-Uniform Day – CAYP £1
School Closes for Half Term - 3pm Fri 24th Oct

School Opens on Mon 3rd Nov – 8.30am

Mon 10th Nov Clubs Start for 5 weeks

Mon 10th Nov – Flu Vaccinations R-Y6

Weds 12th Nov – Y5 Parent Lunch

Weds 12th Nov – Indian Menu Day

Thurs 13th Nov Bonfire Disco

Mon 17th Nov – Sept 26 Reception Intake Open Evening – 5pm

Parent Christmas Lunches

Tues 2nd Dec – Reception

Weds 3rd Dec – Y1 & Y2

Thurs 4th Dec – Y3 & Y4

Fri 5th Dec – Y5 & Y6

Fri 12th December – Christmas Fair

School closes at 2.00pm

Mon 15th Dec – Y1 & Y2 Christmas Performance – 2.15pm

Tues 16th Dec – Y3 & Y4 Carols by Candle Light – 2.15pm

Weds 17th Dec – Y5 & Y6 Christmas Performance – 2.00pm

Thurs 18th Dec – Christmas Day in School (Christmas Jumpers)

Fri 19th Dec – Non Uniform Day - CAYP

School closes Fri 19th Dec – 2pm for the Christmas Holidays

School Opens Monday 5th January 2026 at 8.30am
 (Breakfast Club from 7.30am)

We are excited to share with you the news that Mrs Fox has secured a Deputy Headteacher role at Holy Trinity CofE school in Burton. We are very proud of Mrs Fox and delighted that she has been successful in her interview and will be taking this exciting next step in her career.

Of course we are sad that she will be leaving us, and it means a change for the children in Year 5. Mrs Fox will move to her new school on the 5th January. We are currently advertising for her replacement and will let you know once a suitable candidate has been confirmed.

Mrs Fox will be fully involved in transitional arrangements, and in making sure that the next teacher is able to continue the excellent work already happening in Year 5.

Parking Issues

Please take care when parking outside the school gates. There is no stopping on the zigzag lines, pausing here to discharge children is unsafe and will be reported if seen.

Parking over dropped curbs and driveways is also antisocial and a hindrance to our neighbours, please avoid this by parking further away, earlier and walking into school.

A parent was hit this week and her children narrowly avoided being involved. Much greater care should be taken by everyone in and around school.

Please park considerately and recognise that by failing to do so you are creating the circumstances where an accident involving our pupils is more likely.

The police have been contacted and they will be patrolling at random times over the coming weeks.

Team Points

Team	Colour	Score
Darwin	Green	2625
Bronte	Red	2225
Nightingale	Purple	2650
Newton	Blue	2175

New Website

Fairmeadows Primary School is proud to unveil its **brand-new website** — a fresh, modern, and user-friendly hub for everything Fairmeadows! Whether you're looking for term dates, newsletters, curriculum details, or ways to get involved, our new site makes it easier than ever to stay connected.

The updated design reflects our vibrant school community and is packed with useful information for parents, carers, and visitors. You'll also find regular updates, photos, and resources to support your child's learning journey.

Visit us at [fairmeadows.net](https://www.fairmeadows.net) and take a look around — we'd love to hear what you think!

Attendance Update

Autumn Term Attendance Update – A Great Start!

We're thrilled to share that attendance at Fairmeadows this autumn term is currently at 96.5% — a fantastic achievement! Thank you to all our families for your continued support in helping children get the most out of their learning.

We know that getting to school every day isn't always easy, and we want to remind you that we're here to help. If you're struggling with your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out — we're here for you.

A quick reminder about term-time holidays: under the latest government guidance, schools must consider issuing a fine if a child misses 10 or more sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence. From August 2024, fines are £80 per parent per child, rising to £160 if not paid within 21 days.

Children are only allowed time off for exceptional circumstances, and holidays during term time are not authorised. If you're thinking of going away, please be aware this will affect your child's learning and may result in a penalty from the local authority.

Holiday request forms are available from the school office — please speak to us if you have any questions.

Let's keep working together to make every school day count!

Attendance Awards

At Fairmeadows we reward good attendance with stickers and certificates.

It is important that pupils are here every day and we appreciate that for some children this is very difficult.

Our awards do not simply celebrate high attendance. We aim to reward improvements and recognise where parents and children are making attempts to get back on track.

Last year we gave out a record number of awards for improved attendance and hope that this positive approach will help some children to improve their attendance and be in school more often.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains our number one priority. Too many tragedies mean that school **MUST** take every incident reported to us as a serious worry and an incident that could mean a child loses their life.

We have robust safeguarding systems in place and a designated safeguarding lead team led by Mr Reeves.

You can also check out the NSPCC website or call Derbyshire with your concern on 01629 533190.

Persistently failing to ensure a child is at school becomes a safeguarding concern where it is neglectful and is impairing a child's future prospects and development.

Reading Matters

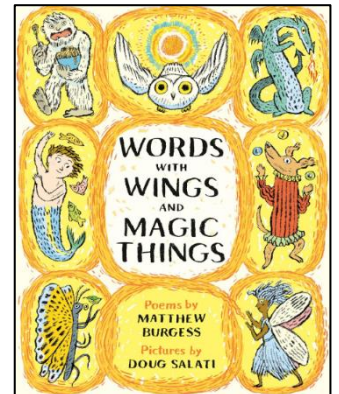
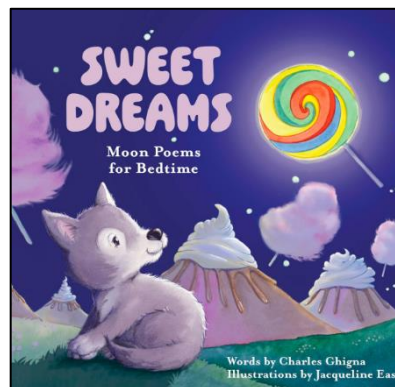
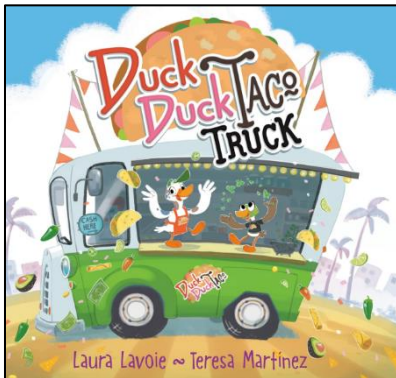
Librarians

The autumn term welcomes a new crop of librarians: James, Dexter, Lily, Amber, Finley and Annalise. All avid readers and eager to share their knowledge, these Year 6s have already started their role with enjoyment and enthusiasm, organising and tidying the library and planning book displays for key events throughout the year. Keep an eye out for their spooky-themed books!



Poetry

October holds National Poetry Day which aims to inspire a love for poetry. Research published by the National Literacy Trust revealed that poetry can have hugely significant benefits to children's mental wellbeing, confidence, aptitude for learning and their ability to develop empathy. With this in mind, have a look at a few of our recommendations to get you started!



Pre-school/EYFS

Two food trucks staffed by sworn enemies: ducks vs. geese. Before you can say "curly fries", these two rivals are in an epic food truck face-off. "Battle on! At dawn, we ride!"

Key Stage 1

A stunningly illustrated poetry book containing fourteen imaginative poems exploring the wonders of the moon, encouraging children to think about it in new and creative ways.

Key Stage 2

A spellbinding collection of poems that celebrates the power of words to awaken the imagination. This magical book of poems takes readers on an uplifting journey.

Useful Links

www.pickatale.com
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families>

Useful Links

www.booktrust.org.uk
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/parents
www.fairmeadows.net

Sport and PE Roundup

We are starting the year off strong, with many sporting events coming up in the next couple of months. We would love to see as many children attend them as possible, so please keep an eye out on ParentMail for any invitations!

Upcoming Events:

Goalball -- 3rd Place!

KS2 Boccia – Quarter Finals !

Girls Mini Soccer – Thursday 6th November

Mini Soccer – Monday 10th November

Sports Hall Athletics – Monday 17th November

New Age Curling – Wednesday 3rd December



Curriculum News

Welcome to KAPOW!

At Fairmeadows, we have recently implemented the Kapow Primary Curriculum as part of the delivery for Non-Core Subjects. It has brought significant advantages to our school and pupils. Designed by teachers for teachers, Kapow offers a comprehensive and cohesive curriculum across twelve foundations subjects, including Art and Design, Computing, Geography, and more. It fully aligns with the National Curriculum ensuring that all statutory requirements are met. The curriculum is knowledge – rich and skill building, with carefully sequenced lesson plans that deepen understanding and extend vocabulary. For pupils, Kapow provides engaging and inclusive learning experiences, with diverse resources such as songs, quizzes, and knowledge organisers that cater to different learning styles. Kapow supports our vision of delivering high- quality education that nurtures a lifelong love of learning, helping every child at Fairmeadows thrive academically and creatively.

NEW WEBSITE

Our new website has gone live and is operational. Details of curriculum, timetables etc are all included. It is a work in progress for some areas, but by the end of November it should be 100% up to date.

If you want to know more, speak to Mr Boulter.

African Drumming Workshop!

We all enjoyed the sound of the drums as our African Drumming Workshop brought rhythm and energy to the school. The children enjoyed the activities, had a blast learning about how the drums are made, the materials in play and the method for creating different sounds.

It was brilliant – and even the teachers had a go.

Parent Pages

Fundraising News

We are absolutely delighted to share some exciting news with you—this year, Fairmeadows Primary School has teamed up with the incredible charity **Me & Dee**.

Me & Dee is a local organisation that provides **special memory-making experiences** for families facing life-limiting conditions or serious illness. Their work is truly inspiring, offering moments of joy, comfort, and connection during some of life's most challenging times. We feel privileged to support a charity that makes such a meaningful difference in the lives of As part of our partnership, a **proportion of the money raised from our fundraising events throughout the year** will go directly to Me & Dee. This means that every cake sale, sponsored basketball, and school fair will not only benefit our children—but also help bring smiles to families in need.

Pupil Premium – Extra Support for Your Child and Our School

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We're encouraging all parents to complete the Pupil Premium funding check online. It's quick, simple, and could unlock additional support for your child — as well as vital funding for our school.

Even if your child doesn't currently receive Free School Meals, they may still be eligible, so it's worth checking.

Why it matters:

Pupil Premium helps us provide extra resources, learning support, and enrichment opportunities for eligible pupils.

How to apply:

1. Visit: derbyshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals
2. Have your **National Insurance number**, **date of birth**, and **child's details** ready.
3. Complete the short form.

If you need any help completing the form, please speak to the **school office** — we're here to support you.

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Uniform

The uniform for school has been designed to have the least possible impact on your pockets.

Uniform expectations are clear and any branded sportswear worn for PE or Forest School is prohibited.

PE kit should be plain black items and a team colour t-shirt with the school badge.

Pupils should be wearing black shoes which are flat.

Jewellery may only be worn if it is of religious significance or for medical reasons.

Earrings must not be worn on PE days unless the child is able to take these out themselves. No hoops are permitted. Earrings should be plain studs only.

Extreme hair styles or colours are not permitted, nor is make up or nail polish/acrylic nails.

Parent Forum

The parent forum is a termly meeting where parents can discuss the pressing issues of the day.

We want the parent forum to grow into a group that can share ideas, be involved in fundraising and promote key initiatives on behalf of the parents and pupils of our school.

If you are interested in being part of this group, then please contact the school office.

SEND



SENCO Welcome & Contact Form

A warm welcome to the new academic year! My name is Mrs Balcon and for those who are new to Fairmeadows, I'm the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) in school. My job is to ensure every child receives the support they need to thrive.

Our values at Fairmeadows are to strive for equity alongside equality, to provide each child with the tools they need to overcome their barriers. This means we treat each child as an individual and work hard to try to overcome any difficulties they are experiencing.

My office days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday where I focus on my SENCO role and at the end of the week, you will find me teaching Reception on Thursdays and Fridays.

This year to make myself more accessible to parents, I have created a 'Contact Form' where you can ask for an appointment with myself or I can signpost you to different areas of support via email or telephone.

Your child does not need to be on the SEND register to ask for help. We are proud at Fairmeadows to have excellent early identification systems, so if you feel there is something about your child that you wish to discuss, then please get in touch.

<https://forms.office.com/e/aZ6qAUAA6P>

Inclusion Support Service Webinars

The poster features the ISAS logo on the left, the Derbyshire County Council logo at the top center, and a tree logo with the motto "BE KIND BE CURIOUS BE CONNECTED" on the right. The main text reads "Inclusion Support Advisory Service Webinars Autumn 2025". Two rounded rectangular boxes contain details: the first states "All delivered 3.45-4.45pm on the dates shown" and "Aimed at both professionals and parent carers, our webinars are free to access and don't need booking. Just scan the QR code on the day for access to the Teams meeting. Links are also available on the DCC Local Offer > ISAS Webinars page." The second box contains a QR code and the text "Working with Parent Carers: The importance of understanding lived experience" and "Monday 22nd September 2025".