

Newsletter

5th December 2025

Key Dates

Weds 10th Dec – Pre-School Christmas Craft Party 1pm

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
(no after school club)

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

New Year, New Teacher for Y5

We have some exciting news to share! **Mrs Fox has secured a Deputy Headteacher role at Holy Trinity C of E School in Burton.** We are incredibly proud of her achievement and delighted that she will be taking this next step in her career.

Of course, we are sad to see Mrs Fox leave us, and this means a change for our Year 5 children. Mrs Fox will officially move to her new school on **5th January**, but until then, she will be fully involved in transitional arrangements to ensure a smooth handover. She is committed to making sure the next teacher continues the excellent work already happening in Year 5.

We are thrilled to **welcome Miss Garratt**, who will be taking over Year 5 from January. Miss Garratt has already spent time in school—last Monday and again this week—getting to know the pupils, the staff, and everything about Fairmeadows so she can hit the ground running. We are excited to have such a fantastic teacher joining our team!

While we will miss Mrs Fox greatly, we know she will shine in her new role, and we are equally excited about the fresh energy and ideas Miss Garratt will bring to Year 5.

Team Points

| Team | Colour | Score |
|-------------|--------|-------|
| Darwin | Green | 5450 |
| Bronte | Red | 3650 |
| Nightingale | Purple | 4525 |
| Newton | Blue | 3900 |

Please Park Safely and Respect Our Neighbours

We kindly remind all parents and carers to **park safely and responsibly outside our school**. It's important to keep the area around the gates clear for children's safety and to avoid blocking driveways or causing inconvenience to local residents.

Your cooperation helps us maintain a positive relationship with our community and ensures that everyone can arrive and leave school safely.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a safe and welcoming place for all!

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** and take a look around — we'd love to hear what you think!

Attendance Update

Attendance Matters at Fairmeadows!

We're delighted to share that attendance at Fairmeadows continues to be excellent – thank you to all parents and carers for your support in making sure children are in school and ready to learn. Regular attendance is vital for academic progress, social development, and building lifelong habits.

As winter approaches, we know that seasonal bugs and viruses become more common. While some absences are unavoidable, many can be reduced by following simple guidance and good hygiene practices.

NHS Guidance: When is a child too ill for school?

According to the NHS:

Coughs and colds: Children can attend school with mild symptoms such as a runny nose or sore throat, as long as they feel well and do not have a high temperature.

High temperature: Keep your child at home until the fever has gone.

Chickenpox: Stay home until all spots have crusted over (usually about 5 days after they appear).

Cold sores, conjunctivitis, head lice: Children can still attend school, but encourage good hygiene and treatment where needed.

COVID-19: If your child feels well enough, mild symptoms like a runny nose or slight cough do not require absence. However, if they have a high temperature or feel too unwell for normal activities, they should stay home. [nhs.uk]

Top Tips to Reduce Illness and Absence

- Encourage **regular handwashing** and good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it).
- Make sure your child is up to date with **vaccinations**, including the free flu vaccine offered in schools.
- Keep classrooms and homes **well-ventilated** where possible.
- Book medical appointments outside school hours when you can.

Together, we can keep Fairmeadows healthy and learning strong throughout the winter months!

Safeguarding at Fairmeadows – What Parents Should Do if Worried

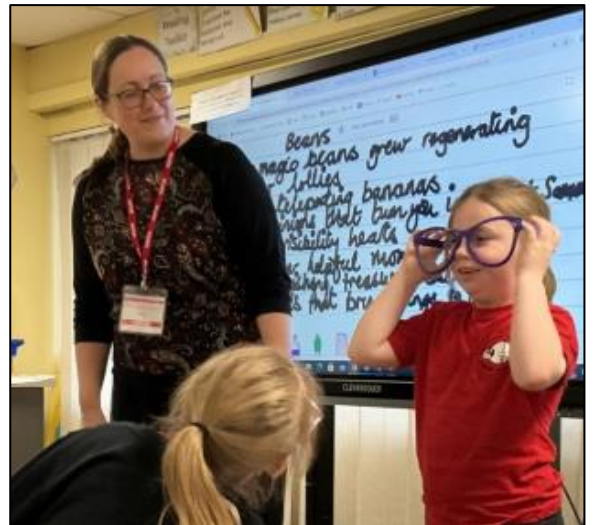
At Fairmeadows, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. **Safeguarding** means protecting children from harm and ensuring they feel safe, happy, and supported both in and out of school.

If you ever have **any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing**, please do not hesitate to speak to us. You can:

- ✓ Contact the school office and ask to speak to a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**
- ✓ Share your concern confidentially with any member of staff
- ✓ If urgent and outside school hours, contact **Derbyshire Children's Services** or call **999** in an emergency

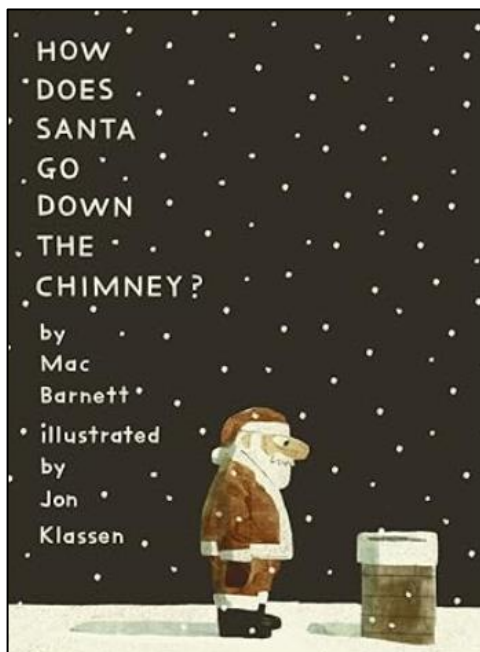
Working together, we can make sure every child at Fairmeadows is safe and thriving. Thank you for helping us keep safeguarding at the heart of our school community.

Reading Matters



Attie Lime

This half term, we were lucky enough to invite Attie Lime, a local poet, to Fairmeadows. The children had a fantastic time joining in with performative poetry in the assembly. Attie then visited all of our children from Pre-school to Year 6 where they shared poems and rhymes as well as writing their own! A brilliant visit enjoyed by all.



Recommendation

A comical picture book recommended for Pre-school to Year 6 exploring the question that all children have: how *does* Santa go down the chimney?

When Santa arrives at a child's house on Christmas Eve, does he go down the chimney feetfirst or headfirst? What if he gets stuck? What if there's no chimney? Maybe he slides under the door, as thin as a piece of paper? Or is it possible he pours himself through the tap? What happens once he's inside?

Filled with incredible illustrations of each idea, it is sure to be a festive favourite for all children!

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

Our students have had a fantastic month of sporting success! Teams took part in both the soccer festival and the Kurling event, showing great teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout. We are incredibly proud of how well all the children performed and the positive spirit they brought to each event.

Let's keep it up into the new year!

Upcoming Events:

Y5 & 6 Dodgeball County – 19/01/26

American Football Comp – 23/01/26

Mini Basketball – 26/01/26

Small Mini Basketball – 27/01/26

Y3 & 4 Mini Basketball – 05/02/26



France Visit

Year 5 & 6 France Trip – Don't Miss Out!

We are thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for our Year 5 and 6 pupils: a **fantastic visit to France from 12th–15th June 2026!** For just **£449**, this promises to be an unforgettable adventure—packed with fun, learning, and new experiences.

This trip isn't just a holiday—it's a chance for your child to:

- ✓ **Boost their self-esteem** by taking on new challenges
- ✓ **Broaden their horizons** and gain a deeper knowledge of the world
- ✓ **Practise the French language** they've been learning in school
- ✓ **Build independence** and confidence away from home

We believe this visit will be a highlight of their school years—combining education, culture, and friendship in one amazing experience.

Fundraising to Make It Happen

We're committed to making this trip accessible and will be organising fundraising activities to help support costs. If you've already decided not to book, it's not too late—you can change your mind and rebook! We'd also love parents to get involved by organising events to raise funds. These efforts will not only support this trip but also help future year groups enjoy the same opportunity.

Let's work together to make this adventure possible for every child. **Book now and give your child the chance to learn, grow, and create memories that last a lifetime!**

Parent Pages

No Secret Santa This Year – Supporting ME & Dee Instead

This year, the Fairmeadows staff have decided to do something a little different. Instead of our usual Secret Santa tradition, we're coming together to support a cause close to our hearts – **ME & Dee**, our current school charity.

ME & Dee provides special experiences and memories for families facing life-changing and terminal illnesses. By donating, we can help make a real difference for those who need it most.

If you'd like to join us in supporting this wonderful charity, please visit their webpage at:

www.meanddee.co.uk

Thank you for helping us spread kindness and make this festive season meaningful for others.

Year 1's Visit to St John's Church – Celebrating the Nativity

Our Year 1 children had a truly magical morning at St John's Church, taking part in the Experience Christmas activity and celebrating the Nativity story. The visit was filled with wonder and excitement as the children explored the different parts of the Christmas story through interactive stations and creative activities.

They loved listening to the story of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, and enjoyed hands-on experiences that helped bring the Nativity to life. From making crafts to reflecting on the meaning of Christmas, the morning was both fun and thought-provoking. The church was beautifully decorated, adding to the festive atmosphere and making the experience even more special.

The children returned to school full of enthusiasm, sharing what they had learned and talking about their favourite parts of the visit. A huge thank you to St John's Church for welcoming us and creating such a memorable experience for our pupils.



Thank You for Joining Our Christmas Lunches!

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Christmas lunches this week! We served **over 500 delicious dinners**, and it was wonderful to see so many of you enjoying the start of the festive season with us.

It was a fantastic opportunity to welcome you into Fairmeadows and share in the joy of this special time of year. We hope you enjoyed your meal as much as we enjoyed having you here!

A very special thank you goes to **Mrs Harrison and our amazing catering team** for their incredible hard work and effort in making this week such a success. Your dedication and festive spirit truly made it a memorable occasion for everyone.

Here's to more celebrations together—thank you for being part of our Fairmeadows family!

Parent Forum – Looking Ahead to 2026!

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Parent Forum so far. It's a fantastic way for families to share ideas, give feedback, and work together to make Fairmeadows the best it can be.

In the **New Year**, we're looking to make the Parent Forum **even more parent-led**, giving you more opportunities to shape discussions and lead initiatives that matter most to you and our school community.

SEND

Letters to parents

It is assessment week in school and we are updating our termly assessments. With this comes a review of the SEND register in school, for those pupils who have made expected progress over the term and no longer need support that is 'additional or different' to others, we will notify you via Parent Mail of this. For those pupils, who are still in receipt of SEND support in school, we will be sending out letters to notify you that your child remains on the school SEND register to ensure this has been clearly communicated to all parents.

If your child has academic needs and is on an IEP in school, please speak with your child's class teacher if you wish to discuss their progress and next steps. We are developing systems to try to streamline this process to make reporting to parents easier, but until this is available, please use Seesaw to arrange a meeting.

You can also discuss this at parents evening in February 2026.



Neuro Hubs Partnership

This year, we have partnered with the Derbyshire Neuro Hubs to offer support in-school, as well as the drop-in sessions they offer in the community. The ND Hubs will be in attendance at our **Christmas Fair on Friday 12th December** if you wish to discuss anything with them. In addition to this, we are hosting a **Parents Coffee Evening – Drop-in and peer support group in school on Wednesday 21st January 4-5pm** for anyone who is interested in learning more about neurodiversity or need support with any areas.

SENCO Contact Form

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.

SENCO Contact Form

