



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to thank you for your ongoing support to the school. We know that there have been several changes over the last two years and that change can be challenging. We are pleased with the wealth of support there has been from parents, staff and members of the community who are invested in ensuring that Fernhurst is a successful school that helps every child to make good progress.

Impact of our changes

Following our changes over the last two years, we are delighted to share that the results in school are consistently increasing, the experiences that the children have has grown and that your children are learning more as a result.

We now have a curriculum which ensures our pupils are learning more. Children from EYFS are well supported with transition. Learning is quickly matched to meet the needs of the children and progress is already evident, even at this early stage of the term. Parents are able to contribute through Tapestry as well as the open classroom sessions in school. From Y1, the children are learning through a carefully sequenced curriculum. You are able to be more involved by using the RKE sheets and online programmes provided to you to help your child to achieve well, such as Century Learning.

The school environment has been developed to include a bespoke area for pastoral support where our Play Therapist and SEMH (Social, Emotional, Mental Health) specialist base to offer bespoke support for children who need extra help. We now have two school libraries as well as an outside reading area. We love utilising our wild area and willow dome. We are looking forward to our next project which is working towards expanding our outdoor provision thanks to the support of a parent who is undertaking a sponsored challenge to fund an outside classroom – more details to follow!

Our playtime provision has been enhanced to include organised sports and art opportunities alongside free play. This has led to children being able to play in lots of different ways to support their social development. Trained Peer Mediators are available to support play provision and there are highly visible staff thanks to the 'Speak Out' campaign high visibility jackets. We know, following the pandemic, how important play is and are pleased that the children have these opportunities.

Staffing

We are invested in our highly experienced staff team to ensure that your children are well supported during their time at school. Our team are well supported through a programme of professional development that helps them to meet the needs of all of the learners in the classroom. Being part of the University of Chichester Academy Trust, we are able to have access to specialist training. We also work with our sponsor, the University of Chichester to embed the latest research in education into classroom life. In the next year, we will be focussing on 'retrieval practice' – this means that we will be helping your children to remember even more of what they have been taught using different strategies. During our weekly development meetings, staff are able to contribute to planning our next steps as a school – we welcome your feedback too so please do come to one of our Open Forum sessions to discuss life at school and to share your views. The next one is on Monday 31st October at 2:30. At the end of this letter you will find a reminder of all of the dates for the year.

Parental involvement in school

Our fabulous FOFs (Friends of Fernhurst School) team is expanding and it has been fantastic to see more parents get involved in this social fundraising group. With their support we have been able to



have more enrichment experiences, pay for initiatives such as Accelerated Reader and fund additional resources for use in the classroom. At the end of this letter you will find a reminder of all of the event dates for the year. If you would like to find out more, please contact your class representative or email fofs@fernhurst.w-sussex.sch.uk

Thank you for maintaining your support even when the changes felt hard – we are pleased that we are seeing the impact of these changes and that the school is growing from strength to strength. We will continue to move the school forward with the on-going support and commitment from staff and parents. We know that our children and staff will go on to achieve great things as a result of their time at Fernhurst– we could have a future Prime Minister or scientist in our school and it is important that we do everything possible to support everybody to achieve their potential.

Important opportunities this year

We look forward to sharing your child's work with you at our class assemblies and performances through the year. We hope that you will also be able to attend our workshops to help you learn about what we are teaching and how to support your child at home. At the end of this letter you will find a reminder of all of the dates for the year.

You will receive your enrichment and trips booklet for the year today which will show you all of the dates that your children will be offsite or working with specialists in school – we are delighted to be able to have such an extensive offer.

Residential experiences this year are a two night stay at The Sustainability Centre for Y3/4 taking place between Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th May. Y5 will be offered the opportunity to 'Kip in a Ship' in London as part of their WW2 studies in the summer term – we are just awaiting confirmation of the date from the Imperial War Museum. Y6 have already had their amazing four night stay at Calshot in Southampton where they learnt to ski, snowboard, sail, kayak and climb amongst other experiences. Children in these year groups will receive a letter and information session with further details shortly.

We are looking forward to working closely with you this year. Please speak with a member of staff or contact the school office if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jennifer Thornton
Headteacher

Mrs Elizabeth Vigar
Chair of Governors



**Fernhurst
Primary School**

Friends of Fernhurst Primary School

Save the dates!

FOS MEETINGS (ZOOM)

- Monday 26th September
- Monday 14th November
- Monday 30th January
- Monday 20th March
- Monday 24th April
- Monday 15th May (AGM)
- Monday 19th June

NON-UNIFORM DAYS
(Every last day of half term)

- Thursday 20th Oct
- Friday 16th Dec
- Friday 10th Feb
- Friday 31st March
- Friday 26th May
- Thursday 20th July

DISCO

- Autumn Disco Friday 14th Oct
- Spring Disco Friday 3rd Feb
- 4 - 5:30 Year R,1,2
- 5:40 - 7:10 Year 3,4,5,6

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY AND SHOPPING

Thursday 1st Dec
5 - 8pm

CAKE SALES

- Muir & Attenborough Houses Monday 10th Oct
- Thunburg & Tree Houses - Monday 6th Feb

SUMMER FEST

Thursday 20th July
3 - 7pm

Parent Events

Open Classrooms (all year groups)

Thursday 29th September 8:45-9:15
Monday 9th January 8:45-9:15
Wednesday 21st June 8:45-9:15

Join your child to experience learning in their classroom.

Class sharing assemblies

- Y3 - Monday 17th October - 2:30
- Y5/6 - Wednesday 19th October - 9:00
- Y4 - Wednesday 19th October - 2:30
- Y2 - Thursday 20th October - 2:30
- Y1 - Wednesday 22nd March - 9:00
- Y4 - Wednesday 22nd March - 2:30
- Y5/6 - Thursday 23rd March - 9:00
- Y2 - Wednesday 5th July - 2:30
- Y3 - Thursday 6th July - 2:30
- Y1 - Friday 7th July - 2:30
- Y6 Leavers Assembly - Thursday 20th July - 2:00

Performances

- EYFS and Y1 Nativity - Tuesday 13th December at 2:00
- Y2/3 Easter Show - Friday 31st March at 2:00
- Y4/5/6 end of year show - Thursday 12th July at 1:30 and 6:00

Open Forums

Tuesday 20th September at 9:00

Monday 31st October at 2:30

Wednesday 8th February at 2:30

Wednesday 24th May at 9:00

Monday 17th July at 2:30

Join Mrs Thornton to discuss aspects of school life and find out more about our school.

Parent workshops

Century Learning (KS2) on Wednesday 21st September at 16:30

Phonics (EYFS and KS1) - Wednesday 5th October at 16:30

Multiplication (for Y2-6) - Thursday 6th October at 16:30

Spelling (for Y1-6) - Tuesday 18th October at 16:30

Comprehension (all years) - Thursday 24th November at 16:30