



**Inspiring Futures  
Through Learning**



**Fairfields**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Fairfields News 31.01.2023

**What's been happening at Fairfield's Primary**

**New Starters January 2023**



**Fairfields**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



*1 - Angelina Izzo - Class Teacher Year 1 Apollo*



*2 - Louise Kane - Class Teacher year 4 Mars*



*3 - Hayley Forman - SEN Teaching Assistant*



*4 - Gargi Patel - SEN Teaching Assistant*

## Dinos back!!



Wow! What an exciting start to our new half term....Dinosaurs have landed in Foundation and have left their eggs behind.

We have been writing letters to the dinosaurs to come back for their eggs and if they don't we might have to look after some baby dinosaurs!

We have also been learning facts about dinosaurs and reading some Non Fiction texts.

What an egg-citing week! 😊



## Chinese New Year 2023



The children enjoyed an assembly learning all about Chinese New Year, 2023 is a year of the Water Rabbit.

## Youth Parliament Representatives



Congratulations to our two 'Youth Parliament' representatives, voted by their peers.

They've just had their very first meeting with the representatives from the other 13 schools and Sarah Bennet the IFTL CEO. If you see Maya or Jathin please do ask them about their new roles and responsibilities!

## Reception Early Years Environment





Our Reception Early Years environment is ready for continuous provision, learning and exploring.

We have our very own shop, message centre, minibeast hunt, fairy world and creative area where we have made Supertato characters linking to our story focus of the week.

What an exciting learning environment!

## Strike Action IFTL Letter to Parents & Carers



**19 January 2023**

Dear parent / carers,

You will be aware from the recent news that there have been ballots for strike action amongst teaching staff and that this has resulted in notification of a series of strike action days during February and March, four of which will affect our Inspiring Futures through Learning schools:

- 1st February
- 1st March
- 15th and 16th of March 2023.

As a Trust, we fully respect the right of our colleagues to express their views through the ballot and take strike action or not, as per individual beliefs and circumstances. We are keen to support each individual as they express these choices through their available formal routes. We do of course understand the impact on all families of the planned strikes and we seek to keep you as informed as possible. As per Department of Education guidance, we aim to keep schools open to as many children as possible. We must respond to the circumstances appropriately as they develop and prioritise the safety of our children and adults at all times, including through adult to child ratios that we may not know in full until the strike day starts. With this in mind, please be aware that we will communicate as openly and fully as possible however final updates may be up to the day of the planned strikes themselves, including of any necessary closures or partial closures of schools or classes. We thank you for your understanding and respect for our colleagues and their individual choices during this time. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to speak with your headteacher.

With best wishes,

Sarah Bennett CEO.



## My Child at School



Dear Parent/Carer,

Fairfields Primary will be moving over to a new communication system called MCAS (MY CHILD AT SCHOOL), This will eventually replace Parentmail as our main form of communication with Parents. Please rest assured this will be a gradual process where we release different modules over a period of time. We will begin with the Attendance and children's data modules.

We are asking for all parents to be signed up to the MCAS app, (My Child At School) by Friday 3rd February. This will enable us to share with you your child's attendance figures before half term.

We will be using MCAS going forward as a way of keeping parents informed about their child's attendance. Parents will be able to see their child's attendance for the day but also attendance marks and percentages for the entire term including any late marks and absences.

You will also be able to update the school with any changes in your child's data such as medical needs, home address and contact details.

Accounts for MCAS will be created and sent out by the end of this week so please keep an eye out for your registration email.

Once received you will need to click on the link and select redeem your invitation code to access your account.

If you do experience any problems signing up or with the app, please contact the school office where we will be happy to help you. Kind Regards

Mrs Baker

Office Manager

Fairfields Primary School

## Attendance Matters!



The school gates open at **8.30am** and close promptly at **8.40am** and registers are taken at **8.45am**. It is extremely important that your child arrives at school on time as learning begins as soon as they enter the classroom. Children finish school at **3.30pm**.

***School and Nursery Absence Reporting:***

Following our Safeguarding procedures to ensure children's safety, and help us meet Government guidelines, we request that parents contact the school before 8.45 am on the first day of absence to inform us of their children's absence. We also ask that parents of children in the Nursery Class inform school if their child will not be attending. To report your child's absence, call the school on 01908 410330 and select option 1 for our absence reporting line, leaving your child's name, class and reason for absence, or you can notify the school of your child's absence by logging in to your ParentMail Account. If the school is not contacted, a call home will be made to ensure all children are accounted for. If school cannot make contact with any people on the contact list, a home visit will be made. If we are concerned about a child's safety, a referral will be made to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) or the police may be called.

***Family Holidays and Term Time Leave:***

Parents/Carers should ensure that family holidays are arranged outside of school term time. Parents /Carers should not remove their child from school during term time without having first requested a leave of absence in writing from the Headteacher. All requests for authorised absence will be responded to in writing and will only be authorised in the most extreme circumstances. If permission is not granted, but the child is still absent, the absence is classed as unauthorised and Parents/Carers may be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £60.00 per parent per child. Children only attend school for 190 days out of 365. This leaves 175 days for holidays.

## Nursery Attendance!



At Fairfields, we monitor attendance closely. Although children in the Nursery Class are below the statutory age for school, it is Fairfields expectation that all children attending Fairfields Primary School including the Nursery attend every day the school is open. Pupils' welfare is of paramount importance to us and we believe that regular attendance throughout the year is essential for their success and fulfilment.

As a school we have to send returns to the Early Years Placement Officer at Milton Keynes Council, informing them of any absences that fall below 63% per term (block). If a child attending the Nursery attendance should fall below **63%** in a term, the shortfall will need to be met by the parents.

## Safeguarding



**Safeguarding:**

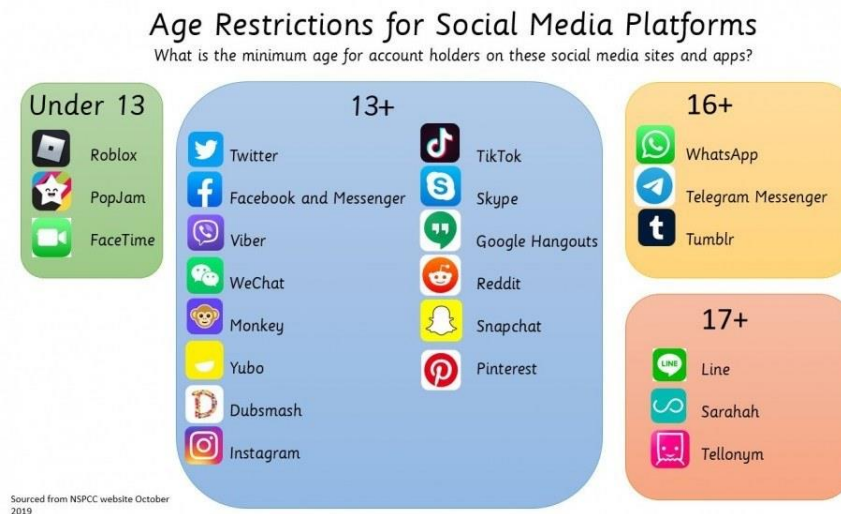
At Fairfield's Primary School, Safeguarding and Child Protection is paramount and we are fully committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all our children and expect all staff and volunteers share this commitment.

We believe that all pupils have a right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment which includes the right to protection from all types of abuse; where staff are vigilant for signs of any pupil in distress and are confident about applying the processes to avert and alleviate any such problems.

## When can my child start Social Networking?



As a parent, it is important you know that all social networking platforms have age limits. Some social network sights use technologies that may not be right for some ages or they engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child. Please see diagram for age restrictions.



## Staying involved with school: Rights of separated parents



Having children and being separated from their mother or father isn't uncommon. This can, however, be a very worrying time for a lot of people when it comes to staying involved in their child's education.

First and foremost, we will want to know who has parental responsibility for a child. Upon registration at the school we request a copy of the child's large birth certificate. Parents (who have parental responsibility) are entitled to share in the decisions that are made about their child and to be treated equally by schools. This includes matters such as:

- Admission decisions;
- Attendance at parent meetings / school events;

- Access to school records, reports, newsletters, invitations to school events etc;
- Copies of school photographs;
- Information about school trips; and
- Decisions about suspension or exclusion.

We do not have the power to act on the request of one parent to restrict the other parent's involvement. We will only do so if there is a specific court order.

It is often assumed that the parent with whom the child principally lives, will keep the other parent informed. Unfortunately, this does not always happen. Please let us know if you would like separate communication. We have an "open door policy" so this is also a good way to voice concerns in the first instance.

## Pastoral Support:





At Fairfield's Primary School we are passionate about making a difference. We want everyone to feel safe, welcome and supported.

We are very lucky to have Cura Room for the children and parents/carers. This room provides a safe place where children feel they are listened to, valued and can also provide support for emotional and physical wellbeing along with a place where parents/carers can come and share their thoughts or concerns. We build trusting relationships with all of our pupils and their families irrespective of their background. Sometimes we will work with external agencies to support our children and families. In these situations, we ensure that a confidential, professional and non-judgmental and sensitive service is provided. Some children find it difficult to come into school first thing of a morning and the Cura Room provides that space for the child to prepare themselves and be in the right frame of mind ready to start learning.

## Parking



We are still seeing several parents who are ignoring the double yellow lines part of the way along Apollo Avenue. Despite letters from the children and reminders from the school it has saddened us all to hear that some parents have adopted the attitude that they are not policed therefore it is okay to park there! The double yellow lines have been put there to improve safety for all our children and families and we kindly ask that you respect this and use the car park when dropping off and collecting your child(ren).



## This Weeks Reminders



### **Lost Property:**

We have a lot of lost property in reception.

Please can you ensure all children's clothes, water bottles and lunch boxes **are labelled**.

When an item becomes lost it is easy to return to the correct person if it has a name on it, last term we had a lot of unnamed lost property, we would like to return as much as possible to its owners.



Could we please remind parents that the school car park and the entrance into it is a 5 mph zone. We have noticed several parents entering the car park at speeds in excess of 5 mph, which is dangerous for children accessing the premises.

## School Meals



**At Fairfield's Primary School we are delighted to be able to offer children a wide, varied and nutritious menu, which will change on a termly basis to ensure that we continue to offer a variety of choices.**

From the 19th of April 2022, Fairfield's partnered with The Pantry, the new school meal provider. They are an independently owned business and proudly partner with around sixty schools! They are known for delivering the highest standards of school food.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves, The Pantry, as Fairfield's school meal provider.

The Pantry are an independently-owned business, whose journey started as a sandwich shop on Hayes High Street in 2006. Now we proudly partner with around sixty schools as a full-service catering provider, and are renowned across our industry for delivering the highest standards of school food, supported by the most innovative technology systems.

The Pantry will provide your child's lunchtime meals via our meal ordering system. We develop our delicious and nutritious menu's, ensuring all The Pantry's ingredients come from the very best, traceable sources. From Red Tractor meat served as standard, to RSPCA-assured eggs and a host of organic ingredients on our menu, your child will be eating fresh, sustainable, and high-quality meals each and every day.

All children in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) are entitled to a free lunch under the Universal Infant Free School Meal Programme.

Children in Key Stage 2 (Year 3,4,5 and 6) will need to top up funds in their Pantry account, to place an order at the cost of £2.60 per meal

### **Menu**

We pride ourselves on offering classic dishes we know your pupils will love with a Pantry twist.

Our Pantry menu's have a choice of a meat option, vegetarian option, 2 jacket potato options and 3 sandwich options everyday. You will also have the option to pick between the pudding option of the day or fresh fruit.

We are committed to encouraging pupils to make healthy choices for their lunch, all pupils have unlimited access to our delicious salad bar, which is free for the 14 main allergens.

### **How To Order**

Pantry lunches can be ordered using our meal ordering system.

Once your account is set up, you can log in using your individual pupil ID to book your children a Pantry lunch. Fairfield's has a 9am cut off to book, cancel and amend any orders.

Please see the How To Order document for a step by step guide on how to order lunches and top up your Pantry account.

If you require any further assistance, our Customer Service Team are on hand to assist. If you have any questions or queries, contact our Customer Service Team Monday to Friday 7.30am to 5pm on **020 8813 7040**, or email [office@thepantrycatering.co.uk](mailto:office@thepantrycatering.co.uk).

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Please see our responses to our most common Frequently Asked Questions."

## **Government Tax-Free Childcare scheme**



Use this service to apply for a childcare account. You can use your account to [pay your childcare provider](#). You'll need your details (and your partner's, if you have one), including your:



- National Insurance number
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR), if you're self-employed

It takes 20 minutes to apply. You can pay your provider with money from your account once the money is shown as 'cleared funds'. Payments should show in your provider's account within 24 hours, depending on their bank. As part of your application, you'll find out if you're eligible for Tax-Free Childcare. If you live in England, you'll also find out if you're eligible for 30 hours free childcare. You may find out straight away, but it can take up to 7 days.

[Apply for Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare)

## Fairfields Breakfast & Afterschool Club



- Due to its success B&A wraparound care is already full and now has a waiting list. Planning to recruit more staff to enable us to increase numbers. If want to be added to waiting list please collect a registration form from Reception.
- We accept HMRC tax free and salary sacrifice childcare vouchers for B&A club and additional Nursery hours fees only, as per conditions of the providers.

- Please contact us direct at [finance@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk](mailto:finance@fairfieldsprimary.co.uk) for more information.
- Use Parent Mail for all club bookings, future extra-curricular club bookings, Nursery fees, trips or events booking and payments. Cannot accept cash payments for any of these.

## Fairfields Lines of Communication





### **Lines of communication**

From time to time you may have questions, concerns or queries regarding your child. Should this be the case please speak to your child's Class Teacher in the first instance as they work with your child every day and are the people who know them best. It may not always be possible to have in depth conversations with them at the beginning of the day when they are welcoming the children in but they are more than happy to arrange a time to meet with you or call you to discuss your concerns or answer any questions you may have.

Should you have further concerns then you may wish to speak to the Key Stage Lead. Our Key Stage Leads are as follows:

**Mrs Castle – Early Years – Nursery & Reception**

**Miss Waller – Key Stage 1 – Year 1 & 2**

**Miss Wilson – Lower Key Stage 2 – Year 3 & 4**

**Mr Kynaston – Upper Key Stage 2 – Year 5 & 6**

## Pupil Premium



### Pupil Premium

Parents and carers who receive certain benefits may be eligible for either Pupil Premium funding or Free School Meals.

You must be in receipt of one of the below benefits to be eligible for free school meals for your child/children.

Income Support

Employment & Support Allowance – Income related

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (**not Contribution Based JSA**)

Child Tax Credit only (with a combined family income of less than £16,190 per annum as assessed by HM Revenues & Customs) **Please note, anyone receiving Working Tax Credit, regardless of income, will not qualify for free school meals.**

Working Tax Credit run-on - paid four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you receive)

National Asylum Seekers Support (NASS)

Guaranteed Element of Pension Tax Credit

Please contact the school office for details of how to apply.

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