

South Farnborough Infant School

October 2026 Newsletter

Living and Learning in Harmony



South Farnborough
Infant School

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you and your children have settled well into the first month of the new school year. It was wonderful to see so many of our new Reception families attending the Year R Coffee Morning last week.

There are lots of exciting events and activities taking place this month, so please take note of the dates and information below.

Thank you for your continued support.

Many thanks,

Mrs Duffy - Headteacher

Important Updates

Congratulations to our newly elected School Council Harmony Heroes!



The children are delighted to have been elected and are proudly wearing their School Council badges. This year, we have representatives from every year group, giving all children the opportunity to learn how they can contribute to school life and represent the views of their peers.



This term, the Harmony Heroes will attend their first meeting with our **School Council Lead, Mrs Murana**, to learn about the **Living Streets' Walk to School Challenge**. They will then help to relaunch the initiative across the school, promoting and encouraging walking and scooting to school among their peers.

We look forward to sharing updates on the important role they play and how they are contributing to the wider school community.

Important Updates

Census Day - Thursday 1st October 2026

On Thursday 1st October, all primary schools, including ours, will participate in a census. This census is crucial as it plays a significant role in determining the funding we receive from the government. The figures collected on this day can vary greatly and have a direct impact on the financial resources available to our school, potentially amounting to thousands of pounds that can be invested back into your child's education and school facilities.



To ensure accurate planning for the census, it is vital that **every child receives a school lunch on this day. Therefore, please log on to Arbor to order a lunch for your child.**

We understand that some children may prefer to bring a packed lunch. If your child brings a packed lunch, they are welcome to do so. However, they will still have the option to choose a school lunch on the day, even if a packed lunch is brought from home. Your cooperation and support with this are greatly appreciated and will directly benefit our school community.

Friends of SFIS Spooky Disco on Friday 16th October



Tickets must be purchased directly through the Friends of SFIS. An email will be sent from Friends on Friday.

For children in **Year R**, if they are attending the disco, they will be taken directly from their classroom to the event. As it is an **own clothes day for the whole school**, children should come to school dressed in the clothes they wish to wear to the disco but comfortable enough to wear for the whole day with sensible footwear.

To help make collection from the disco as smooth as possible, **Year R please do not send your child to school with a school bag if they are attending the disco.** There is also **no need to send in a separate change of clothes.**

Medicines in School

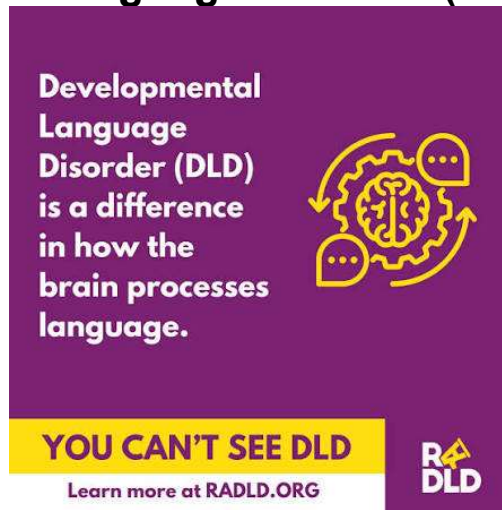
Please note that, as a school, we can only administer prescribed medicines that are required **four times a day**. A medicine administration form must be completed at the school office, and the medication must be handed in by an adult.

Unfortunately, we are unable to administer any other medicines, creams or ointments unless they have been prescribed and the appropriate form has been completed.

If you are unsure whether your child's medication can be administered in school, or if you require any advice, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team or contact the school office.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) Awareness



Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a common but often hidden disability, affecting approximately 1 in 14 children. It can have a significant impact on a child's understanding and use of language, learning, social relationships and overall wellbeing. Many people have never heard of it, and as a result, children and young people with DLD are often **misunderstood or misdiagnosed** – sometimes seen as having learning difficulties, behavioural issues, or other challenges.

What sorts of challenges would a child with DLD have?

Children with DLD can have a range of different skills and challenges and these can also change over time. Common challenges include:

- Paying attention and listening to what others say to them.
- Understanding words and sentences – so they may struggle to follow instructions, answer questions and understand what others say to them.
- Talking using words and sentences, putting words in the right order and using the correct grammar.
 - Knowing how to use their communication skills socially with others, for example to have conversations and to make friends.
- Learning to read and write, and doing well at school- we need good communication skills to learn and do well in tests.

The charity RADLD has a dedicated awareness page with a wealth of information about DLD, including practical strategies for supporting children.

At school, we use a programme called **Language Links** to screen children who may be experiencing communication or language difficulties. This helps us to identify pupils who may benefit from additional support and enables us to put targeted interventions in place as early as possible. This year, as part of our commitment to early identification, we aim to screen all Reception children to ensure that potential language difficulties do not go unnoticed and that appropriate support can be provided at the earliest opportunity.

As part of our Inclusion Strategy, we are also fortunate to be working with a Speech and Language Therapist this term. They will be supporting our staff through training and professional guidance, helping us to further strengthen our provision and ensure that children with speech, language and communication needs receive the support they need to thrive.

In addition, Speech and Language UK provides a wide range of resources for families: [Speech and Language UK Resource Library](#). These include advice on supporting speech, language and communication **development through play, guidance for parents of toddlers, information about speech sound difficulties such as lisps, and practical strategies to support children who are particularly quiet.**

RHS Plants for Wellbeing Programme



We are delighted to be taking part in the **RHS Plants for Wellbeing Programme** this year. There is growing evidence that connecting with plants and nature can have a positive impact on children's wellbeing, helping to support their emotional health, confidence and engagement in learning.



Running from **January to June 2027**, the programme will provide our school with training, support and resources to help embed plants and gardening into everyday school life. Through this initiative, we hope to create more opportunities for children to connect with nature and experience the wellbeing benefits that this can bring.

We look forward to sharing our journey with you and will keep you updated on the activities and achievements along the way.

School Fund

Whilst schools receive government funding, this often only covers the essentials and does not provide for the additional experiences that make school life truly memorable.

We work hard to raise funds so that we can enhance our curriculum with special visitors, workshops, educational experiences and enrichment opportunities for all children. These experiences help to create lasting memories and inspire a love of learning.

You can make a donation through the **School Shop** area in **Arbor** by selecting **Voluntary Donations**. Please note that the donation amount is set at **£1**. If you would like to donate more, simply increase the quantity in your basket before making payment.

We suggest a voluntary contribution of **£10 per family per year**, which can be paid via **Arbor**. Every contribution, no matter the amount, helps us to provide extra opportunities and experiences for our children.

Planned Absences

If there is an **exceptional reason** for your child to be absent from school, a **Request for Authorised Absence Form** must be completed and submitted **in advance** of the planned absence.

Forms are available from the school office or the website. Please note that requests will be considered in line with the school's attendance policy, and authorisation cannot be guaranteed.

Important Dates



Thursday 1st October 2026 – Census Day

Thursday 1st October 2026 – Black History Month

Friday 2nd October 2026 – Perform drama workshops for all classes

Monday 5th October 2026 – SFIS Support Staff Appreciation Week

Monday 5th October 2026 – Flu vaccinations for children with consent

Wednesday 7th October 2026 – Year 2 trip to Wisley

Saturday 10th October 2026 – Roots and Shoots – all welcome – please sign up via ticket source

Tuesday 13th October 2026 – Phonics workshop for parents

Friday 16th October 2026 – Own clothes day for all children. Please note that if your child is in Year R and is attending the Spooky Disco, they will be taken directly from their classroom to the disco in the clothes they are wearing that day. Please do not send in a separate change of clothes.

Friday 16th October 2026 – Friends of SFIS Spooky Disco – tickets required

Tuesday 20th October 2026 – Year 1 Art Gallery for parents – Skylarks at 14:00. Swifts at 14:15 and Robins at 14:30

Friday 23rd October 2026 – School finishes at 15:05 for October half term

Monday 2nd November 2026 – Children return to school

<https://www.southfarnborough-inf.hants.sch.uk/>

To keep up to date with the latest school news, weekly Tree Team house point updates, curriculum information and key dates, please visit our school website. You can also sync the school calendar to your mobile device so that important dates are always at your fingertips.