

South Farnborough Infant School

March 2026 Newsletter

Living and Learning in Harmony



South Farnborough
Infant School



Dear parents and carers,

The start of the Spring 2 term is beginning with lots of exciting changes for our school (hence this early newsletter). We are delighted to announce that due to recent changes in the law about uniforms, our uniform is changing. The changes are in line with the Department for Education guidance and mean that, as per the guidance, the new school uniform colour of burgandy and light blue can be purchased at all well-known supermarkets. This will give parents the choice and freedom to buy plain, cheaper uniform items without a logo at your local supermarket or items with the logo from Brenda's.



We will have a transitional period from now until September 2026 where children can wear the old or new uniform. The new uniform will not be mandatory until September 2026. The uniform is available to buy from Brenda's or your local supermarket from the 1st March 2026. If you are currently in receipt of benefits or you need financial support to purchase a new uniform or shoes, please let us know.

As a school, we have worked very closely over this year with Brenda's to create a new uniform and logo that is still unique but also the new colour of burgundy for the jumpers and cardigans means that stains are much easier to remove, meaning the items look smarter and cleaner for longer. We know from parent feedback that many of you struggled to get black marker pen and paint out of the previous yellow items. We also know from parent feedback that having a colour that was not available and was not stocked in supermarkets was financially challenging. We have also taken this opportunity to update the school logo which now features the school bell which can be seen from the front of the school. We are very pleased with the logo and feel that it celebrates the history of the building.

Throughout the history of the school, the uniform and logo have changed many times, and Brenda herself came here, so we have been mindful to select something that acknowledges the history but is also sustainable for the future. It is important to note that whilst these changes have occurred, the mission of the school 'Living and Learning in Harmony' and our school values of Respect, Teamwork, Reflectiveness, and Personal Best remain the same.

Many thanks,

Mrs Duffy

Important Updates

You Said, We Did!



We know that after school clubs are very popular, and many of you have told us you would love to see even more on offer — so we've listened and we've delivered!

For the Summer Term, alongside our long standing and much-loved clubs (Judo, Boogie Bumps, Gymnastic, Choir and Art), we are excited to be offering a **wide range of additional clubs**, including:

- **French Club** – available to all year groups on Mondays.
- **Lego Club** – available to all year groups on Tuesdays.
- **Arts & Crafts** – available to all year groups on Wednesdays.
- **Harmony Club** – full of sensory activities and mindfulness. Available to all year groups on Thursdays.
- **Games Club** – board games and teamwork opportunities. Available to all year groups on Thursdays.
- **Target games** - for all year groups on a Thursday,
- **Ball skills** - for all year groups on a Wednesday.
- **Orienteering Club** – available to KS1 on Tuesdays.

We're thrilled to be expanding our provision and hope there is something to inspire every child.

Please note that while we have responded to feedback, clubs will need sufficient numbers in order to run and remain sustainable. You are welcome to book your child onto multiple clubs if they would like to take part in more than one. **Club bookings will open soon.**

We hope your children enjoy these new opportunities!



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Upcoming Events This Term



Thanks to the hard work and continued support of **Friends of SFIS**, we are delighted to be hosting two exciting new events this term for our children.

- **Monday 2nd March** – As part of **Science Week 2026**, we are thrilled to welcome the **Sublime Science** company into school. They will be delivering engaging, hands-on science workshops designed to inspire curiosity, and a love of learning through practical experiments.
- **Monday 17th March - Perform Drama Workshops – Online Safety Focus** – Following on from **Online Safety Day**, the **Perform** team will be visiting us to deliver fun, interactive drama workshops. These sessions will help children explore important online safety messages.

We are extremely grateful to Friends of SFIS for making these enrichment opportunities possible.

Safer Internet Day Feedback



The children learnt a great deal during **Safer Internet Day**, taking part in discussions and activities designed to help them understand how to stay safe online. Thank you to those parents who attended the **Online Safety workshop** led by Miss Shipsey, our Computing Lead. A copy of the presentation is available on the school website for anyone who was unable to attend.

Alongside our online safety learning, we also focused on **stranger awareness**. During discussions, we found that many children were unsure about what a stranger actually is. Some children believed that strangers are people who wear black and white striped t-shirts, wear masks or look obviously “scary.” We took time to address these misconceptions and explained that a stranger is simply someone we do not know — and that strangers do not always look different or frightening.

We encourage you to continue these important conversations at home to reinforce the messages shared in school. Talking calmly and openly can help children feel informed and empowered, rather than anxious.

You may find the following resources helpful:

- NSPCC: Keeping children safe outside the home
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/outside-the-home/>
- NHS Better Lives: Stranger Danger guidance
https://www.betterliveshealthyfuturesbw.nhs.uk/learning_resource/stranger-danger/

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all children safe.

Optional Learning Opportunities at Home

VOCABULARY MATTERS

“The more words you know, the more clearly and powerfully you will think ... and the more ideas you will invite into your mind.”



Last term, we received some requests from parents asking how they could further support their child's learning at home. We are always grateful for your engagement and partnership in your child's education — so **you asked, and we delivered!**

In addition to the resources and guidance already available on our school website, teachers have updated their **Spring 2 Year Group newsletters** to include optional home learning ideas. These activities are carefully linked to current classroom learning and provide practical, manageable ways to reinforce key concepts at home.

Each newsletter also highlights **important vocabulary** for this half term. Research shows that children with a wider understanding of vocabulary are able to access learning more easily and with greater confidence. Developing a strong grasp of key words helps children to understand new concepts, participate in discussions and deepen their thinking across all subjects.

These small conversations can make a big difference. Thank you for continuing to support your child's learning journey at home.

Government Update on Unauthorised Absences

We would like to inform parents of a recent government update regarding unauthorised school absences.

Under national guidance, if a child is removed from school for an unauthorised period of absence and it is the belief of the school and the Local Authority that this has been done in a way intended to avoid reaching the national threshold for a Penalty Notice, the Local Authority reserves the right to issue a Penalty Notice **before** the threshold is met.

This may include instances such as:

- Taking leave around INSET days or bank holidays
 - Repeated half-day absences
- Collecting a child after afternoon registration to avoid an absence being recorded
 - Patterns of absence that suggest deliberate avoidance of the threshold

Please note, this is **not an individual school policy change**. This is a government directive that schools are required to follow.

Schools **do not** receive any money from Penalty Notices. In Honey generated from unauthorised absence fines is retained by the Local Authority to cover the administrative costs of the system. Any remaining funds are allocated to support school attendance initiatives.

We understand that there are sometimes exceptional circumstances, and we encourage families to speak with us directly if they have concerns. As always, our shared priority is ensuring the best possible outcomes for every child through strong attendance and continuity of learning.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY
5 MARCH 2026

World Book Day 2026 Thursday 5th March

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We are excited to celebrate World Book Day with our theme "Read Your Way". This year, we are encouraging children to enjoy stories in any form they love. This could be; traditional books, comics, magazines, audiobooks, or graphic novels. All reading counts!

To mark the occasion, children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite story.

As part of this activity, we will also be encouraging children to explore and use rich, ambitious vocabulary— adjectives they might not use in their everyday conversations. This is a wonderful way to deepen their language skills and help them describe characters with more precision and creativity. Therefore, along with their costume, we ask each child to choose an adjective that describes their chosen character. This word should be displayed somewhere on their outfit in the form of a badge/ sticky label. For example, a superhero might choose brave, or a fairy-tale character might choose kind or curious.



We look forward to celebrating the joy of reading together and seeing all the wonderful costumes and descriptive words the children choose

Please join us in school at **2.30pm** on **Thursday 5th March** to read and share stories with your child in school.



Important Dates



Monday 23rd February – Children return to school

Monday 2nd March – Sublime Science Workshops

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day. Please join us at 14:30 to read with your child.

Saturday 7th March – Roots and Shoots family gardening event – please support.

Monday 9th March – Science Week launch

Tuesday 10th March – Sparrowhawks and Kestrels visiting Farnborough Air Science Museum

Wednesday 11th Wednesday @ 09:00 Science Parent Workshop – please join us

Thursday 12th March – Barn Owls visiting Farnborough Air Science Museum

Monday 16th March – Wednesday 18th March – Book Fair

Tuesday 17th March – Perform Online Safety Drama workshops for KS1

Tuesday 17th March – Parents Evening for all year groups (more information to follow)

Wednesday 18th March - Parents Evening for all year groups (more information to follow)

Wednesday 18th March – Beep Beep Day (Road Safety Awareness)

Friday 20th March – Friends of SFIS Crafternoon (tickets required)

Monday 23rd March – NSPCC workshops for Year 2

Friday 27th March – MUFTI Day / School finishes at 13:30 for the Easter Holidays

Monday 13th April – Children return to school

Uniform provider – Brenda's

<https://www.brendas.co.uk/?srsltid=AfmBOorY5BLM1JSJsR0qVme6jLqEK6xcShrSI4V46-aJKgKg49jQwckQ>

Supermarket option - Non-Logo options

Asda (please note these are also available in Matalan and Sainsbury's)

<https://direct.asda.com/george/school/jumpers-sweatshirts/burgundy-cotton-rich-school-sweatshirts-2-pack/GEM1122134-23601,default.pd.html?clr=Burgundy>



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School Contact Details



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inf.hants.sch.uk
01252 543727

Please note that messages left after 14:45 on the answering phone will not be picked up until the following day.

The school office is open from 08:40 am until 15:15.

Punctuality

Our school day is between 08:40 and 08:50. We kindly request that all children arrive within this 10-minute window, ready to begin their day.



We understand that morning routines can sometimes present challenges, and that congestion can often be a concern around the school. Where possible, walking to school is an excellent way to avoid traffic. **For those who need to drive, please remember that free school parking permits are available for the Peabody Road Car Park.** Please contact the school office for more information.