

FORDCOMBE NEWS

Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Another great week with your children at Fordcombe. Thank you and the children for your warm welcome. This week's highlight for me was joining in with sung worship on Thursday! As well as learning some songs for our Harvest celebration this Autumn, I have been teaching the children to sing and sign The Lords Prayer. I am so impressed with how quickly everyone has picked up the signs. We are finding it tricky to sing and sign at the same time but getting better each week. Perhaps you can ask the children to show you what they can remember?

It was lovely to meet Elm class parents this week at Meet the Teacher and I look forward to meeting Oak class parents on Monday. I am beginning to put names to faces and parents to children! As you know, I work across two schools and will be drawing on this partnership to provide mutual support across the school. I will be aiming to be on site here at Fordcombe in a regular pattern. I will start the week here on a Monday, including leading our Act of Worship. I am also regularly in on Thursdays and meet with the teaching team for our Professional Development Meetings after school. However, I am never far away and in continual contact with the staff. I am able to pop in and out if needed.



Julie Burton
Executive Head

I continue to be impressed by the kindness the children show one another and the joy they show in spending time with children in other classes. This is particularly evident during our lunch hour. The children now all sit down together to have lunch, mixing between year groups and not being segregated by lunch choices. We sit together for the first part of the hour and the children are relaxing into the routine. The pressure to eat in a hurry is off as the children have to stay in for the first part. We have noticed children are eating and drinking more and chatting happily. They take joint responsibility for clearing their tables. For those that sometimes take a bit longer to eat, they can stay in the hall until they are ready.

We are incredibly fortunate to have very capable staff here too. Andrew Miles and Emma McBride are part of our Senior Leadership Team and steering the ship day to day. They are both trained Designated Safeguarding Leads, along with Mrs Bell. As you may be aware, as part of the Tenax Schools Trust, we are advised on best practice in various areas. This has included tightening up our morning protocols with drop off at the gates. We will also be bringing in a more secure entrance and signing in system, to bring us up to date with legislation.

I know that some of you have been concerned about the changes in the office; the trust recognised the challenges in a small school when a long standing leader and office staff were leaving in the same period of time. We worked hard to ensure that office was staffed with people who knew and understood the school community. Mrs Bell and Miss Woolley are very much enjoying their new roles. They again are being closely supported by the Tenax team and work together seamlessly. There is almost always someone in the school office, apart from Tuesday afternoons, but if not, please do leave a voicemail or email and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. You will no doubt agree with our intention to prioritise support for our children, so staff do work flexibly.

Also supporting the school alongside us is Laura Fowler. Laura is another experience leader and has a wealth of SEN knowledge. She is regularly in school on Friday mornings and is working closely with Emma McBride. A specialist speech and language teaching assistant will be coming across to work with children.

At Fordcombe, we continue to value each and every child and we will be meeting as staff teams to discuss the needs and provision for each one as part of our INSET day. Our approach continues to be inclusive and we are moving the balance of interventions to within the classroom. Moving the children into closer age groups and smaller class sizes, with consistent staff teams ensures continuity and the frequent targeted support approach which is most effective in improving children's attainment.

I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming weeks. Have a great weekend. Kind regards, Julie Burton.



Fordcombe

Church of England Primary School

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Weekly highlights



Beech - old school days

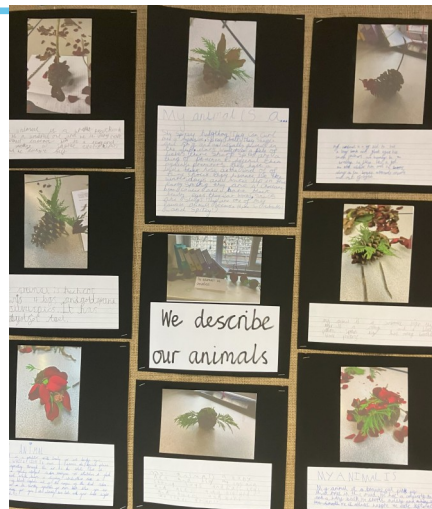
OAK This week in Oak we received our year 6 roles! Some of these roles include head boy, head girl, deputy head boy and deputy head girl. We also have house captains, Arts captains, various captains for sports, and class ambassadors. We also have been working hard with our buddies in Reception to help with the transition into school in the morning. We had a fair election for these roles: we had to prepare a short statement about why we would be good for the role and then we had an anonymous vote in class. Mr Miles then asked the staff around the school for their ideas, too.



Oak - Year 6 Roles



Ash - early writing



ELM

Pupils in Elm Class this week have been taking a leaf out of our class book 'Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf' and have created animals from natural items...pinecones, petals, sticks, stones. Next, they described their creatures with some amazing adjectives. Some really great work here!



High Hopes come in for an Act of Worship.

Mike spoke to us about honesty and read a Bible passage to us. Part of his story involved pulling a partly-eaten chocolate cake out of a treasure box. We were all very surprised to find that Mimi had eaten some of the cake; however, she was honest and told the truth!



Celebrating our values this week:



Shania - being kind and helpful

Zoe and Freddie - showing love and helping others as computer experts

Ellis - for perseverance

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

100%

Congratulations to Elm class on 100% attendance this week! Oak were following closely behind, too.

Stars this week:



Oliver - for always trying hard in all of his work

Clemmie - for beautiful writing

Noah D - amazing history

George - amazing maths

Mimi - being a good sport and taking part, especially in our High hopes assembly.

Dates for your diary

New dates are in italics. Unless it is unavoidable, we will not change the dates for key events such as Sports Day, Inset days, the Award ceremony etc. Dates for curriculum events, Maths Day, Book Week, etc. and those not directly involving parents may be subject to change but give you a flavour of what we are up to this year at school.

Date		Activity	
September			
Monday 22 nd	Oak	Meet the Teacher	
Thursday 25 th	Oak	Trip to Temper Temper	See Arbor
Friday 26 th	Whole school	INSET day	
October			
Thursday 2 nd		National Poetry Day!	
Thursday 9 th	Elm	Visit from Folly Wildlife Centre	Donations of meaty cat food, please!
FRIDAY 10 th	Whole School	Individual Photos	Please note change of date by Kittles
Tuesday 14 th	Whole school	Harvest Festival	
Friday 17 th	Whole school	INSET day	
Monday 20 th	Whole School	Half term break	
Monday 27 th	Whole School	Return to school	
Friday 31 st	Ash and Year 6	National Child Measuring service	

Volunteers needed!

We are looking for some volunteers in three particular roles. Firstly, we always welcome some additional reading support in classes. Along the same theme, we are hoping to get the library opened at lunchtime. Finally, we are keen to get our Forest School area back under control! If you are able to assist in any of these roles, please get in touch and we'll get an application form to you.

Please contact us via the office if you have any questions about your child's learning or their well-being at Fordcombe Primary School.



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