



FLINTHAM NEWS



4 January 2021

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EQUALS TRUST



Dear Parents,

We hope you were all able to make the best of a very different Christmas and the last minute changes to everyone's family arrangements.

We now find ourselves as a community in Tier 4 and all the restrictions this entails. However, as a school, we are fully open and we wish all our children and parents the warmest of welcomes back to FPS for the start of the Spring Term and a brand new year. 2020 has finally gone; a very happy 2021 to you all. As the song states, " Things can only get better". Let's hope the vaccine rollout programme progresses speedily and life will be very different for everyone as we wind our way through this term.

Our plan, as always, is to have a really positive and enthusiastic start to term; continuing to enjoy teaching and learning together and implementing our exciting new curriculum. Teachers have been very busy over the holiday planning new topics and designing Knowledge Organisers; aiming to keep school life as normal (and safe) as possible.

All our control measures remain in place and will continue to be adhered to. We did so well last half-term, regarding no bubble closures. We need to all remain vigilant and follow the procedures we have in place, especially with the new more easily transmittable variant on the horizon. I have attached the link to parental advice, which was updated on December 23 2020. : <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

One change for this half-term is that the school fields will not be used for break and lunchtimes. They have become far too muddy and need time to recover. Therefore wellies will not be needed for field zone weeks. However, it is getting colder/wetter and we may be due more snow, so if you wish your child to keep a pair of wellies/outdoor shoes at school to change into, please do. Children love to play in the snow and we love to see them have the opportunity to play outside if snow falls on a school day. If you do not wish your child to have a spare pair of shoes in school, please listen to the weather forecast before setting off for school. Similarly, please ensure your child always has their coat, hat and gloves at school, as we are all well aware the British weather can change dramatically during the day and the guidance remains to play outside whenever possible .

It will be lovely to have everyone back with us again.
Mrs Bartlett and the staff of FPS

INSET DAYS
Monday 7 June 2021
1 INSET day TBD

School Photographer
Wednes. am. 3rd February, 2021

Healthy Hearts Notts CCC
Class 4 6 wk programme
Wk beg. Monday 8 Feb, 2021

Last Day of Spring 1
Friday 12 February, 2021

Half Term Holiday
Monday 15 Feb to Friday 19 Feb

First Day of Spring 2
Monday 22 Feb, 2021

Robotic Lego Workshops
Class 2- 4
Monday 8 March, 2021

Last Day of Spring 1
Thursday 25 March

Easter Holiday
Friday 26 March to
Friday 9 April

First Day of Summer 1
Monday 12 April, 2021

FPS Autumn 2 Super Sixers

Huge congratulations to our Autumn 2 Super Sixers!



Class 1: Tyler



Class 2: William



Class 3: Alfie L.



Class 4: Leo

FLINTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
SUPER SIX AIMS

Respect
Responsible
Make good choices
Determination
Aspire
Explore



Severe weather plans

If, over the next couple of months, there is heavy snowfall we will make every effort to keep school open. However, if we are forced to close school, we shall use the school texting service as our initial method of informing parents. We will also use all of our other communication platforms - email and Facebook. Unless you hear, please presume school is open.



NEW CLASS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PACKS!



We were so impressed with how our children adapted to playing with only the children in their bubble and keeping in the zones for the past term, that we wanted to treat them. As Christmas presents, each class chose a class playground pack and we're delighted that the first pack has arrived! The children will be able to choose a selection of new equipment to play and interact with each other and keep some back for later in the year. Thank you for all your donations towards the raffle and Christmas Decoration Day.



FPS: Use of Knowledge Organisers at Home

Thank you to the families who completed the online survey sent last half-term regarding the introduction and usage of Knowledge Organisers at home and school to help children to learn the key facts and information relating to their History, Science or Geography topics. I have attached the findings from the survey with this newsletter. It was so pleasing to see how useful some of our parents are finding them.

It is our aim that even more parents will engage with them at home. Please look in your child's bookbag for this term's Knowledge Organisers. As explained in the letter, two copies of each will be in a plastic wallet alongside information about how to use them at home. Copies of all the Knowledge Organisers can also be found on the school website in the Curriculum section. Just scroll down to the Parents Curriculum Info. Please do contact school if you would like any further support.

FPS GEOGRAPHY Knowledge Organiser
Year 5/6 Why is the Rainforest essential for a healthy planet?

Key Question: Where are the rainforests located?
Key Learning: The majority of rainforests lie between the tropics of cancer and capricorn which are imaginary lines drawn on the map of the earth.



Key Question: How does the rainforest benefit the world?
Key Learning: Many medicines were discovered in the tropical rainforest, for example ginger which can be used to treat nausea and pain, which is used to treat malaria. Many foods also come from the rainforest, such as chocolate, coffee and bananas. Other common products from the rainforest include rubber and bamboo.

Key Question: What makes a rainforest?
Key Learning: Rainforests get between 200cm to 400cm of rain a year. They are very humid and warm, staying around 22 to 32 celsius a year. These conditions make for excellent plant and animal growth.

Key Question: What animals are endangered that live in the rainforest?
Key Learning: There are currently over 2500 species near extinction including jaguars, giant otters and gorillas.

Key Vocabulary

carbon dioxide	a green house gas that traps heat in the earth's atmosphere
climate change	how weather and climate are changing
deforestation	the cutting down of a large area of trees
ecosystem	a community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive
endangered	likely to become extinct
equator	an imaginary line that divides the earth in half, horizontally
extinction	an animal or plant that no longer exists
humid	a high level of moisture in the air
indigenous	a living thing that belongs naturally to one area
interdependent	needing others to survive
rainforest	a dense forest with high rainfall and

The Police




Fire and rescue service



Ambulance service

Look how vehicles and uniform have changed!

Notice the flashing blue Light!

People who help us!
 Key Learning
 Spring Term 1
Our History Topics

Now and then!
 We have been looking at old and new images of people who help us, comparing different ways of life in the past to that of now. We are able to talk about changes, differences and similarities over time.

Which photos are old, which are new? How can you tell?
 Talk about other people who help us such as:

- Doctors and dentists
- Vets
- Postal delivery staff
- Refuse collectors
- ...and lots more!

Who can help me?

I need to cross the road.

I need help with my work.

I am lost.

There is a fire.

I have hurt my knee.



New Parking Safely Signs

Our new parking safely 'pupils' have just arrived and we will start to display them at the front of school at pick up and drop off times. We have been thinking for a while about purchasing these and, having spoken to several head teachers who have them, we have been told that they are beneficial in making drivers think more carefully and safely about where to park. They will be placed at either end of the zig zag lines and on the opposite pavement.

We will be explaining their usage to the children and we hope that all drivers listen to their children, pay attention to the signs and park safely outside school. We have been informed that parking safely along Main Street is becoming an issue at all times of the day for Flintham residents and measures are being discussed by the parish council.





FPS Parent Survey 2020



Thank you to all those parents who completed our Annual Parental Survey, 2020/21, We received 21 responses, representing approx. a quarter of our families. It is very important to us that we gather your opinion of the school. Once again a wonderful selection of positive comments; it is encouraging to hear that in such difficult times parents have faith in the quality of education and care we provide at FPS. For the full analysis, please look in the Parents Section on the website and I have proudly displayed the positive comments on the next page.

We take parents comments requesting changes seriously, and from those returned if there is more than one parent making a similar comment, a response has been provided. If you wish an individual response to your unique comment, please telephone school to make an appointment.

FPS Wraparound Care: 4 responses indicated a disappointment that our Kids Club Wraparound Care has had to be mothballed. We too hope this is only a necessary temporary situation. At present, working from home/ going to work is uncertain for many of our parents. As stated at the time of closure, parents will be canvassed again at the end of this half-term to assess need and if we can make to club work, we are determined we will. In the meantime, if anyone knows of any alternative local childminding wraparound care available, please let school know and we will forward the information to all our parents

Information regarding pupils' progress: At present, Flintham has two annual Parents Evenings, a Celebration of Work Evening, a written report which can be discussed with teachers, weekly reading record and weekly spellings and timetables tests. Class 1, due to the age of children and less commitment to marking children's work, share information with parents using Tapestry. These are unusual times, staff are regrettably not available to have quick chats. However, please be assured, teachers will always discuss children's progress with parents if the need arises or if a parent wishes to discuss a particular issue with a teacher. There are no plans to increase our pupil progress information sharing.

Governors Profile: Several parents answered that they were unfamiliar with whom our school governors are. Once again, opportunities to meet governors are hampered by government guidelines. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated Local Governing Body. A profile of each of our governors is on the school website in 'Contacts' - just scroll down to the 'About Us' section. We have 2 Local Governing Body Meetings each term and governors meet with the HT and Senior Leadership termly to monitor progress regarding the School Improvement Plan and different areas of school life. We have parent governors and community governors. We hope to celebrate the end of these restrictions with events that bring together all our school community.

Amount of Homework: Parents often express conflicting views regarding the amount of homework given, some too little and some too much, and this year is no different. At FPS, we try to provide the balance - practising and embedding those core essential skills which really help your child progress- Reading, Spellings, Times Tables and Fluency Facts— whilst leaving time for families to be together and children to pursue their hobbies and have time to relax. We always celebrate when our children undertake further research at home regarding a class topic, but this is not insisted upon. There are no plans to alter our homework schedule. If you wish your child to have more homework, please look online or in book shops - there is a wealth of homework material available.



We hope all our children will take part in our 'FPS Bookworm Reading Challenge' that we will be launching later this half-term, when we are once again fully settled back into school life. Our aim is to have every pupil reading at least three times every week and celebrating with those children who do achieve this goal.



Better Communication: Several parents have asked for greater clarity regarding school/class activities eg knowing what to wear with Christmas jumpers. Point taken! Dislike of the number of mistakes in emails and the number of emails sent was also mentioned by a parent - one tries one best. I do have to say, I have never sent or read as many emails as I have during this pandemic!



What Flintham Primary School is doing well

- ✓ I love the family feel coming from school. I will be very sad when my child leaves for secondary school but will forever be grateful that she attended FPS who have been nothing but fantastic
- ✓ Mrs Barker and Mrs Smith have been fabulous with my child this year. He is much happier at school and working a lot harder. Thank you!
- ✓ Good learning plans.
- ✓ My child loves school. She loves all her teachers and she is thriving. Her reading and maths have turned a corner and I am so pleased with her progress. I love the fact that they still have music lessons, as that is becoming a rarity at primary schools, and a games teacher that comes in. The work that they do is varied and keeps them so interested.
- ✓ I loved the fact that the nativity went ahead, it's important for children to still do children things
- ✓ Well done during lockdown with home learning and bringing the children back so smoothly . 100%
- ✓ Great handling of COVID, home schoolwork and return to school was seamless under challenging circumstances
- ✓ My son is loving his time at Flintham school, he has made a good connection with his teacher and enjoys all the topic work. He comes out smiling each day telling me all about what he's been doing.
- ✓ My son enjoys coming to school, he has settled well into Class 2 and his teachers have been really supportive with his learning and giving him the confidence to succeed!
- ✓ Supportive head and some excellent teachers
- ✓ Very successful handling of COVID, lockdown and home school literature under challenging circumstances
- ✓ My children are very happy at the school and look forward to attending. They particularly enjoy PE lessons with the external teacher. I recognise the efforts that are being made to keep things as normal as possible for the children during covid
- ✓ Teaching and caring for the children, even more apparent during the past year
- ✓ Thank you
- ✓ My child receives the appropriate amount of work to support learning at home, I feel it is a good balance
- ✓ A massive thank you to all staff for everything you've done this year, enjoy your very well-earned break!