



Newsletter

Friday 6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a lovely week here at Fairford and the school has been full of energy, enthusiasm and smiles.

Yesterday we celebrated World Book Day, and it was wonderful to see both staff and children dressed up to celebrate our shared love of reading. The creativity on display was fantastic and it created such a positive buzz around the school.

One of my personal highlights was visiting Nursery and watching the children retell and re-enact *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Their storytelling and enthusiasm were brilliant to see. It has also been lovely to hear children speaking so positively about their paired reading sessions with other year groups.

A special well done to our Year 3 children, who managed the quick challenge of changing out of - and then back into - their costumes/trunks as it was also their swimming day! We have received so much positive feedback about the swimming sessions that we have decided to extend the use of the pool until May, which means even more swimming opportunities for our KS2 pupils.

Parents' Evening is coming up soon. You will be able to book your appointment with your child's teacher via Arbor, and we look forward to welcoming you into school to discuss your child's progress.

Have a lovely weekend, and let's hope the sunshine continues!

Ms. Aujla

Head of School



Dates for your diary

Monday 9 th March 2026	Tuesday 10 th March 2026	Wednesday 11 th March 2026	Thursday 12 th March 2026	Friday 13 th March 2026
YR6 Swimming Nicole's Dance Club KS1 French Club	Zebras & Giraffes Southwark Cathedral Trip YR6&Lions Swimming YR4&5 Violin Club YR3 Choir Club	YR4 Swimming KS2 Mindfulness Art YR4 Times Tables Club KS2 French Club YR1&2 Forest Club	YR 3 Swimming YR3 Violin Club KS1 Colouring Club YR4&5 Recorder Club Boys Football Training	YR6 HMS Belfast Trip YR4 & SRP Swimming YR 5 Pokémon Club KS2 Bell Ringing Club

Attendance % & Number of Children Lates

W/E 6th February

Ladybirds	92.4%	8
Butterflies	93.5%	3
Dragonflies	94.1%	3
Owls	92.4%	4
Squirrels	91.0%	2
Koalas	97.2%	0
Kookaburras	96.4%	5

Narwhals	97.3%	3
Penguins	97.0%	4
Dolphins	96.8%	1
Sharks	98.3%	5
Whales	97.0%	0
Giraffes	98.7%	4
Lions	96.5%	2
Zebras	92.2%	2
Eagles	94.1%	5
Falcons	95.2%	3
Hawks	96.0%	3

Challenge– Let's hit the 96% mark for all classes. Those classes who have had the biggest improvement will win a prize!



Term dates & Lunch Menu

Illuminateminds Trust - Term Dates 2025/26

September 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
40	29	30					

October 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40			1	2	3	4	5
41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44						1	2
45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	29	30	31				

January 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1				1	2	3	4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5							1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

April 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

May 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

August 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31						1	2
32	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
34	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
35	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
36	31						

INSET DAYS

HOLIDAYS

*School finishes at 1pm on 19/12/25 & 17/07/26



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE	<p>Chicken Pie 1 Pesto & Pea Pasta 1,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Crushed Potato Cauliflower, Carrots</p> <p>Strawberry Mousse 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Margherita Pizza 1,3,7 V Bean Biryani VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Rainbow Pasta 1 Seasonal Vegetables</p> <p>Toffee Apple Pudding 1 VG & Custard 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Roast Gammon & Gravy Broccoli Tot 1,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Rustic Roast Potatoes, Cabbage, Peas</p> <p>Fruit Jelly VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Beef Bolognese Pasta Bake 1,7 Loaded Bean Chili Wedges VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Green Beans Grated Carrots</p> <p>Parsnip Brownie 1 VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Pork Sausages 1,6 Vegetable Sausage VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Chips, Sweetcorn, Baked Beans Cucumber Sticks</p> <p>Oaty Cookie 1,15 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG</p>
WEEK TWO	<p>Caribbean Brown Chicken Tomato Spaghetti 1 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Rice, Carrots, Peas</p> <p>Chocolate Ice Cream 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Cheese & Broccoli Pasta Bake 1,7 V Buffalo Cauliflower Wings & Wedges VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Seasonal Vegetables</p> <p>Plum Pudding 1VG & Custard 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Roast Chicken & Gravy Ratatouille Puff 1,3 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Rustic Roast Potatoes Broccoli, Carrots</p> <p>Crispy Cake 1,3,7,16 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Beef Stew & Dumpling 1 Pesto Pasta Bake 1,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Cauliflower, Green Beans</p> <p>Apple & Cinnamon Pinwheel 1 VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Salmon Bites 1,8 Margherita Pizza 1,3,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Chips, Peas, Coleslaw 9</p> <p>Marble Cookie 1 VG Yoghurt 3,7 Fruit Pots VG</p>
WEEK THREE	<p>Macaroni Cheese 1,7 V Sweet Potato & Chick Pea Curry VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Rice, Green Beans, Mixed Salad</p> <p>Peach Crumble 1 VG & Custard 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Chicken Noodles 1 BBQ Vegetable Burrito 1 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Sweetcorn, Peppers</p> <p>Chocolate Rice Pudding 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Roast Pork & Gravy Vegan Sausage Roll 1 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Rustic Roast Potatoes, Green Beans, Carrots</p> <p>Fruit Jelly VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Beef Cottage Pie Herby Tomato Pasta 1 VG Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Seasonal Vegetables</p> <p>Beetroot Cake 1 VG Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 VG Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG</p>	<p>Fish Fingers 1,8 Cheese, Carrot & Tomato Swirl 1,7 V Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7,8,9</p> <p>Chips, Peas, Baked Beans, Grated Carrot</p> <p>Caramel Flapjack 1,7,15 V Yoghurt 3,7, Fruit Pots VG</p>

Primary 3

1 Wheat Gluten 2 Crustaceans 3 Soybean 4 Mustard 5 Sesame 6 Sulphites/Sulphur Dioxide 7 Milk 8 Fish 9 Egg 10 Peanuts 11 Molluscs 12 Celeriac/Celery 13 Nuts 14 Lupins 15 Oat Gluten 16 Barley Gluten VG Vegan V Vegetarian

AVAILABLE DAILY

Selection of Salads 9, Homemade Bread 1,3. Some of our schools may use pre prepped potatoes or vegetables on occasions. These may contain sulphites and celeriac. Please discuss with your manager.



Photos from this Week

World Book Day



From favourite characters coming to life to discovering new worlds between the pages, it's been a truly page-turning World Book Day!

Information

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

- 1 VALUE ALL READING**
When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand why not these forms have to create a 24-hour reading diary? Set down all reading and discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.
- 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION**
Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and bookshops, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, not all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.
- 3 GIFT A BOOK**
One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.
- 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS**
Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event (it is so easy to book) or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using live resources such as AuthorQ and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.
- 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**
Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of the topic and make importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.
- 6 TALK BOOKS**
There are times when we read alone to relax and focus on our book. However, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the conversation.
- 7 RECOMMENDATIONS**
As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.
- 8 GO DIGITAL**
With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negative; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can be used and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Padlet and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.
- 9 RECONNECT**
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever. It generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The national year of reading focus on 'Get it!' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.
- 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Show why you enjoy it. It is to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained! When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert
Carl Pattison is a literacy adviser and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Attached is #WakeUpWednesday's Ten practical, creative strategies to help children rediscover the joy of reading and build lifelong literacy habits.

Sign of the week

Story

Attention Year 5 Parents

Bexley selection test registration is now open and closes on 31st March. If you would like your child to take this test, please register here

<https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/selection-tests/register-secondary-selection-test>

Attention for Nursery Applications

Bexley Nursery applications for September 2026 are now open and closes on 6th April. If your child was born between 1st Sept 2022 and 31st Aug 2023, please apply here

<https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/nursery-schools/starting-nursery>

If you would like to speak to a member of the leadership team please contact:
fairfordadmin@illuminateminds.org

