



# Newsletter – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

---

Dear Parents

We've reached the end of our first full week of term and it's great to see how well all the children are settling into routines now. My particular highlight is seeing how the new Reception children are absolutely loving OPAL activities at lunchtimes. Enjoying the lunchtime playtime makes such a difference to how quickly the children settle. It's just lovely to see. Our Year 2 children are also rising to the responsibility of being a yellow or blue bib helper at lunch and playtime.

This newsletter has some updates, reminders and some new dates have been added to the school calendar. We've also added two attachments this week, a Pupil Premium letter for all parents and some more information about the changes we are making to the teaching of reading at our school.

## **Reading**

Last week I promised to give you some more detailed information about the changes we are making to the teaching of reading and phonics at school. This has been sent to you as a separate document which is attached to this email.

We are also hosting two information sessions for parents. One is our usual workshop for Reception parents and the other is a session for parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2.

## **Phonics Workshop – Reception parents**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2.00-3.00 pm in the school hall**

Mrs Ochiltree and Mrs Stockwell will explain the first steps in learning to read, and how we teach phonics in school. We will also offer you some ideas on how you can help at home. Following the talk in the hall, parents will be invited to go to their child's classroom and see a phonics lesson.

## **Read Write Inc 'Find out More' workshop – Year 1 and 2 parents**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 9.00 am in the school hall**

Mrs Ochiltree, Mrs Baud and Mrs Marks will be explaining what reading with 'Read Write Inc' looks like in the classroom and we are teaching children to read in Year 1 and 2.

## **Pupil Premium**

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. Please see the attached information letter, and if you think your child may be eligible, contact the school office, in confidence.

## **Turnfurlong Junior School Car Park**

Parents using Little Rascals or dropping off or collecting from Nursery should not park in the Junior school car park at any time.

## **School lunches**

Have the children talked about what they are eating for their school dinner at home? At the end of the Summer holidays new catering equipment was put in the hall kitchen and this means that we are no longer having our meals delivered to school every day. Much more preparation is happening on site now. I think that the quality of the food has really improved because of this so if you have a child in Year 1 and Year 2 who hasn't tried school dinners for a while it might be worth having another try. School dinners are free for all children at our school.

## **OPAL**

Our school is an 'Outdoor Play and Learning' (OPAL) school. This means that the children can play with a wide range of resources in the playground at playtime and lunchtime. Children are also able to play on the field for almost all of the year, go into the nature area and play in the mud kitchen. Having so much fun in all weathers does mean that children can sometimes get quite muddy. We therefore ask all parents to send in the following things to be kept in school

- A named pair of welly boots
- A complete change of warm clothes

Children should bring a waterproof coat to school **every day**. Please would you also ensure that shoes are named, as children are having difficulty in recognising their own shoes when they change out of their wellies. Thank you.

## **SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Coffee Mornings**

Our SEND coffee mornings are for parents of children with SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities). They are held termly and hosted by our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt.

The coffee mornings are an excellent chance to meet Mrs Gerhardt, ask any questions you may have about SEND in the classroom, and discuss any subjects you would like to talk about. It's also a great opportunity to network with other parents and talk to them.

The coffee mornings will take place on the following dates:

29<sup>th</sup> September, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> July, from 9.00-10.00 am.

A specific coffee morning will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> June to focus on transition from Year 2 to Year 3. The SENDCo from Turnfurlong Junior School is invited to join this meeting.

**And finally...**

## **FoTIS AGM**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 7.15pm in the school hall**

Please join the fabulous FoTIS, our school PTA, to find out, suggest and join in with all the fantastic fundraising we will be doing this year. They are a very friendly and well-organised group who are always pleased to welcome new parents. It's a great way to connect with and meet people as well as supporting the school.

<b>TERM DATES 2025-26</b>		
	<b>Open on morning of</b>	<b>Close at end of afternoon of</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025
	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Spring Term</b>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026
<b>Staff Training Days</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025 Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025 Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026	
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 (school closed)	

<b>KEY DATES - 2025-26</b>	
<b>September</b>	
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	FoTIS AGM, 7.15 pm in the school hall
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Read Write Inc 'find out more' workshop (for parents in Year 1 and 2), 9.00am
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	SATs workshop for Year 2 parents, 9.00 am
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics workshop for Reception parents, 2.00-3.00 pm (In the school hall, followed by time in the classrooms)
<b>October</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	OPAL stay and play for parents, 9.00 -10.00 am
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent information target sheets sent home
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Photographer in for individual photos
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Discussions 5.30-7.30 pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Harvest Assembly, 9.00 am (Please note time change.)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 visit to Road Farm, Gt Missenden. Information to follow.
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Parent involvement morning – Oracy
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Staff training day (children not in school)

<b>November</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Staff training day (children not in school)
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Diwali dance with Kalpesh
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Flu immunisations (Reception-Year 2)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
<b>December</b>	
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Christmas production, 9.15 am
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Christmas production, 9.15 am
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Christmas production, 9.15 am
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas party day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Carols around the tree (afternoon)
<b>January</b>	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Staff training day (children not in school)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
<b>February</b>	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parent involvement morning
<b>March</b>	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Discussions 5.30-7.30 pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Eid party
<b>April</b>	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
<b>May</b>	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 SATs week 1
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pyjamarama Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 SATs week 2
<b>June</b>	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics check / Year 2 recheck week
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting for new parents (starting school in September 2026)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Evening
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am – <b>Year 2 parents only</b>

<b>July</b>	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Beach Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Move up day 1
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Move up day 2
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day (am)