



School newsletter Friday 12th September 2025

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Headteacher's insight

We've reached the end of our first full week of the new academic year, and what a fantastic start it has been! The children have settled back into school life beautifully, and it's been wonderful to see our curriculum in full swing across all year groups. To read about the curriculum your child will be experiencing this year, please refer to last week's communication or visit our school website where you will find the curriculum mapped out per year group.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions earlier this week. It was lovely to welcome so many of you into school, and I truly appreciated your feedback about how valuable it was to meet your child's teacher and see their classroom environment. We know how important those connections are, and we're glad the sessions were helpful.

Below, you'll find updates from each class, sharing some of the exciting learning that's been happening. I hope you enjoy reading about what the children have been up to! From next week, we will move back to fortnightly class updates, so you can continue to stay informed and celebrate your child's progress.

We are pleased to share with you our new approach to home learning starting from next week. You will have received an email with our approach to home learning and this half term's home learning menu for your child's class. We are looking forward to celebrating the creative efforts of the children as they complete their challenges which will enable them to revise their learning and apply their knowledge in to different contexts. The children can complete their challenges in any order over the half term and can choose to complete one a week or to take longer for some challenges if their project approach requires a longer period of time.



Continued....

Next week, our sporting programme begins with our Year 6 children from both schools experiencing an afternoon of sport together which will focus on football. Our Year 5 children start their swimming lessons next Wednesday and we are looking forward to guiding them through the 12 weeks of opportunity to develop this crucial life skill.

Finally, a special mention to our Reception children in our Butterfly classes, who have now completed their very first full week of 'big school' with us. We are incredibly proud of how well they've adapted to their new routines and embraced school life with such enthusiasm. What wonderful additions to our school family they are!

Wishing you all a restful weekend.



Mrs Thompson

Mrs Emily Thompson
Executive Headteacher



News from our classrooms



Butterflies Class

What a great start to the new year! All of the Butterflies children have come in with a positive attitude, excited to absorb new routines, make new friends and eager to start their learning!

This week we began our learning based around the book *The Three Little Pigs* by Susanna Davidson. We have built straw and brick houses – although the wind blew our straw houses away, just like the Big Bad Wolf. Packed a bag for the pigs to take with them and used wax crayons and paint to make pictures. Our outside classroom has been transformed with a *Three Little Pigs* themed Book Nook, which has encouraged lots of role-play and excitement. We even have a little shop where we can buy pig food.

We are looking forward to continuing our learning next week!

Mrs Bailham, Miss Ahmed and Mrs Sellars.





News from our classrooms

Dragonflies Class



Dragonfly Class has kicked off to an amazing start this week!

We have begun our first maths unit and focused closely on numbers 1-20, how they are structured and practised lots of practical counting, ordering and making numbers. The Colour Monster, in English, has been a huge hit. First, we explored the emotions the colour monster experiences in the story, followed by discussing and writing about what makes us feel different emotions. The highlight lesson of the week was being able to act as the colour monster and use drama and hot seating to help develop our question-and-answer skills.

Within History we started thinking about sequencing events of a day and how events in our lives have happened in the past. Science was another fun practical lesson, filled with exploring different plants in our natural environment followed by planting our own broad beans which we are very excited to watch germinate and grow!

PE has been filled with using our throwing and catching skills to see how well we can do it and challenge each other to catching balls of varying sizes and throwing to a target.

Overall, it was a busy and exciting week where everyone is starting to settle very well into the new routines and environment of our class!



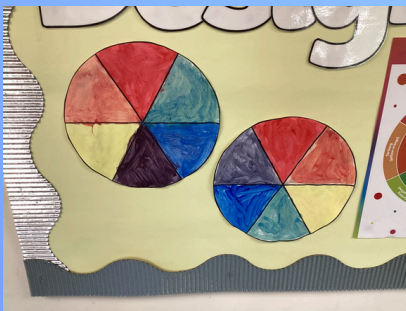


News from our classrooms



Squirrels Class

Squirrel Class have settled brilliantly into Year 3 and have been super busy! In English, we have been enjoying our class book 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled' and acting out the story using our Drama-skills. In PSHE, we have been reflecting about ourselves as learners and created wellbeing bookmarks. In Art, we have revised colour theory and worked hard on painting colour wheels.





News from our classrooms

Owls Class

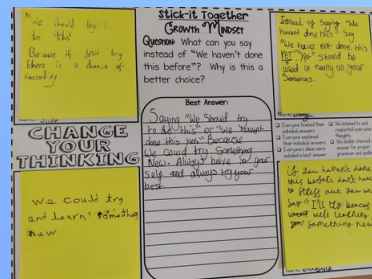
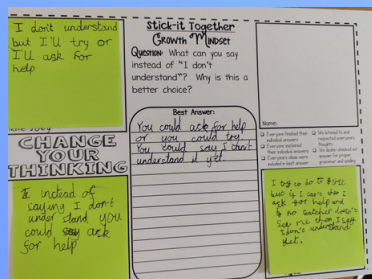
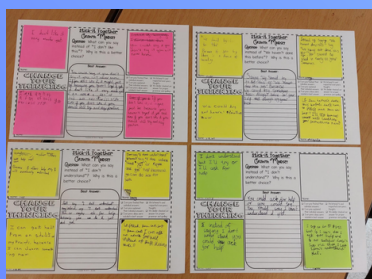
Exploring mixtures in Science.

In Science this week, we have started our unit of mixtures and separation. We explored how mixtures are made and investigated whether they can be easily identified. Through an experiment, we discovered that not all mixtures are easy to spot, especially when substances share the same colour. However, we learned that mixtures can often be identified by looking closely at their colours, materials, and shapes. Using the iPads, we also researched everyday substances like sand, seawater, and soil and discovered what they were made out of.



Badgers Class

This week, the children took a big step in building a more positive and resilient approach to learning. In class, we focused on the difference between a fixed and growth mindset, and we practiced changing the way we think and talk about challenges.





Home Learning

Autumn term update



This year, we're excited to launch a refreshed approach to home learning that encourages creativity, independence, and deeper engagement with the curriculum.

Each half term, children will receive a **Home Learning Menu** – a selection of open-ended tasks linked to their current learning in school. These tasks are designed to be flexible and creative, allowing children to respond in a way that suits their interests and strengths. They may choose to create models, write stories, produce artwork, or carry out research – the possibilities are wide-ranging and purposeful.

The aim is to develop key skills such as **self-study, time management, and presentation of knowledge**, while also making home learning enjoyable and meaningful.

Children can choose the order in which they complete the tasks over the half term.

The menu for this half term is:

Stuck into your child's Home Learning Book, which will come home on **Monday**

Available on the school website under the Home Learning section,

click here to view:

CLICK HERE 

In addition to the creative tasks, we have clear expectations for English and Maths home learning across the school. Please see the table below for guidance:

Year Group	Time Spent	Activity
Nursery	Daily	Read to your child in any language
	Fortnightly	'Tapestry Challenges' – ideas to try at home and share via photos/comments
Reception & Year 1 (Autumn Term)	5 × 5 mins	Reading
	15 mins	Spelling/Phonics – common exception words and phonics sounds
Year 1 (Spring/Summer) & Year 2	5 × 10 mins	Reading
	20 mins	Spelling/Phonics
	20 mins	Maths activities including games
Years 3 & 4	5 × 15 mins	Reading
	15 mins	Spelling
	30 mins	Times tables
	Weekly	One additional piece of work
Years 5 & 6	5 × 15 mins	Reading
	20 mins	Spelling
	30 mins	Maths
	Weekly	One additional piece of work



Please note that our spelling scheme for home learning will be launched in Autumn 2.

We hope this approach will inspire children to take ownership of their learning and enjoy the process of exploring and creating. If you have any questions or need support with home learning, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



Friday Celebration Assemblies



Friday Celebration Assemblies – Sharing Achievements from Home

We are excited to let you know that during our **Friday Celebration Assemblies** each week, children will now have the opportunity to share achievements from outside of school. These could include swimming badges, Guiding and Scouting milestones, sporting successes, music certificates, or any other personal accomplishments they are proud of.

We warmly encourage families to help their child come prepared on a Friday to speak briefly about their achievement in assembly, so that we can all celebrate their success together. If your child has a certificate, badge, or award to show, they are very welcome to bring it in – but this is not essential.

We look forward to celebrating the wonderful achievements of our pupils both in and out of school!



01233 292342



office@fendittonprimary.org



Fen Ditton Primary School,
Horningsea Road, Fen Ditton,
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 8SZ



ANGLIAN LEARNING







Facebook: Stay Connected



Stay Connected with Us on Facebook!

We love sharing the wonderful moments, achievements, and updates from across our school community—and our Facebook page is the perfect place to stay in the loop!

By following us on Facebook, you'll get:

-  Photos and highlights from school events
-  Celebrations of pupil achievements
-  Reminders about upcoming dates and activities
-  Opportunities to engage and share your thoughts

Help us spread the positivity!

If you see a post you enjoy, please give it a **like**, **leave a comment**, or **share** it with friends and family. Every interaction helps us celebrate our pupils and showcase the fantastic things happening in our school.

Follow us today and be part of our growing online community!

FOLLOW US
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ANGLIAN LEARNING



Key dates for your diary.



- **Wednesday 17th October:** Year 5 weekly swimming lessons start
- **Friday 26th September:** Macmillan Coffee Morning: Cake sale in school - All welcome!
- **Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th October:** Harvest - Donations for local food hub to be brought into school
- **Tuesday 21st October:** Individual school photographs - Whole School
- **Thursday 23rd October** - Parent Workshop - Children being active online- 5pm at Marleigh - open to all Fen Ditton and Marleigh parents, carers and friends, run by an external provider Eduthing and funded by the PTFA
- **Friday 24th October** - Parent Workshop - Children being active online- 9am at Fen Ditton - open to all Fen Ditton and Marleigh parents, carers and friends, run by an external provider Eduthing and funded by the PTFA
- **Friday 24th October** - PTFA Halloween Bake Sale - children invited to buy cake to enjoy at playtime, cash only.
- **Friday 24th October** - Last day of Autumn 1 half term



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ANGLIAN LEARNING



Term Dates 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Inset Day – Monday 1 September
Inset Day – Tuesday 2 September
Inset Day – Wednesday 3 September
Autumn Term Starts – Thursday 4 September
School Ends – Friday 24 October
Half Term - 27 October - 31 October
Inset Day – Monday 3 November
School Starts – Tuesday 4 November
Autumn Term Ends – Friday 19 December

SPRING TERM 2026

Inset Day – Monday 5 January
Spring Term Starts – Tuesday 6 January
School Ends – Friday 13 February
Half Term - 16 February - 20 February
School Starts – Monday 23 February
Spring Term Ends – Friday 27 March

SUMMER TERM 2026

Summer Term Starts – Monday 13 April
May Bank Holiday – Monday 4 May
School Ends – Friday 22 May
Half Term - 25 May – 29 May
School Starts – Monday 1 June
Summer Term Ends – Friday 17 July
Inset Day – Monday 20 July



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