

FORDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER



20th December 2024 - page 1



A Year Ago Tomorrow ...

On the 21st December last year, our physical school building, as we knew it, changed in the blink of an eye. A structural issue, well hidden behind suspended ceilings below and concrete screed and carpets above, came to light leading to the early closure of our school that day.

This left you, our Fordley families, with so many concerns and unanswered questions and us, the Fordley team of staff and governors (and Local Authority), with the same concerns and unanswered questions. It was an incredibly tough time for our school community of children, families and staff, and absolutely not the way we wanted to head into a Christmas holiday.

Over the period of the two week Christmas holiday, at just the wrong time of year to be trying to arrange for contractors and specialist surveys, a structural survey was requested immediately by North Tyneside Council and took place just after Christmas. Working tirelessly with officers from North Tyneside Council throughout the whole of the Christmas holidays, we organised possible plans for January depending on how much of our building we might be able to use, whilst we waited to find out whether the two storey block would be safe to use at all. The blow came, at the very start of January, when I was informed that we wouldn't be able to use that part of our building in any way and would have to consider remote learning for all families. This wasn't an option in our eyes as we knew children needed to be back at school with us and families needed to be able to return to work.



With much planning, and kind offers of support from Greenfields and North Gosforth Academy, we were able to find a way to get all children back to school (albeit across three school sites) from the second week in January. We spent the January training day completing the packing of the two storey block, planning for home learning for the first four days where children could stay at home safely, and have children in school where that wasn't possible.

It feels like a lifetime ago, but your children and our staff team (with fantastic support from you all, of which I will be eternally

grateful, continued their education in their various new 'homes' for several months with many children travelling on coaches daily. Under some of the most challenging circumstances schools have ever had to face, your children and our school staff team demonstrated remarkable resilience, determination and positivity, continuing to make fantastic progress in their education throughout. The return to our school site brought its' own challenges, having to adapt to outside classrooms in the form of our 'Village' and our Nursery block, and rewrite all the systems we had in place because of it. We have succeeded in returning to a new normality in many ways, but will continue to work on and tackle the challenges it has brought.

This unique year our school community has experienced (children, families, staff and governors) has not been the fault of any of us, but has absolutely served to highlight what an amazing Fordley Family we all are together. It has been a true reminder of what we can achieve when we are faced with adversity but are determined to come out of it stronger and more successful as a school community together. We are not yet at the end of our journey in resolving our current situation, and still have our local MP and North Tyneside Council lobbying for answers from the Department for Education about our building. But, in the meantime, on behalf of everyone at Fordley, I wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all back on **Tuesday 7th January**.

FORDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER



20th December 2024 - page 2

Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar



We will share upcoming dates on here for any events, meetings, term dates etc so that you don't miss anything. Calendar dates will also be updated on our school website and you will be able to find them by following this link:

<https://www.fordleyschool.com/diary/grid/2024/09/>

- 23rd December - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
- 6th January - Training day
- 7th January - School re-opens for a new term
- 15th January - Newcastle Eagles coaching with RHN
- 22nd January - Newcastle Eagles coaching with RZB
- 10th February - Anti-Bullying session for Y4 with Be Safe
- 11th February - Anti-Social Behaviour session for Y6 with Be Safe

TERM DATES - these can be found by clicking this link to our website <https://www.fordleyschool.com/term-dates/> or by going to:

- www.fordleyschool.com
- click on 'Menu' then 'Parents' then 'Attendance Matters' then 'Term Dates'

Rocksteady Rock Star Performances

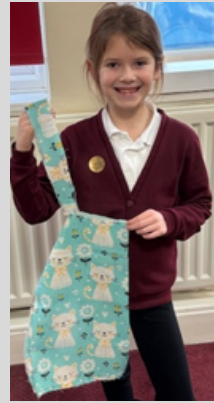
Amazing to see children from Y2-Y6 this morning performing in their rock bands for their families and classes from Y2 to Y6. They were extremely entertaining!



Amazing Achievements at Home

It is lovely to be able to share achievements at home this week, and our many successes came from Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5.

My first visitor came from Y3 to share the bag she had been making at home using the different sewing techniques she had been learning in Design Technology. Fantastic!



My next visitor, from Y3, came to share the 4 medals he had been awarded in swimming. He had been placed in his swimming competitions and had been so close to earning gold in breaststroke. I think we have a swimming star of the future!



From Y5, my next visitor came to share the non-fiction book she had written all about space. Her science facts were so interesting to read and I have no doubt she is keen to learn more.

My next visitor, from Y3, had to have Miss Forster's help to carry her



trophy, it was so large. She explained that she had been awarded the trophy in dancing for consistently learning new skills and using them correctly. So impressive!



Finally, from Y2 and Y3, the photo shows the lovely brother and sister combo who have been baking treats for Christmas goodie boxes and have raised £100 through their hard work and kindness, which they will be donating to the food bank. They deserve to feel very proud for this.



FORDLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER



20th December 2024 - page 3

Santa at Fordley Primary

Santa was an extremely busy man this week with visits to our school on Wednesday and today. On Wednesday he visited our Breakfast Club, along with our friends from Greggs, to bring selection boxes for all the children who attend. He also visited our Fordley Flyers and Nursery on their party days to give them a Christmas gift. Today Santa also spent most of the day with us to meet children from Reception to Y6 and give them their Christmas gifts too. Thank you!



Community Notices:

Fordley Foxes Saturday morning sessions take place weekly and at the following times:

- Nursery/Reception - 9:30
- Year 1 - 10:30

New starters are welcome and please contact the number on the right if you have any questions.

SATURDAY MORNING FOOTBALL SESSIONS
 @GOALS - GOSFORTH PARK

NURSERY/RECEPTION 9:30-10:15
 YEAR 1 10:30-11:15

NEW STARTER'S WELCOME
 PLEASE CONTACT 07709 178348



St Paul's Church in Dudley will be holding a Christingle Service at 6pm on 23rd December.

Everyone is welcome.

Visits to John Willie Sams' Library:

It was the last of our classes to visit John Willie Sams' Library this week, and explore all there is to offer.

The photo here shows 4DG enjoying a story with the librarian, but I know that all the classes who visited this week enjoyed their time there.

We are looking forward to arranging our next visits for all classes after Christmas.



The following classes had amazing attendance this week, and have earned a star towards their celebration:

- 1CY - 96.5%
- 2EM - 96.8%
- 6JF - 95.0%
- 4LH - 95.0%



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Our whole school attendance this week is 93.5%