



Newsletter

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

INFANTS SCHOOL

What a brilliant term we've had at the Infants, it really is flying by. Reception and Year 1 are well adjusted to the slightly new way of doing things and are really settled in their learning groups. I have loved spending time in each of the zones with them, visiting them in the forest and particularly exploring with them on Children's Choice Fridays. On Friday last week the children had created what looked like a whole theatre production team using the stage outside to perform, watch and photograph one another! Acorn have been learning about penguins this term, I am amazed by all of the facts they have learnt. In Year 2 the children continue to work hard each day and have enjoyed many practical lessons making use of the outdoors as much as possible.

Miss Wright

JUNIOR SCHOOL

We've had a lot going on this half term, giving all pupils the opportunity to take part in different events. The new playground equipment is being very well used and enjoyed by all children. The story reading session allowed pupils to listen to and share stories alongside children from different year groups which was lovely to see. After half term, we will be holding another book fair and we will welcome your support for that event. The graphic novels purchased recently with our Scholastic rewards have proved to be very popular so we plan to use any further rewards towards acquiring more of these.

We look forward to seeing you all at the parent consultations next week.

Mrs Hurst



On Tuesday 3rd February, 28 members of the Junior School Choir participated in the Young Voices concert at Wembley Ovo Arena. They joined with pupils from many other schools to form a choir of 4875 children and sang songs including sea shanties, songs from Wicked and a Pop Medley. They also sang with guest artists Ruti, winner of The Voice UK. The children spent the afternoon rehearsing before performing the

concert in the evening to families and friends. It was a fantastic, memorable and enjoyable event; all of the pupils represented Farnham Common Village Schools brilliantly.

Lottie in Year 6 said, "It is a unique experience that I always look forward to. It is really inclusive for everyone. I loved the songs, especially the Pop Medley and Disco Fever.

Taysia in Year 6 commented, "It was really fun and everybody enjoyed it. I like the dances as well."

It was Manveer's (year 3) first time at Young Voices, and he liked how well organised it was at the Wembley Ovo Arena. He said, "The light patterns were really cool and it was funny when the conductor dressed as a pirate for the sea shanties rehearsal. He gave us feedback to tell us how to improve our singing."



Swimming Gala

Eight members of Year 6 went to Wycombe Abbey School recently to take part in a swimming gala for local primary schools. The children represented the school very well and competed hard against some very talented swimmers. Although we didn't win any races, we achieved a couple of second places. Well done to the whole team: Amaya, Lottie, Maya, Ella T, Miles, Albert, Kaiser and Samad.

Year 4 Basketball

On Thursday 22nd January 29 children from Year 4 went to a Basketball Festival at Beaconsfield High, which involved 5 other schools. They took part in an assortment of drills where they practiced their dribbling, passing and shooting skills. The kids had a great time and were excellently behaved. We would like to thank the Sports Leaders from Beaconsfield High, The Schools Sports Partnership for running the event and Caldicott School for taking us there and back in their minibuses.

The National Year of Reading

2026 is the National Year of Reading. Run by the DFE and National Literacy Trust, the initiative is aiming to inspire people of all ages to 'Go All In' on the things they already love through reading in whatever way works for them, whether that's print books or audiobooks, digital magazines or graphic novels. In school, we are getting involved by promoting reading



for pleasure and have already used some of the funds raised at our last book fair to buy some new graphic novels for the library, which have proved to be really popular.

Kicking off the activities, at the Juniors this week we celebrated National Storytelling Week with themed assemblies and a reading afternoon. All the children were able to choose a story to hear from a member of staff.

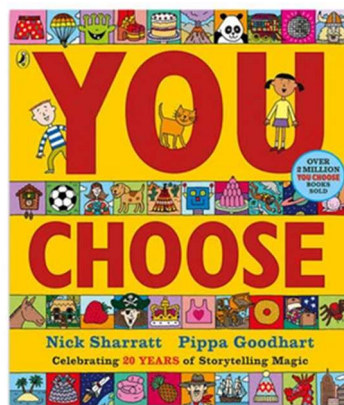
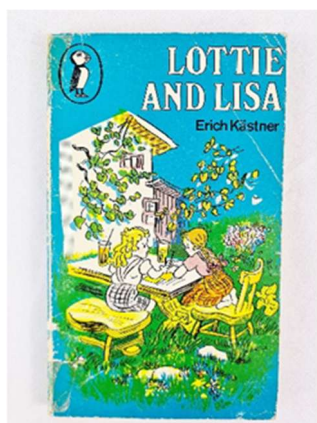
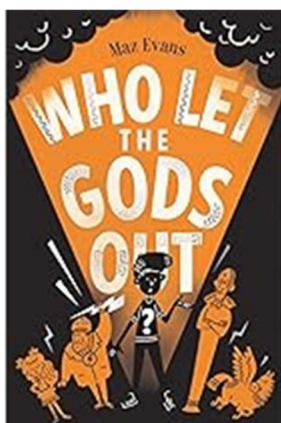
Evie in Year 5 heard all the choices and she “didn’t know what to listen to!” and Marcello in Year 3 enjoyed having a book read to him instead of having to read it himself. Daiyah in Year 4 said, “I loved the illustrations and Ms G’s expression.” Olivia W in Year 5 added, “I loved how she raised her voice at the perfect time and the way she described it.”



Every newsletter this year, members of staff tell us what reading means to them.

Mrs Hurst’s favourite reads:

As a child, one of my favourite books was “Lottie and Lisa” by Eric Kastner about identical twin girls separated as babies but reunited by chance at a Summer camp. They then decide to swap identities and lives. A book which I always enjoyed sharing with my son when he was small was “You Choose” by Pippa Goodhart and I thoroughly recommend this book. One of my favourite children’s authors is Maz Evans and I also really enjoy reading her books aloud to classes. The humour and brilliant characterisation, along with links between the human world stories and Greek Gods in “Who Let The Gods Out” make it an outstanding book. Maz Evans has also written some great books for adults and I enjoy those too.



Miss Wright’s favourite book to read to children:

When I had my own class of children, my favourite book to read to them was ‘The Magic Faraway Tree’ by Enid Blyton. Getting lost in a book is a special time to share with a class and we used to laugh together at

all the mysterious characters in this story. A character who is particularly funny is Saucepan Man who regularly mishears things because of the metal pots and pans he wears clanging around. Each chapter usually takes you to a new magical world that would appear at the top of the Faraway Tree and the characters would get up to all kinds. I would highly recommend this book to any young readers/parents looking for a new book to read at bedtime.



New Playground Equipment at the Junior School

This term has seen the installation of the new playground equipment at the Junior School. The children have watched with excitement and anticipation as the wall came down and the apparatus went up. On Tuesday 13th January, we held the grand opening of the equipment, attended by representatives from all year groups, members of the Friends of FCVS and Grace Flower, managing director of Ashford Kitchens. The ribbon was cut by the head pupils, Aya and Kavan, before the children tried out the equipment for the first time, even though the weather was not in our favour.

The design of the apparatus was chosen so that it would benefit all children in the school, be used at breaktimes and lunchtimes, provide additional challenge and opportunities to that provided by the adventure trail and be a design that could also be used effectively by individual children for sensory regulation.

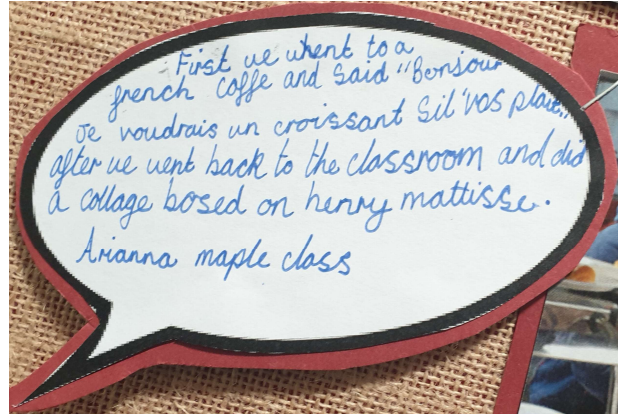
We would like to say a massive thank you to the Friends of FCVS for their fantastic efforts raising funds to allow us to have this new equipment; it would not have been possible without their dedication, hard work and commitment. Thank you to Ashford Kitchens for their valuable contribution towards the cost. This meant that we could go ahead and get it in place for this term, rather than having to wait further months.

The new equipment is proving very popular with pupils and the Year 3 had lots of comments to make. Cressie likes how you can swing in the monkey bars and Maddie enjoys the wooden stepping beams because they are wider than the ones on the adventure trail. Rayan particularly likes going on the climbing panels as you can get a good view of the school, while Rayna particularly enjoys going across the yellow monkey bars.



French Enrichment Day

On Thursday 15th January, we held a French Enrichment Day at the Junior School. This started with the school singing a range of songs in French including Tête, Épaules, Genoux, Pieds and Year 3 performed a French greetings song that they had been learning. Each class had the opportunity to visit the French cafe to order food in French from Monsieur Ruck. A range of French inspired art activities took place including painting and drawing in the style of Paul Cézanne and collage work based on the art of Henri Matisse. Thank you to Mrs Brunton for organising such a brilliant and enjoyable day.



Eco Council at the Junior School

The Eco Council have been very busy this half term thinking about our school environment. We used some of the funds we raised at our recent cake fair to buy some bird feeders and enjoyed hanging these around the school. We then took part in the Great British Bird Watch and were amazed at the variety of birds we saw on the school field. The most frequent visitor was the magpie with over 13, but we also saw parakeets and a red kite. We have also been busy working on some litter posters, which we hope to display soon, and have started regular litter picks at break time with other members of the school community. We were quite shocked to fill this carrier bag in just one break time!

Sleeping Beauty at the Infants

On Thursday 29th January the Infants had a special visit from M&M productions. The team brought with them a whole theatre set, lighting and sound equipment and turned the school hall into what felt like a trip to the theatre. The acting was brilliant and the children did themselves and the school proud. They all sat beautifully, joined in when appropriate and loved the story. A particular highlight was when Mrs Austin

and Miss Field were called up to join the actors on stage for a dance party. We all loved watching them dance to baby shark among other songs! There was a real buzz around the school. A huge thank you to the Friends of FCVS for funding this experience!



Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on the 10th of February 2026 based around the theme ‘**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**’. Everyone’s talking about AI, and with many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it’s important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

This Safer Internet Day we are exploring the impact of AI on all of our lives, looking at how AI can be used for good, and giving advice and guidance that empowers people to use AI safely and responsibly. You may find the following information and advice useful.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-young-people>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>