



# Foreland Fields School

## End of Term Newsletter December 2024



### The Year so Far ...

This has been a really good year for the school. Earlier this term we had the re-accreditation for the Inclusion Quality Mark. We are really pleased that we retained our Centre of Excellence status.



Within the positive report, it states *'Foreland Fields is an extremely special place. The school demonstrates an unwavering commitment to meeting the unique needs of every child, going above and beyond to support each student and their family'*.

The assessor stated that she was *'firmly of the opinion'* that the school *'fully meets the standard required by the Inclusion Quality Mark to maintain its status as a Centre of Excellence'*. Special thanks to Sarah Thorp who leads on the IQM.



Back in October we were also really pleased to have been awarded Makaton Friendly status.

The Makaton charity have recognised that we fully embrace the communication needs of the people within our school community. Huge thanks to Nikki Gray (Speech and Language Communication Lead Teacher) for leading on this.



In January 2025 we will have the re-accreditation for our Rights Respecting School Gold Award. This will involve a visit to the school as well as meeting with parents, governors and, most importantly, our pupils and students. I am confident that once again we will achieve a pleasing outcome.



### Christmas Events

This year we once again held Christmas events in pathways. These were much enjoyed by our pupils/students and their families.

Christmas parties were held across the school and satellite classes, and I believe many were visited by Santa himself. Can I please give special thanks to the parents/carers who once again supported us at the Christmas Fair and/or Christmas dinner; Kerry Smith, Russell and Kelly Beal. These 3 parents have supported the school every year and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you. In addition,

huge thanks to all parents/carers who support the school across the year. it is very much appreciated.



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### Playground Opening During the Christmas and New Year Period

Unfortunately, we are unable to open our playgrounds to families over the Christmas and New Year period.

Apologies for this however, as I am sure you will understand, the majority of our staff are off across this period enjoying the festivities, so it is not possible to safely have the playgrounds open.

### Procedures for School Closure

After Christmas we enter the coldest months and there is always a chance of snow. In the unlikely event that the school should have to close due to adverse weather conditions, we will put an early morning notice on ClassDojo, the school website and post a notification on the Kent Closures website. This will then be broadcast, along with other school closures, over the radio.



Whilst we endeavour to keep the school open, many of our staff live outside the area and it could prove dangerous for them to travel into school. In addition, some of our pupils arrive each day by school transport and sometimes providers are unable to drive the buses in the heavy snow, particularly those travelling from further afield. The decision as to whether to drive is the individual transport providers, not the schools.

### Communication

This term has been all about learning the signs and symbols linked to Christmas! I hope you have seen the Class Dojo story with links to communication boards full of festive symbols. These can be viewed on a phone or tablet - perfect to share with family and friends.



Our signing choirs have been sharing Christmas songs and a recent staff Makaton update involved learning the chorus for Wham's "Last Christmas."

A few of our students have special festive jokes which they have been learning to share around school. Waiting before you share the punch-line is a great skill.



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We have continued to build our links with the team at Westwood Cross to support inclusion at the shopping centre. This year we have provided a workshop to Santa and his team to understand more about communication and learning needs. They enjoyed learning some Makaton signs too.

The Westwood Cross management team have visited us at school and explored the new facilities offered at The Hive. We have already supported them to achieve their "Makaton Aware" award. We look forward to new projects and links in the new year.



Bookings to see Santa are through the Westwood Cross website:  
<https://westwoodx.co.uk/articles/events/meet-santa-our-grotto>

### **Ticket Prices:**

Child - £6.50 + £1 booking fee.

Adults go FREE (with accompanying fully paid child ticket. No gift).

Adults without child - £6.50 + £1 booking fee (Including gift).

Carers FREE

There is a space to add the child's age - mention here any extra support which may help make their visit more memorable.

**Nikki Gray**

**Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Lead Teacher**

### **The Hive**

The Hive is a first of its kind education, recreation and training facility for young people and young adults with SEND.



We are launching a traineeship in 2025 for school leavers with SEND and we require your support to build this programme so that it is there for everyone's use from now on!

For the next phase of development, we have a match funding Crowdfunder whereby KCC will match all funding this month, plus gift aid.

This means:

£5 = £10 + £2.50 gift aid = £12.50

£10 = £25, £20 = £50

£50 = £125

<https://www.spacehive.com/the-hive-thanet>



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As well as the school using the Hive for PE, Horticulture and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the site is also used by Inclusive Sport, Beecycle, Thanet Galaxy, Avelo Care and Mencap. Next term will see Thanet Wanderers putting our pupils through their paces with some tag rugby.

The site continues to be developed, with recent additions and plans including landscaping, raised beds, water harvesting roof, polycarbonate growing tunnel and a sensory garden. We are hoping to make as much progress with these elements as possible ahead of the Grand Opening.

The Grand Opening for pupils/students, staff, parents/carers is **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June**, and we will share more detail as the time approaches. We will invite the whole school community to this event in the hope of sharing our impressive facility with as many people as possible. We will also have a formal opening to sponsors, donors and partners on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June**.

For anyone who has yet to see it, please follow the link below to the Hive website. The website provides a wealth of information including venue hire and our new traineeship opportunity. Please visit the site on this link: <https://www.thehivethanet.com/>

As always, if you'd like to volunteer or have any links to businesses or local supporters (We especially are looking for a **business to sponsor** us this year), I'd be delighted to chat to them and give them a tour, please contact me (Diarmuid Molloy) at: [fundraising@foreland.kent.sch.uk](mailto:fundraising@foreland.kent.sch.uk) or by phone on 07933686271

**@thehivethanet are crowdfunding!**

The site and building are now complete and ready to go!

We now urgently need funds to provide essential equipment, staffing, workshops, training, sensory resources, and community events for the SEND community.

We would really appreciate your backing for our next phase of development.

**The Hive @ Foreland Fields**

Why not crowdfund with us this Christmas, instead of sending Christmas Cards?

For more information on how to back this project visit [www.spacehive.com/the-hive-thanet](http://www.spacehive.com/the-hive-thanet) or scan the QR code.



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### Illness

Many of our pupils and students are vulnerable to infections which can spread quickly at this time of year. Remember, your child should be kept away from school for 48 hours from the last period of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

Details from Public Health England about infectious diseases and exclusion periods can be found on the school website or through the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

Could parents/carers please ensure they call reception to report their child's absence.

### Goodbye

Earlier this term we said a sad goodbye to Anne James, our music therapist. Anne had worked at the school for a number of years so it was really sad to see her leave. I'm sure you will all join us in thanking Anne for all of the joy she brought to the pupils/students she supported.

We also recently said a fond farewell to Sara Hamilton who left the school. We wish Sara the best of luck in her future.

At the end of the year, we will be losing two members of staff from our nursery.

Nerys Cosier has only been with us just over a year however, has made an impact in the short time she has worked in First Leap Nursery. We would like to thank Nerys and wish her the best of luck in her new ventures.

We will also be saying a sad goodbye to Jane Tuppen who also works in our Nursery. Jane has been at the school for over 10 years, initially as a midday meal supervisor before working as part of the nursery team. We will all miss Jane and again, wish her lots of luck in her future endeavours.





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# 2025

### Term 3

Start of Term 3: Monday 6th January 2025

RRSA Gold Reaccreditation – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025

End of Term 3: Friday 14th February 2025

### Term 4

Monday 24th February 2025 is a staff training day and school is therefore closed to all pupils and students.

Start of Term 4: Tuesday 25th February 2025

Red Nose Day: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

End of Term 4: Friday 4th April 2025



I do hope you all have a good break and I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. We look forward to seeing all pupils and students back in school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.



*Adrian*