



Foreland Fields School – Newsletter July 2024



The end of another school year is upon us.

This has been another good year for Foreland Fields School, where we have seen further development of the Hive project, which we are very eager to see being used by our children and the wider community over the coming months.

Whilst it is sad that so many of our Year 14 students are leaving us, it is always exciting to see new pupils and students join in September.

I hope you, and your families, all have a good summer break and we look forward to seeing your children back with us in September.

Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) Associate Schools Programme



A selection of students from our Secondary Discoverers and Explorers departments joined together to perform the first scene of Hamlet at The Marlowe Theatre, impressing an audience of 1,400 people. For many, it was their first time at a theatre, let alone performing on such a prestigious stage.

The students showed great professionalism, carefully listening to and following instructions. They explored the ideas of the text well and told Shakespeare's story passionately, making it engaging for everyone watching.

The young performers were enthusiastic, happy, and they remembered their lines and actions perfectly. They were flexible and able to take on new roles at the last minute, showing their dedication. Their focus and teamwork shone through in their excellent choral work, adding depth to the performance. This achievement boosted their well-being and mental health and earned them a feature in the newspaper. They should be very proud of what they accomplished.

A report from the Isle of Thanet News can be found at:

<https://theisleofthanetnews.com/2024/07/10/thanet-youngsters-among-22-schools-to-perform-version-of-hamlet-at-the-marlowe/>

School Times and Late Arrivals

Foreland Fields School opens at 8.30am and finishes at 2.50pm. Each Thursday the school closes at 2.00pm.

At Foreland Fields School, we like to ensure that all pupils and students arrive promptly as it is important that they start the day with the rest of their class.

If any pupil arrives after 8.40am, they are to be brought to the main reception, not the infant or secondary entrance, as they need to be marked present by reception staff.



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Rights Respecting Schools Award

We are a Gold Level Rights Respecting School, which means that children's rights are at the heart of our curriculum, policies and practice and we are proud of our rights respecting vision *'nurturing the unique talents and abilities of every child so that they can be the best that they can be'*.



Next year pupils and students across the school will be learning about Article 31:
Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

In September we will be supporting 2 charitable events that support every child's right to play – Fair Trade Fortnight (9th - 22nd September) and Jeans for Genes on Wednesday 18th September.



Inclusion Quality Mark

In October 2023 we were awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark Centre of Excellence status for the second time. To achieve this status, we have demonstrated our commitment to inclusive practice across a cluster of Kent schools.

Last year our assessor commented: *'Foreland Fields School continues to strive to provide the very best for pupils and their families in a caring, thoughtful, and aspirational way. I have no hesitation in recommending that they retain their status as an Inclusion Quality Mark Centre of Excellence'*.

This October, we will be re-assessed on our progress with our two new specialist rooms for physical development and sensory integration, the Hive project and our Makaton Friendly project.

Special School Consultation

As part of the review of special schools across the county, the public consultation is now live. The consultation focuses on proposed changes to two main areas:

- the designation and admission guidance for special schools (both maintained and those part of an Academy Trust),
- the development of a school-to-school support model.

The proposals set out the future designations of special schools, the supporting admission guidance and a school-to-school model of support.



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These changes are proposed to assist implementation of the wider changes for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across mainstream schools and Special Resource Provisions (SRPs).

You can have your say by visiting www.kent.gov.uk/specialschoolsreview to find the consultation information and complete the feedback questionnaire.

The consultation closes on 31st July

If you have any questions or require any of the consultation material in hard copy, please email SpecialSchoolReview@kent.gov.uk.

For alternative formats and languages, please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

Policy on Supporting Children who are Unable to Attend School because of Medical/Health Needs

We are being asked to draw parents/carers attention to the public consultation on the Health Needs policy, 'Supporting children who are unable to attend school because of medical/health needs'.

The aim of the draft policy is to provide clarity on the arrangements which will apply when a school pupil in Kent is not able to attend school for health/medical reasons. In particular, the policy provides information for the local authority, schools, parents and pupils to work in collaboration.

The consultation can be accessed on www.kent.gov.uk/healthneedspolicy and closes on 28th July.

In addition, updated guidance for schools comes into effect in August which again provides leave of absence guidelines.

Headteachers are not permitted to agree leave of absence during term time unless they are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances. The document emphasises that *'a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance'*. Could I please ask that parents do not book holidays or visits during term time as they will not be authorised.



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Fishing for Schools

Some of our pupils were fortunate in experiencing fishing through this amazing charity. Pupils had a few weeks to learn how to relax, fish and enjoy nature. Many



Fishing for Schools



fish were caught and gently placed back in the lake. The catch included Rudd, Roach, Bream, Perch, Common Carp, Tench, and Mirror Carp.



We worked with Kevin who is a Fishing for Schools coach. He taught us all how to fish through showing us how to cast and also catch and release a fish. He was patient, funny and kind and made our time at Cottington Lakes a lot of fun. We now have

some pupils who are going to continue to use what they have learned and go fishing with their families. They have found a new hobby and interest.



Emergency Contacts

It is a requirement that schools and colleges hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil/student. Could you please ensure you provide at least one, but preferably two, additional (other than parent/carer) emergency contact numbers, for your child and that these numbers are current.



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Communication at Foreland Fields School

Last week we enjoyed a lovely morning with a group of parents and carers learning some summer Makaton signs and a couple of new songs. We talked about how visual supports and social stories can support everyone to understand what is happening next. A really helpful tool with the changes and adventures that can happen during the summer break.



Next event for families – Term 1 Communication Workshop (date to be confirmed). Focus on core vocabulary and signs. Everyone welcome.

Our sing and sign sessions continue to be really popular in school with staff and students alike. Singing really is the best way to learn new signs.

If you would like to practice at home we highly recommend “SINGING HANDS.” They have their own amazing YouTube channel. We look forward to welcoming Suzanne & Tracey back to school in October for a full day of singing and dancing.

Phonics – Website Update

Some of our students in school use a phonics programme called “All Aboard Phonics.” Take a look at the updated information on our school website. There are links to some parent training videos and some printable resources. <https://www.foreland.kent.sch.uk/teaching-and-learning/phonics-programme/>



Nikki Gray
Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Lead Teacher

School Dinners

It has become necessary for us to increase the price of school dinners in September. The cost will be £3.25 per day, a weekly cost of £16.25. Please note, this increase is down to the price we are charged for each meal - the school do not set the price of school meals.



This can be paid weekly or termly. Payments can be made in the following ways:

BACS Transfer

Sort Code: 60 60 08

Account Number: 79300200

Please use the child's name and dinner money as the reference



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By Cheque

Made payable to Foreland Fields School

Please write the name of the child and 'dinner money' on the back of the cheque.

Cash

In a sealed envelope with the child's name and 'dinner money' written on the front.

A Message from our Chair of Governors Steve Pamphilon

It's coming to that time of year again when the children and young adults are going off to enjoy the summer and the school becomes a quiet place for a short time.

I've heard it said many times that school workers get great holidays, but believe me, after a short break and probably a lot of catching up on sleep the staff will be back preparing for the new academic year.

I have been a Governor at this school for almost 8 years and Chair of Governors for 5 years and feel that this year has probably been one of the more successful years in terms of achievement and outcome.

The Headteacher and his team have been able to maintain a high standard of leadership, developmental and educational needs to make us strong in terms of performance and financial management.

We, the Board of Governors, would like to thank the teachers, the teaching assistants, classroom support assistants, site, office and nursing staff and all those other staff members you hardly see but are there making things 'magically' happen, for their work and contribution to this great school.

The Governors would also like to thank you, the parents, guardians and carers for your support and above all, we would like to thank the children who appear to be always smiling and happy when Governors visit.

Have a good summer everyone and see you in September.

Steve Pamphilon
Foreland Fields School – Chair of Governors





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Summer Fair

This year's summer fair was held on Friday 12th July. Despite being a rainy morning, we decided to go ahead with the event, which was a good decision as the weather cleared up.

We had many stalls and events. Once again, we were visited by the Fire and Police services with their vehicles which proved very popular.

Our entertainer, Mr Slinky was much enjoyed by pupils and students.

Huge thanks to everyone who helped out at the fair, including past staff and governors. I would like to give special thanks to June our Pearly Queen who has been a supporter of the school for many years, and has continued to raise money for us across these years. Thank you June. You truly are one in a million!

BeeCycle



BeeCycle is moving to bimonthly (twice a month) across two sites, The Hive @ Foreland Fields School and Minnis Bay Car park. Sessions are between 10am and 1pm.

BeeCycle aims to improve access to cycling for young people and adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. Family and friends are welcome and encouraged to join in.

We only have a limited number of bikes, so operate on a first come, first served basis.

For further information, email Lee at beecycle@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Playground Opening During the Holiday

This summer we have an additional piece of equipment being installed within our grounds plus some repairs being made to our infant and junior playgrounds.

For this reason, we are unable to open our playgrounds to families over the summer holiday period.

Apologies for this however, as I am sure you will understand, we attempt to have repairs and installations carried out over holiday periods in order not to cause disruption to the pupils/students during term time.



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Uniform

All of our pupils/students, other than those in our 6th Form or those in Key Stage 4 attending our East Kent College satellite provision, should attend school in uniform. Wearing uniform promotes a sense of belonging and boosts self-confidence.

We fully understand that some variation is helpful in order to meet certain needs e.g. jogging bottoms rather than traditional school trousers and plain white polo shirts for those who require frequent changes.

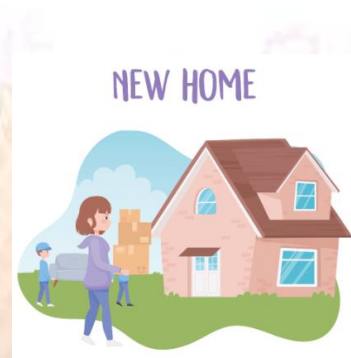
Uniform can be purchased from the Schoolwear Centre in Addington Street, Margate. There is no need for parents to purchase uniform from the National Schoolwear Centre, we are happy for pupils to wear items of the same colour that do not contain the school logo.



Students attending our Garlinge or Hartsdown satellite classes should wear the full uniform of that school. Again, items can be purchased from the Schoolwear Centre.

Moving House / Changes to Contact Details

If you are planning on moving home during the school holidays and are in receipt of school transport, please contact homeschooltransport@kent.gov.uk or telephone 03000 416777. Please also inform the school as soon as possible.



Should any contact details change, including new mobile phone numbers, please ensure you inform the school office after the break in order that our records are kept up to date.

During the holidays we can be contacted via foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk
This email address will be monitored regularly throughout the holiday and urgent emails distributed to the intended recipient.

Changes to Health Care Plans

Should there be any changes to your child's health needs over the holiday, including changes to medication, please email Sam Daniels, our school nurse, copying in Chris Holmes, our Health and Therapy Assistant, as you will need to book an appointment to meet to update your child's Health Care Plan after the break.



Sam can be contacted on sam.daniels1@nhs.net Chris can be contacted via her email address chrisholmes@foreland.kent.sch.uk



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Fundraising Update - The Hive

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

I am delighted to announce it is now open and we have hosted events!



We now enter the development phase where

will be organising a full range of activities that take place each week and we will be in contact in September to explain and invite you to the formal opening.

As well as further developing the site we have two goals for 2024-25 which are to make the whole facility environmentally sustainable in terms of water and electricity (reducing bills in the long run).

Amy Moat is running the Vitality London 10000. In April she was a complete non-runner. She will run the Vitality London 10000 in the hope of raising enough funds (£10,000) to make the entire 5-acre Hive site water sustainable which is not just vital for the environment but all the financial security of the facility.



Amy has reached over 10% already including gift aid and it would be great if we could all come together as a community to support reaching this ambitious target.

We would appreciate any donations people can spare to help motivate her along the way. Please donate below!

<https://2024vitalitylondon10000.enthuse.com/pf/amy-moat>



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Charity Skydive

Adrian Mount, Nanette Amas and Emma Stone are all completing a charity skydive on Sunday 22nd September to raise money for Foreland Fields Charity. Should anyone wish to contribute, please donate at the just giving pages below:

Adrian: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/adrian-mount-1720533947384>

Nanette: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/nanette-amas-1720534154182>

Emma: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/emma-stone-1720519488066>

As always if you'd like to volunteer or have any links to businesses or local supporters please get in touch. We are especially 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) fundraising@foreland.kent.sch.uk or 07933686271.

Year 14 Graduation

On Monday 22nd July, we held our Year 14 graduation ceremony. It was a great event, celebrating the achievements of our students who are moving on. Many of these young people have attended the school since they started in education.

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to our Class of 2024, Kizzie, Nessie, Clay, Joshua, Jim, Jack, Ellie-May, Nadeen, Kyle, Alisha and Bradleigh.

We are very proud of you all.

In addition to our Year 14 leavers, we would also like to say farewell to other students leaving the school, Philippe and Austin.





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Hello and Goodbye

We have recently welcomed the following people to our school as Teaching assistants; Vicki Norris, Tammy Pierson, Kirsty Williams, Hannah Welch, Charlotte Oldfield and Chelse Smith.



In September we will be welcoming some new staff; Heidi Deakin, Bethany Greenstreet and Miranda Leighton.

We will also be welcoming Steven Harkness who will be taking over the Site Manager role from David Ward. David is continuing in the role for now but will be retiring in October. More on this nearer the time.



Unfortunately, at this time of year, we have to say farewell to some of our staff.

Firstly, we say a fond farewell to Lisa Stephens who has worked at the school for over 20 years. Lisa has supported students in class as a teaching assistant but has also taken the role of passenger assistant supporting pupils and students on school transport. Thank you Lisa for your continued dedication and hard work.

We will also be saying goodbye to Harry Grafton who will be leaving us for pastures new. Thank you for all of your hard work since being at the school Harry. We will also be saying goodbye to Jodie Winch who has supported across the school in her short time with us. Thank you Jodie.

We recently said goodbye to Lorraine Jeffrey who supported pupils in the classrooms over lunchtime, but also helped out within classes. We have also recently said goodbye to Becki Smith, Louise Baldwin and Abigail Burton who supported in our classes.

Dates for your Diary

- First Day of Term 1 (Staff Training Days) : Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September.
School is closed on these 2 days to all pupils and students.
- Pupils and students to return on **Wednesday 4th September 2024**.
- End of Term 1: Friday 25th October 2024
- Start of Term 2: Tuesday 5th November 2024

