

FOSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL BULLETIN

Nursery and Reception

Happy New Year! It has been lovely to welcome the children back and catch-up on all their adventures over the Christmas holidays. This week we have been exploring the seasonal change from autumn to winter and went on a winter walk around school to look for the different signs of winter the children could find. They were very excited to hunt for ice, frost and snow around school – it was magical to see the awe and wonder on the children's faces.



Year 1 & 2

The children have had a great start to the week with our coach from total sports joining us to learn skills linked to netball. We have been impressed with the way the children have come back in ready to learn after their Christmas holidays.

This half term we have a new topic of 'The Great Animal Kingdom' in KS1 and we are going to be learning and exploring about animals and humans in science; print making in art; looking at ourselves and our future in PSHE; villages, towns and cities in geography; percussion in music, colours in French and Judaism in RE. We are also starting our new English topic linked to a short film called 'Catch it'.



Year 3 & 4

Our Science topic this term is Light. Mrs Free came to visit our class as part of Science Bus and taught us all about Light! We observed how light travels in a straight line using a laser. We also used mirrors and torches to experiment how light can be reflected in different directions, as well as how reflective different materials can be.



Year 5 & 6

We have a great first week back in class 4. The children are well rested and excited to learn our new topics which include energy and sustainability in Geography and how light works in Science. Our English text is Tin Forest, we have been making predictions and preparing a character profile about one of the characters from the book.

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PSHE

This half-term in PSHE, we will be looking at the topic me and my future across both key stages.

KS1 children will be looking at their place within their community and the different communities that they are part of. Through this, they will also look at the environment and how they can help protect it.

In year 3 and 4 the children will be learning about communities, their place within them and the way in which they learn from them. They will look at the ways in which they can help the environment through the 3 R's. Finally, they will be looking at human rights and why these are important.

In year 5 and 6 the children will also look at the environment and how it can be protected and how this is funded and facilitated across the country. The children also look at treating others within their lives with respect and what respect means. They learn that prejudice is an unfair feeling of dislike for a person or group because of race, sex, religion, etc and that discrimination is the unfair treatment of a person based on a certain personal characteristic.

If you have any questions about any of the content that is being covered then please do get in touch .



Inourplace is funded in our area to provide families with free access to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you connect with your children and make sure they thrive. Please find more information here, [Emotional health and wellbeing for parents](#).

Attendance - make every day count

As a school we aim for 95% attendance from all our pupils. We realise this is not always possible when your child is poorly, but we kindly ask that if possible all appointments are made out of school time, again we know this cannot always be the case. We are sure you will agree we all want our children to succeed and good attendance is proven to give children the maximum learning time possible.

We have seen an increase in requests for holidays and if a child is also off ill during a school year this is having a significant impact on children's learning.

With this in mind, we wanted to point out to you what taking 5 days holiday in term time looks like in our schools.

Maths – 5 hours missed – Maths builds on prior learning each year to help children create that deeper understanding. Although our teachers address gaps in children's learning, making 5 hours up within school is impossible and addressing gaps missed, means time out of foundation subjects.

English – 7 ½ hours missed – English centres around a text in all of our classes. When children miss days they can often miss key parts of the text or the build up to writing tasks or even the writing task itself which in some instances will not be built upon again until the following academic year.

Phonics/SPAG (Spelling/Punctuation/Grammar) – Nearly 2 hours missed – Phonics lessons at the early stages can teach a sound a day and 5 days can mean 5 new sounds missed, impacting both reading and writing. SPAG Lessons can often be linked to English and children can be given the opportunity to use what they have learnt that day in their writing.

Foundation Subjects – Missing a week in a foundation subject misses a stepping stone which are topics that are only covered sometime once in every four years. Practical sessions can be missed which for a lot of children can be very beneficial to their learning.



NCMP

Please see attachment.

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Diary Dates

Event	Date	Key Points
Special Lunch—Best of British	16th January 2025	Chicken Pie Cheese & bean pasty (V) Mashed potato Medley of vegetables Syrup sponge & custard
KS1 Dodgeball	12th February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Year 1 & 2 ● During school hours
Fantastic Friday	14th February 2025	
Special Lunch—Valentines	14th February 2025	Pizza sub Chips Peas & sweetcorn Love heart biscuit
Spring half-term	Last day at school - 14th February 2025 First day back - 24th February 2025	
Special Lunch—World Book Day	6th March 2025	Magic meatballs Hufflepuff (V) Slytherin topped spuds Ollivander's wands Ravenclaw slaw Goodwin's chocolate extravaganza
Special Lunch—Easter	31st March 2025	Roast Chicken, Yorkshire pudding & gravy Veggie sausage (V) Potatoes Carrots & broccoli Easter chocolate nest
Easter	Last day at school - 4th April 2025 First day back - 23rd April 2025	
May Day bank holiday	Last day at school - 2nd May 2025 First day back - 6th May 2025	
Special Lunch—Street Food	15th May 2025	Chicken nuggets Veggie nuggets (V) Skinny fries BBQ beans Doughnut muffin
Summer half - term	Last day at school - 23rd May 2025 First day back - 2nd June 2025	
Summer	Last day at school - 18th July 2025	