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Furze Down School News

**WE ARE A NUT
FREE SCHOOL**

Welcome to our Easter Newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent in person parent and carer meet the tutor session. We have received really positive feedback about how informative you found the evening as not only were you able to discuss your child's progress with their form tutor but the fact that you were also able to look at your child's work and browse stalls giving further information about

E- safety keeping your child safe online.
PSHE Policy and resources
Reading for pleasure
Emotional Health and wellbeing
Therapy provision
Transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4
Supporting Fundraising
New build project

We will be planning further events so we can share more in relation to the curriculum and how you can support your child at home.

Also, a big thank you to those of you who have already filled in the parental/carers questionnaire. This questionnaire was developed by Ofsted and we will use the information collected to reflect on areas where we can improve further. This will be the starting point for parent council discussions. We would love to get representation from across the school so you can help us to continually improve our practice. Please get in touch with Sandra Firth if you would like to be part of this group

Our current school improvement focus has been on the following areas:

1. Further developing support for Emotional Health and Wellbeing

We are collaborating with Dr Amelia Roberts, Deputy Director at UCL's Centre for Inclusive Education. She is helping us develop a charter and resources to support pupils Emotional Health and Wellbeing. We will share more about this project as it develops

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/departments-and-centres/centres/ucl-centre-inclusive-education>

2. Learning to Read and Reading to Learn

Our work linked to reading is being supported by Dr Paula Williams who has carried out extensive research into what works best to support children and young people to learn to read as well as read for meaning.

https://www.psychology4learning.com/educational_psychologists/

3. Maths Mastery

Senior Leaders have been engaging in Teaching for Maths Mastery learning in collaboration with the Maths Enigma Hub

<https://enigmamathshub.co.uk/>

4. Reviewing and revising our curriculum to ensure it meets the ever-changing needs of our pupils.

On the last page of this newsletter are our summer term events as part of this itinerary we are looking forward to welcoming back to the school past pupils and their families so we can explore with them how they can continue to support current parents/ carers and pupils.

In the meantime, please enjoy looking through the newsletter to find out more about the exciting and enriching opportunities children and young people at Furze Down have experienced this term.

Wishing you all a relaxing and peaceful holiday

Alison



Spring 2023

News from Early Years and Primary



Hazel class have been designing our own dinosaurs in Literacy.

The pupils had to use adjectives to describe their dinosaur's appearance and temperament, before going on to create a dinosaur using construction equipment.

We have placed the dinosaur babies into a frozen egg, and are now waiting patiently for the eggs to hatch.



Despite being the shortest of the school terms, this Spring term has been a busy one for Birch and Cedar classes!

The children have managed so well with the building work taking place. We are all excited to see the building take shape and eagerly await being able to make use of the extra space.

World Book Day was a highlight for us all, and the children enjoyed the various learning opportunities, all linked to pirates.

We have also really enjoyed welcoming parents and carers into school, to spend time in the classrooms and join our assembly. Who knew the children would love an 80s dance tune?!

Looking back through the last few months on Seesaw, it is clear to see the progress the children have made and we look forward to seeing this continue into the summer term.

Thank you for your support and we wish you a happy and peaceful Easter break.

Furze Down School

PARENT/CARER COUNCIL AND VOLUNTEERS

Pre-Covid we had a parent council and an active parent fundraising group in place. There have been many changes over the past 3 years, of course, with pupils leaving and new starters joining us, along with their families.

We would love to re-instate both the Parent Council and a group of regular volunteers this year, and are looking for parent/carers representatives, from across the school, to play an active role. Participation includes supporting the school, raising money and of course helping to choose how the funds are spent

There will be different ways in which you can be part of this. Maybe you would like to be part of an 'organising' group, or maybe you would like to offer an hour of your time at our next bazaar?

If you would like to be involved in these groups or any future events, please contact Sandra Firth or the school office to let us know.

Email office@furzedownschool.org.uk OR sfirth@furzedownschool.org.uk



Grounds Development Project Update

As you may have seen in our primary area, Buckinghamshire Council are funding and managing the provision of two additional external buildings. The buildings are new classrooms, with a reflective play area and staff and pupil toilet facilities.

They will not provide additional capacity for more pupils, we will regain specialist spaces in our Primary centre that are currently being used as classrooms.

Work began in January and the project is currently on track, the buildings should be ready to move into by September 2023.



If you have any questions please contact me

cbourne@furzedownschool.org.uk



**National
Online
Safety**

By sharing information with Staff, Parents and Carers, and with them signed up to the site, we recently achieved the status of being a Certified School in National Online Safety, for 2022-23.

This certification demonstrates our commitment to keeping children and young people safe online. For further information and to explore the resources for use at home, please see details below.



On the National Online Safety app you'll find:

- ✓ Hundreds of online safety guides on the topics you need to know about – from screen addiction, fake news and trolling to hacking, social media influencers and sexting;
- ✓ An online safety training course for parents – developed by our experts and delivered by online safety ambassador Myleene Klass;
- ✓ A user-friendly interface with increased functionality – find exactly what you need, when you need it;
- ✓ The option to get notifications to your phone as soon as new content becomes available – so you can stay up-to-date with the latest online crazes (and risks);
- ✓ An in-app voting system so you can help determine the subjects you'd like us to cover in future;
- ✓ The facility to personalise your content by favouriting key resources.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter: @natonlinesafety

Call: 0800 368 8061

Facebook: /nationalonlinesafety

Email: hello@nationalonlinesafety.com

Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety

Download the free app today



Scan to download on
Apple App Store



Scan to download on
Google Play Store

or search for 'National Online Safety' in the store



SPRING TERM PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Thank you to all who came along to the recent Spring Parent Consultations. There was a good turn out from Parents, Carers and other friends of Furze Down School. We have had some excellent feedback already, regarding information that was shared.

If you were unable to attend or require further information about your child's progress or our curriculum and provision please contact us at office@furzedownschool.org.uk



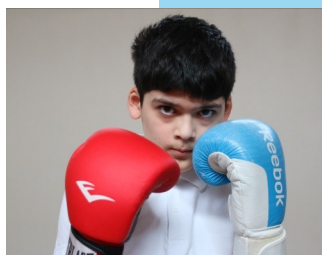
News from Key Stage 3

The Poet With Punch

Matt Windle, Poet Laureate Birmingham, known as **The Poet With Punch** engaged all our KS3 pupils in a poetry workshop and boxing class.

Encouraging literacy, self esteem and respect, all delivered with a fun boxing session

<https://poetrywithpunch.com/poetryworkshop/>

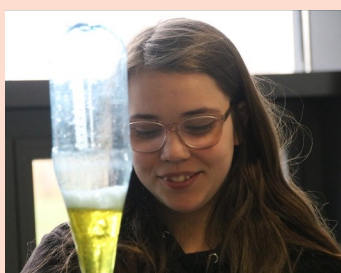


Celebrating Science Week

To enrich our curriculum, we celebrated science week this Term by having a visitor called "Chemistry Chris" at Furze Down.

Working with the KS3 pupils, Chemistry Chris safely took them through several science activities. They explored smoke machine bubbles, liquid tornado racing and lightbulb experiments.

Afterwards a few pupils said "This has inspired me to be a scientist!".



A message from Chemistry Chris

Thank you for inviting me to present a few Science ideas to a lovely group of Students, so polite and appreciative, a credit to the School and their Parents.

A Trip to Oxford—the Natural History and Pit Rivers Museum



Year 8&9 enjoyed a fabulous day visiting the Museum in Oxford. As well as exploring the museum's many exhibits the pupils enhanced their learning on Charles Darwin by a really informative hands-on workshop led by the museum staff.

Pupils explored the themes of evolution

and natural selection.

The visit was linked to both the English and Science curriculum focus for this term. Pupils completed some wonderful and detailed 'Fact-files' after the visit.



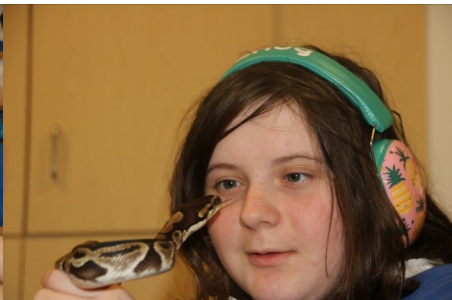
It was all about animals in Year 8&9.

The classes started off their topic on Charles Darwin, early in the Spring Term, with an animal encounter.

Pupils from the three classes met and handled a wide variety of beautiful creatures from Coco the skunk, to a Bearded Dragon and a Cockroach among many others.

It was a really informative morning as we learnt about their natural habitats, diets and behaviours.

Here are just a few of the photographs that were taken of this wonderful experience.



News from Key Stage 4

World Book Day Class CH loved making a shop to 'buy' a World Book Day book!



They have been practising recognising coins and choosing the right ones to pay for things.



Washing Windows

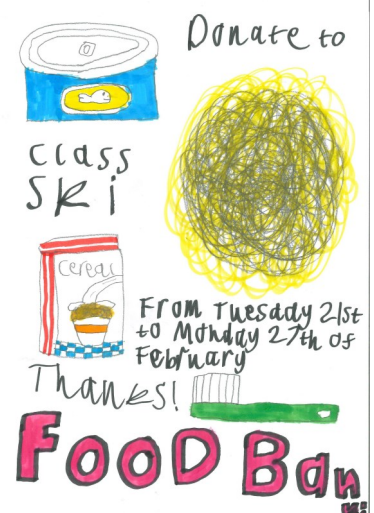
Classes JBS and CH examined a range of tools and methods for cleaning around the home. They practised their skills by cleaning the class windows.



Class SKi Food Bank

Students from Class Ski created posters requesting contributions to their Food Bank project.

The class were collecting donations of canned food, non-perishable foods, sauces, and toiletries on behalf of St Lawrence Church, Winslow. Their efforts garnered a lot of support and was part of their work on Understanding the World around them.



News from Tara and the Catering Team

It has been a challenging start to the year with regards to ordering ingredients for our meals due to supply issues and the inflated prices. We have had to start using multiple suppliers to source our ingredients, to try and keep our meals/menus consistent for the children.

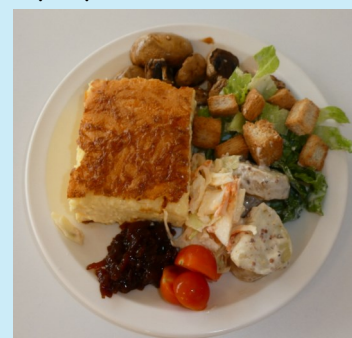
We had an unannounced Inspection from the Environmental Health Team last year. As a result, we are pleased to announce that we received **5 stars** which is the highest score you can be awarded. We are extremely proud of our kitchen, and our team.



All of our meals, including cakes and biscuits are cooked fresh daily and we prepare, cook and deliver to every classroom. This is between 80 and 110 lunches every day.

If your child has a food allergy, for example gluten/Lacto/dairy/egg intolerance, and it is on our school records, please order their meal as usual and we will ensure they receive the correct food.

However, if your child is Lacto/egg intolerant please do not order items such as quiche, as we are unable to adequately make this with the substitutes available to us.



If your child does not like the choices available for a particular day, please send in a packed lunch, including a drink from home as we are unable to cater for individual child preferences. We do, however, look for medical /dietary requirements, or if a need is identified in their EHCP.

Last Date for Ordering - it is on a Sunday	For Meals Starting on Monday
9 th April	17 th April
16 th April	24 th April
23 rd April	1 st May
30 th April	8 th May
7 th May	15 th May
14 th May	22 nd May
28 th May	5 th June
4 th June	12 th June
11 th June	19 th June
18 th June	26 th June
25 th June	3 rd July
2 nd July	10 th July
9 th July	17 th July

Placing the Orders on Parent Pay

If your child is entitled to universal free school meals or free school meals the orders must still be placed on Parent Pay. Please see the table for last dates for placing orders. Once the cut-off date for ordering has passed it will not be possible to amend your order.

You are now able to send an alert to your phone from your Parent Pay account, as a reminder to place lunch orders. We are sure this will be of a great help to many of you.

Should the school be closed for any reason the school lunch money will be immediately refunded back into your Parent Pay account.

If you have any questions regarding school lunches please get in contact:-

*Tara Orme, Catering Team Leader
Furze Down School Tel: 01296 711381*

E-mail: torme@furzedownschool.org.uk



When we return in **September** the cost for lunches will rise from £2.45 per day to £2.50 per day.

The New Two-Week Rotating Menus

A new 2-week rotating menu is now available on Parent Pay.

This menu will begin on our return from the Easter Break.

We have kept meals that are popular with the children, such as the Roast Chicken, as seen in this photograph, Fish and Chips and the Sausage and Mash.

Every two weeks we are now having 1 meat free day.

This is on the Wednesday of Week 1.



Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MAINS	Sausage, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy	Homemade Chicken Risotto	Meat Free Balls in Tomato sauce	Roast Beef, Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Cod Fish Fingers
	Meat Free Sausages, Mashed Potato & Gravy	Homemade Vegetable Risotto		Meat Free Roast, Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Fish-less Fingers
	Homemade Hummus & Chargrilled Peppers Wrap	Tomato, Basil and Mozzarella Wrap	Homemade Mackerel Pate & Crackers	Cold Choice Tuna Mayonnaise	Homemade Breaded Haloumi & Tomato Salsa
	Ham Roll	Tuna Roll	Tuna Roll	Ham Roll	Ham Roll
	Cheese Roll	Cheese Roll	Cheese Roll	Cheese Roll	Cheese Roll
Side	Mixed Vegetables	Green Beans	Spaghetti & Sweetcorn	Peas	Oven Chips & Baked Beans
	Tinned Plum Tomatoes	Mixed Salad (Tomato, Lettuce, Cucumber)	Spaghetti & Salad	Carrots	Chips & Salad
	Mixed Salad (Tomato, Lettuce, Cucumber)	Cucumber, Carrot, pepper with Cucumber & Humus Dip	Mixed Salad (Tomato, Lettuce, Cucumber)	Mixed Salad (tomato/lettuce/cucumber)	Bowl of Chips
	No Side	No Side	No Side	Roast Potatoes	No Side
Dessert	Yoghurt	Yoghurt	Yoghurt	Yoghurt	Yoghurt
	Apple	Apple	Apple	Apple	Apple
	Banana	Banana	Banana	Banana	Banana
	Homemade Sugar Free Jelly	Homemade Sugar Free Jelly & Fruit	Sugar Free Jelly	Sugar Free Jelly	Sugar Free Jelly & Fruit
	Homemade Lemon and Sultana Cookie	Homemade Cupcake	Homemade Fruit Trifle	Homemade Raspberry Muffin	Mousse

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MAINS	Chicken in Pesto Sauce	Homemade Beef Curry	Cold Choice Cooked Gammon	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Chicken Nuggets
	Meat Free Pieces in a Red Pesto	Homemade Vegetable Curry	Jacket Potato Baked Beans & Grated Cheese	Meat Free Roast, Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Meat Free Nuggets
	Falafel Pitta & Mint Yoghurt Dip	Homemade Hummus & Chargrilled Peppers Wrap	Jacket Potato Cheese, Spring Onion and Mayonnaise	Cold Cheese Flan (Contains Dairy & Egg)	Cold Choice Sliced Chicken
	Ham Roll	Ham Roll	Cheese Roll	Cheese Roll	Ham Roll
	Cheese Roll	Cheese Roll	Tuna Roll	Tuna Roll	Cheese Roll
Side	Pasta Shapes & Peas	Rice & Vegetable Samosa	S/Corn	Peas	Chips & Baked Beans
	Pasta Shapes & salad	Rice & salad	Plain Roll	Carrots	
	Mixed Salad (tomato/lettuce/cucumber)	Cucumber/Carrot/Pepper with cucumber & Mint Dip Pot	Mixed Salad (tomato/lettuce/cucumber)	Mixed Salad (tomato/lettuce/cucumber)	Chips & salad
	No Side	No Side	No Side	Roast Potatoes	Chips
Dessert	Yoghurt	Yoghurt	Yoghurt	Yoghurt	Yoghurt
	Apple	Apple	Apple	Apple	Apple
	Banana	Banana	Banana	Banana	Banana
	Sugar Free Jelly & Fruit	Sugar Free Jelly	Sugar Free Jelly & Fruit	Sugar Free Jelly	Sugar Free Jelly
	Anzac Biscuit	Fresh Seasonal Fruit Cocktail	Homemade Cupcake	Blueberry Muffin	Mousse



News from Preparing For Adulthood

Our Sixth Form students have taken part in a range of activities as part of their Preparation for Adulthood programme. They spend two to three days a week taking part in their Vocational Options in school and here are a few items of news from them.

The Site Team support group have done a great job repainting the walls in the Sixth Form area.

Young Leaders also continue to help in Primary and Key Stage 3 PE sessions, where it has been great to see them acting as role models for our younger pupils.

Our Catering students have continued to develop their skills, and the PFA Tuck Shop and coffee trolley has made a profit of nearly £1000 in the past year. All of which will be reinvested into the business.



The Horticulture group have been visiting a number of local garden centres in preparation for the growing season, and now spring is here they are working hard to get our gardens ready.



Other Enterprise Groups

The Monday Morning Enterprise and Craft Shop

Class KGEB Craft Shop has been working hard this term, making items that will enhance your garden visually and support future planting.

Look out for some of these products at the next school event. There will be decorated jars filled with wildflower seeds and small pots containing 20 wildflower seed bombs.



There will also be windchimes, painted rocks and sticks and several types of garden plot markers .



HEALTH FOR TEENS

TEXT YOUR SCHOOL NURSE FOR
CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH ADVICE AND SUPPORT

07312 263295

OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO START A CHAT:



WWW.HEALTHFORTEENS.CO.UK/BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Furze Down Cycles

Cycle maintenance and repair is possible through the use of donated bicycles.

If you have any you can offer the group please get in touch at office@furzedownschoool.org.uk

Repaired, restored and upgraded cycles are sold on.

We sell our adult bikes from £20 - £30. All monies raised are used to buy more tools .We can clean, check and repair your bicycle starting at £5 (+ the cost of parts if necessary).

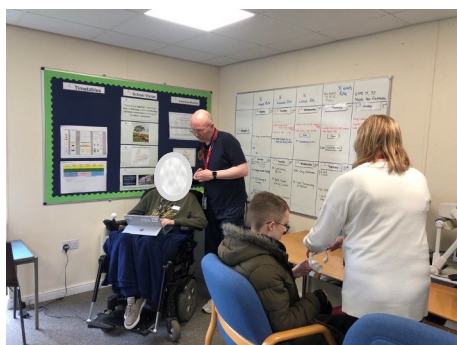


Community Engagement

Community engagement across KS4 and KS5 has included many outings to new places.

Students were practising their interaction and independent skills.

We have used the public bus, explored and supported local venues and even had a private tour of Red Bull Racing.



The Stem Enterprise group also visited Marsh Gibbon Primary School to audit all their equipment. A great opportunity to support our local community and put our amazing ICT skills and knowledge to practise.

Preparing for Adulthood at Westbury Shop and Rectory Farm.



On Saturday 22nd April 2023 Furze Down School are taking part in the

TCS Mini London Marathon

This FREE event is to inspire children of all ages and abilities to be physically active. It is open to children in years 5 – 12 (aged 9 – 17)

The children will experience the thrill of crossing the world famous finish line on the Mall before being awarded an official London Mini Marathon Medal!!! You can run or walk. 2.6k (1.6 miles) Start time is 10am from Temple Place Siblings and staff children are also welcome to partake.

The route takes place on a closed secure traffic free road, finishing in the Mall (and is a great photo opportunity). There will be stewards and a welfare team along the route to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience.

The second best part is that for each child who crosses the finish line TCS will donate £10.00 to Furze Down School for P.E. or IT equipment. Numbers are limited so if you would like to join the fun please let me know asap.

Please email sfirth@furzedownschool.org.uk



Mugs, T-shirts and Keyrings!

The PfA Enterprise STEM group have been making personalised mugs, t-shirts and keyrings. Students use a sublimation printer, and then either the mug, or t-shirt, press to complete each design. The key-rings are made using our 3D printers. To find out more visit: 3d-laser.co. Look at our poster below and contact us if you are interested in turning your design into a reality.



WE WILL MAKE THE MUG OF YOUR DREAMS!



Send over your image

We can use any image your send over as part of your mug design. Photos (digital or paper) of your loved ones, pets or favourite holiday retreats - we can make the mug!



Personalised

Let us know the text your require on the mug and we can sort it out. No more losing your mug amongst the crowded collection of the mug cupboard.



Friendly service

Let us know what you need and we will help!



CONTACT US

stemsales@fds.org.uk

FUNDRAISING AT FURZE DOWN SCHOOL

There are many ways in which you can help support our fundraising



Give your local cause a helping hand



Select your cause by scanning the QR code, downloading the Co-op App, or signing in at coop.co.uk/membership



We want to improve our site biodiversity and have been working with a group of local environmental experts to work on a plan that will meet our requirements. These include therapeutic landscape, designed to stimulate the senses.



Co-op Community Fund

Furze Down are being supported by the Co-op. Through the co-op membership many of you might already hold - for every £1 spent on selected Co-op products, 2p could go to your chosen charity. The Co-op will double this amount. Please tell friends and family, even if they don't live in the local areas, if they use the Co-op, they can select Furze Down as their cause.

At present £.00 has been raised in this way, in the past few months of running the campaign. Use the QR Code above or click on <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/73483>



Organised by the Lions Club of Winslow and held at Furze Down School the 10k Run was enjoyed by many again this year.

With the support of staff and parent volunteers we were able to sell welcome refreshments and ran our popular cake stall again. £175.66 was raised once costs had been deducted, and we'd like to say a big Thank you to all.



10k Lions Run



Accessibility for All

Students from KS4 and 5 worked, with the support of staff, on a 'Pupil Voice' media project recently. They planned, and recorded a film about mobility, and the difficulties some of them face moving around the school grounds, and accessing some of our resources. This film highlighted how important 'pupil voice' is and it has been invaluable in identifying areas for improvement.



LATEST NEWS

Following a detailed application made to the Winslow and Villages Community Board the



Community Board
Winslow and Villages

school were awarded £15,000.00 to add towards our Big Picture Development project. Focusing upon accessibility, the use of outside spaces and re-developing our pond area this contribution will also aid the improvement of site Biodiversity.

The Pond Re-Development

Based on research and advice from local experts the Fundraising and Site Teams have worked together with Mrs Keech and Mrs Weatherley to redesign the school pond.

Plans have taken into account the wildlife, planting and improvement of wheelchair access. To view the plans in detail please contact the school.



An example of a pond-dipping pontoon, which could overhang the new pond



Spring (2) 2023

Reminder of arrangements for the mornings and at the end of the day



To continue to encourage a low arousal start to the day, to keep everybody safe and the traffic flowing, we would ask that parents/carers keep to the arrangements you had regarding dropping off or picking up from school:- **Primary drop off 9.10am / pick up at 3pm. Rest of school 9am drop off / pick up at 3.35pm.**

The turning circle is reserved for the Local Authority provided transport before 9am each school day, and from 3.15pm –3.35pm in the afternoon but you are welcome to park there at other times. If you are a Parent/Carer dropping off and arrive whilst the taxis are still in the turning circle, please park in the laybys outside the school gates.

If in doubt, or you have any queries regarding days or dropping off, please email office@furzedownschool.org.uk



For all enquiries regarding transport please contact:

Passenger Transport Section, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1YZ

Telephone Number **01296 387439**

Or follow the link to their website:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-transport/>



Dates For Your Diary

- 19th May**—GCSE Maths 9am
 - 25th May**—Parents invited to the Primary Assembly
 - 5th June**—GCSE English
 - 7th June**—GCSE Maths
 - 12th June**—GCSE English
 - 21st June**—Senior School Picnic and Music Afternoon.
Parents and Alumni invited to join us.
 - 22nd June**—Primary School Sports Morning 10am
 - 29th June**—Leavers Party Year 11—14
 - 30th June**—Leavers last day
 - 20th July**—Parents invited to the Primary Assembly
 - 21st July**—Last day of term—Finish 2 hours earlier
- More details to follow

HOLIDAY LUNCH CLUB

FREE and open to everyone

Is Your Budget Stretched Over The Holidays?

Come along with the kids for a hot lunch

plus, fun activities for the children.

Runs from 12-2pm
St Laurence Room, Market Square, Winslow.

To book your place contact the team

Email: holidaylunchclub@yahoo.com
Phone or Text: 07712812530

Easter session:
Friday 14th April 2023

@winslowholidaylunchclub

Mar-23						
Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

Apr-23						
Mon		3	10	17	24	
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

May-23						
Mon		1	8	15	22	29
Tue		2	9	16	23	30
Wed		3	10	17	24	31
Thu		4	11	18	25	
Fri		5	12	19	26	
Sat		6	13	20	27	
Sun		7	14	21	28	

Jun-23						
Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24		
Sun	4	11	18	25		

Jul-23						
Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Aug-23						
Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thu	3	10	17	24	31	
Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	6	13	20	27		

Furze Down School Academic Calendar

 Pupil Days	 Bank holidays	 Transition Days
 School holidays	 Proposed inset days	

