



Furze Down School News

**WE ARE A NUT
FREE SCHOOL**

Welcome to our final newsletter for this academic year and what a year it has been!

It has been wonderful to see so many of you back in school attending school events. It finally feels like we have been able to resurrect school activities that happened pre-pandemic and we hope to continue to build on this during the next academic year.

Despite the challenges the year has brought we have not let this stop us from moving forwards to ensure we continue to provide your children with the best education possible, and as we approach the end of term we have been reflecting on what we provide and considering how we can make it even better. As part of this process we have been reviewing feedback from parents, carers, pupils and staff in order to incorporate 'Even Better ifs' into our planning

A powerful piece of feedback came from a group of pupils in school who are wheelchair users, these pupils made a video to highlight accessibility issues and presented their findings to Governors and Buckinghamshire Council. This has resulted in the Council providing funding to make adaptations that will take place over the Summer Holidays.

Last term parents and carers completed the Ofsted questionnaire. The responses to the questionnaire were overwhelmingly positive

98% of parents and carers saying they would recommend the school

97% stated their child felt safe at school

96% stated their child is happy at school

96% stating the school gives their child the support they need to succeed

94% stating that their child is well supported to use strategies to overcome barriers to learning and to regulate their own emotions

We have however identified that we need to improve the following

How we communicate policies and procedures in a simplified way. *Although all of these are on our website they can be quite lengthy documents. Our two parent Governors, Louise Gregory and Elton Norris are going to work with us next term to look at how we can produce more streamlined documents*

The range of clubs and activities children and young people can take part in. - *We are continuing to work with Matt Ogle from S4A to develop this further. In part transport after school continues to be the barrier to pupils being able to attend clubs.*

I would like to thank you all for your feedback and support this year. Working in partnership is vital if we are to secure the best outcomes possible for your children.

Please enjoy looking through the newsletter, it provides a small snapshot of all the amazing opportunities your children have had this term

Wishing you all a peaceful and relaxing summer and let's hope the sun continues to shine so we can all spend time outside



News from Primary



Coronation Celebrations!

Primary groups Hazel, Oak and Willow celebrated the Coronation of the new King, Charles III, with a traditional 'street party', held in the corridor due to the 'traditionally' British weather.

The pupils looked 'fit for a king' wearing their cloaks, crowns, waving their flags, and sitting on the castle and throne, specially designed by Hazel pupil, Jude.

Development Projects

Our two new buildings in Primary are currently behind schedule but they will be ready to move into in September 2023, allowing us to regain the specialist spaces currently being used as classrooms. The existing spaces will be put back to a sensory space and life skills room.

Pupils joining Willow Class in September visited their new classroom recently and they are looking forward to moving in.

The contractors will be busy over the summer finishing off the buildings, the surrounding ground and reinstating the forest school area. In our existing Cedar classroom, toilet modifications are being made to add a mechanical changing bed and hoist.



We are also anticipating the installation of specialist therapeutic sensory equipment in the early years playground. A new round swing, in ground trampoline and inclusive scooter roundabout are also being installed.

This new equipment has been partially funded by a successful bid to the William Harding Charity. We will continue with fundraising and bids for grants to further improve facilities and access across the school.

Poppy & Laura, pupils who have struggled with the accessibility of our site this year, recently put together a film demonstrating their difficulties. They presented the film to our governors, and in turn this was shared with the Local Authority. The film influenced their decision to fund some modifications on our lower ground floor. GREAT NEWS, and thank you, Poppy and Laura.

An acoustic wall divider is being installed to split one large room into two more useable classrooms, along with the installation of an accessible toilet with bed and hoist. Push pads and automatic arms are being added to six of our existing doors to allow pupils to move around the site more easily on their own.

We are also looking in to the possibility of an external stair riser lift.



Photo Courtesy of Josh in Willow



Recycling News from Hazel

Hazel class have been learning all about recycling and how we can look after the environment. You may have seen pupils walking around the school grounds, litter picking and making sure the site is pristine. In our classroom we have created various recycling bins, that can be used to sort the waste items we find.



A wall display showing how beautiful our environment is.

Primary Sports Day

The sun shone and parents joined their children for a wonderful sports morning in June.



The pupils, parents and staff participated in lots of athletic challenges set up in the Primary outside space.



News from Across Secondary



Class JBS wanted to share some images from their trip to Colourscape at Waddesdon Manor.



SB class had a fabulous time when we visited KiteFest, a local music festival. Some of us enjoyed listening to the music, some of us enjoyed dancing, other class members liked hanging out with friends or chasing bubbles.



One class member even performed on stage, singing as part of one of the acts!



In science, SB class have been careful chemists. We have learnt to use Bunsen burners safely and have tested a range of substances including the pH of acids and alkalis.

Outdoor learning and forest schools have been fun. Members of SB class have worked collaboratively to light fires and study the pond wildlife.



This term **Class VCSK** have focused upon exploring how we can look after the world around us, care for each other, respect our community, and protect the planet.



Community Inclusion and our Employability lessons included what happens to our rubbish, old clothes and plastic waste. We also explored the difference between recycle or reuse, and made games, clothing and plant

pots from rubbish.

In Employability we followed instructions to take on the £5 challenge. We also built and decorated birdfeeders for sale.



CH Class have enjoyed many educational visits this term. Trips have included Colourscape at Waddesdon Manor, and Kitefest at Kiteridge School. We enjoyed the music and dancing



We have also been strawberry picking at Lillingstone Farm, where we also enjoyed looking around and having our lunch.



News from Key Stage 4

Class SKI went to Bicester Vue Cinema using the profits they made in their enterprise project, making and selling homemade beeswax food wraps.

The money they raised paid for the trip to see Spider-man: Across the Spiderverse, where we enjoyed our own private viewing!

Well done to them all!



The KS4 Art Enrichment group have been studying Gustav Klimt this half term. They have developed their own pattern making skills inspired by his paintings. Here are some examples of our versions of one of Klimt's famous works 'Adele Bloch- Bauer'



The Leavers of 2023



DJ Dan entertained our year 11– 14's on a very lovely evening at the end of June. We wish all our leavers every success and happiness in their next steps and hope that you will stay in touch with us.

Drama, Music, and Performing Arts

Year 8&9 had a wonderful morning watching 'What you will', an introduction to Shakespeare performed by **The Globe Players**.

The performance covered a variety of themes, extracts and characters from well-known and lesser-known Shakespeare works, including Macbeth, The Tempest, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night and Comedy of Errors.

We even had some budding young Furze Down thespians join the stage, taking on the part of different well-known roles.



The actors then stayed for a Q&A session, and gave the pupils some tips for their upcoming production of *The Tempest*.



A Night Of Shakespeare

Students from Key Stage 4 and 5 put on a 'Night of Shakespeare' in June. They performed two adaptations of *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Nights Dream* in front of an audience of 75 people with confidence.

This was fantastic evening where students left feeling very proud of their achievements. The students created these performances during their sessions over the past couple of months, they showed their creative skills through dance, music and digital skills. One of our students Daisy, adapted and wrote the script for *The Tempest* independently, which was a great achievement.



The Drama group also shared some of their singing and drama talents during the Summer Picnic / Performance Afternoon. The PFA groups from KS4 & 5 hosted a market street during this afternoon in the amphitheatre, displaying and selling the items they had prepared this year. Many of the students ran the stalls mostly independently. There was a great atmosphere around the stalls and students were able to talk to the customers confidently to promote their products and services.



Duke Of Edinburgh

Here are a few reflections shared by our D of E group about their recent expedition.

Day 1 We walked for 3 hours at Caldecott Lake. Very pleased to be able to use the toilets there.



Day 2 We walked our planned route around Winslow. Mrs Cowley kept finding us to check that we could orientate ourselves on the map. It was a very sunny day, we were grateful for the shade from the trees.

It was great to be out of school and chatting with my friends. We cooked bacon sandwiches on the stoves.

Putting up the tents was a bit stressful and annoying! The poles were different to what I normally use, but we tried hard to work together as a team.



Class KG Craft and Enterprise Group



This year the KG Crafters have created a range of products for sale at FDS events.

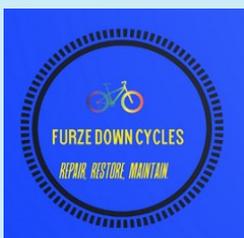
We have enjoyed learning how to use new materials and tools, such as pebbles, shells and a glue gun, and been proud of how much we shared ideas, shared resources and worked together to make our products.



At the recent Picnic and Performance afternoon Crafts sales totalled a fabulous £52.00 towards some new art and enterprise equipment for next year.

The wind chimes have now sold out although we still have small selections of seed bombs and wildflower seeds available, for encouraging butterflies in your garden.

Please get in contact with office@furzedownschool.org.uk if interested.



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@furzedownschool.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).

Mugs, T-shirts and Keyrings!

The PfA Enterprise STEM group have been making personalised mugs, t-shirts and keyrings.



3D-LASER.CO

MUGS
The perfect gift!

WE WILL MAKE THE MUG OF YOUR DREAMS!

- Send over your image**
We can use any image you 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 you 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



T-Shirts and Trophies

STEM enterprise and Digital Leaders have been collaborating to complete the two largest orders we have ever received from our customers. Firstly, students designed, laser cut and then heat shaped ten trophies for a local football club. We received positive feedback about the trophies. Secondly, students designed logos, name badges and numbers for teams in a local hockey tournament. Following the design stage, students then used the cutting and pressing tools to transfer the designs to t-shirts.

Incredibly, over 40 t-shirts have been made!



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.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com
Twitter: @natonlinesafety

Call: 0800 368 8061
Facebook: /nationalonlinesafety

Email: hello@nationalonlinesafety.com
Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety

- 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.

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






Fundraising News

Linda Patterson, Business Leader |lpatterson@furzedownschool.org.uk

July 2023

In September 2021 we embarked on a large outdoor project at Furze Down 'The Big Picture', which focuses on outdoor development of our 8-acre site by improving: site accessibility (wheelchair access), planting, resources, inclusion and biodiversity.



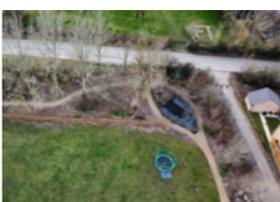
Previous fundraising campaigns have largely been directed to support capital project delivery, internal resourcing, and specific, single items of equipment and now is the time to build upon our success and expand our capabilities and facilities for both the present and the future needs of our pupils.

Our main aim is to ensure that our outdoor environments are fully inclusive and provide all our learners, whether ambulant or non-ambulant, with sensory stimulus, a rich provision of opportunities to develop self-esteem and confidence, while also developing the skills to adapt to a range of new challenges. Our intention is not just to improve our grounds, biodiversity and accessibility, but to design engaging spaces that reflect the values and ethos of our school.

Key areas across our site require tidying and are being improved through planned clearance and planting of appropriate, flowers, shrubs and trees. We also have an extensive perimeter where we have introduced additional planting as it backs on to a new housing development. This has ensured that we have improved our screening and as it establishes, will provide providing shelter, roosting, nesting and foraging opportunities for birds and small mammals.



Our Two Forest Schools, which are located at the perimeter of the site, in the Primary and Secondary phases, provide a natural outdoor learning experience for our pupils and will be further developed.



Our existing school pond, and the swale area, provide opportunities to attract wildlife, and support activities such as pond dipping. At present these require design and planting improvement, sensitively, considering, the flora and fauna we have already identified in these areas, alongside improvements in accessibility.





We have already developed a sensory/reflection garden in Primary. This is designed to provide a therapeutic landscape, designed to stimulate the senses, and includes planting which focuses on the 5 senses: touch, smell, sight, taste, and hearing.



Promoting biodiversity is providing our students with educational, hands-on opportunities to make positive environmental impacts.

Hanging birdhouses, planting wildflower gardens, and expanding recycling programs will benefit our school's local ecosystem.

Embarking upon this ambitious journey, we have already made strong links with a wealth of expertise from Buckinghamshire including: ecologists, lepidopterists, pond experts, ornithologists, and like-minded nature enthusiasts.

What Grants/Donations have we received this academic year?

- November 2022- A group of Volunteers from Stowe National Trust joined us to re-site some of the existing shrubbery, and planted hornbeam hedging to improve our screening on the perimeter of the Primary Playground and along the northern perimeter. The saplings were purchased as a result of 2 successful grant applications to both the Buckinghamshire Community Board and The Tree Council resulting in awards of both £730.80 and £2,000
- November 2022 Winslow Show Association donation £100
- February 2023 The Lions Club of Winslow – 10K Run donation of £500
- Refreshments 10K run £155.75
- March, 2023, we were awarded £15,000, following a successful bid submission to the Winslow and Villages Community Board. This will be used to redevelop our existing Pond Area in the Autumn Term.
- March, 2023, Great Horwood Silver Band donated £200 following their event held at the school
- May 2023, a successful bid application to the William Harding Charity, with an award of £14,338 towards outdoor play equipment for Primary
- £100 private donation towards the ground's development project



How can you help to support our school fundraising?

Getting our community involved in fundraising is a really important part of our efforts and we aim to hold more events in the future.

Please, get in touch if you have any ideas, or are able to volunteer your time at one of our upcoming events. Linda Patterson, Business Leader lpatterson@furzedownschool.org.uk

See the next page for 3 more ways in which you can support our fundraising efforts

This fund supports projects across the UK that their members care about.

Every time members buy selected Co-op branded products or any services, they will give a local cause a helping hand.

Use the QR Code above or click on <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/73483>

Please can I encourage as many people as possible, to use your local Co-op, to sign up with your membership card and choose Furze Down School as your chosen 'cause' through the Co-Op Community Fund.

It really will make a big difference to our Fundraising and our pupils. This is almost like a cashback to the cause against any co-op products purchased. The Co-op also provide a percentage of money against the funds we raise.

It would be fabulous if you could share this widely with friends and family as, even if they do not live locally, and use their local co-op store anywhere in the country, they can still select our school as their supporting 'cause'.

Playing the lottery BUCKINGHAMSHIRE **LOTTERY**

Buckinghamshire Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in the county. All good causes supported by it will benefit Buckinghamshire and its residents.

Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 a week. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000!

Each ticket has six numbers and each number is between 0 and 9. Draws are every Saturday night when a six- digit winning combination will be picked. Prizes will be given to players with tickets that match with the first or last 2 to 6 numbers from the winning combination. Match all six and you win the jackpot!

The lottery and its prizes are our way of putting the fun in fundraising. The real winners are the good causes. From every £1 ticket sold 60p will go to good causes in Buckinghamshire.

Even better, you can choose which good cause gets 50p of the 60p (the remaining 10p will be distributed to other local good causes). A great way to boost Furze Down School Funds,

Click on the link below for further details.
<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/73483>

Give your local cause a helping hand 

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.



WIN A SUMMER GETAWAY WITH AIRBNB



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE **LOTTERY**

- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Win a summer getaway
- Please help give our fundraising a boost
- Chance to win up to £25,000

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. See website for terms & conditions. Enter by 29/07/2023.



PLAY NOW:
SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO www.buckinghamshirelottery.co.uk AND SEARCH FOR Furze Down School

Information from Tara and the Catering Team

We cook and serve over 100 lunches per day which are cooked to order with those that you place on Parent Pay.

As you may or may not be aware there is a cut off point for placing orders, this allows us to purchase the ingredients and plan ahead, orders must be placed at least 8 days in advance.

If you do miss this cut off point please ensure that you send your child in with a packed lunch for those days as we have already purchased and planned for our lunches.

You are able to order 1 week at a time or for the whole term, meals booked are paid for at the time of booking.

We have made a few changes to our menu because we have noticed a decline in numbers for a few of our options. The new menu will be available for you to look at and book for September from Friday 21st of June.

Please look out for an additional email from torme@furzedwonschool.org.uk which will have all of the information regarding school lunches.

Wishing you all a Lovely Summer - Tara & Team



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@furzedownscool.org.uk

Remember - 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.

North Bucks Bike Ride

On Sunday 16th July the Lions Club of Winslow and the Winslow Wheelers Cycle Club held the 2023 North Bucks Bike Ride. Starting with the first race at 8am all cyclists set off from the Staff carpark at Furze Down School, and finished on our school field. Races ranged from the Leisure Rides of 20km and 30km, to a distance of 60-100km, and 100 miles for the more Sportive racers.



A great day seemed to have been had by all competitors, supporters, and the local residents, who came along to see what was going on. Stalls provided refreshments and there was advice given on cycle management and health.

Check out more information on the Lion's website <https://www.northbucksbikeride.info/results--pictures.html>



The money raised by the Lions goes to support several local charities. Staff from Furze Down ran their cake stall again this year, and the amount raised from the whole day is still being finalised.

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



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

- Monday 4th September—Year 7 pupils and New Starters in
- Tuesday 5th September—All other pupils in school
- Wednesday 20th September—Flu Immunisations in School



The Autumn Term 2023 /24

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

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

Nov-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	
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	

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

	Year 7 & New Starters in		Bank Holidays
	Pupil Days		Proposed Inset Days
	School Holidays		Transition Days



FREE and open to everyone
Get fed, Not fed-up!




Is Your Budget Stretched Over The Holidays?

Come along with the kids for a hot lunch plus fun activities for the children.

St Laurence Room, Market Square, Winslow.

To book your place contact the team
 Email: holidaylunchclub@yahoo.com

Sessions:
 Friday 28th July,
 Friday 11th August,
 Friday 1st September

@winslowholidaylunchclub



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

