

Dear Finham Primary School Families,

A Warm Welcome to 2026

As we settle into the new year, I wanted to take a moment to wish you all a happy and healthy 2026! This year, we are committed to fostering an exceptional learning environment where our students can thrive academically and emotionally. At Finham Primary, we believe in nurturing not only critical thinking and creativity but also the emotional well-being of every child. This holistic approach is essential as we prepare our students for the challenges of the future, aligning with the educational priorities in England that emphasise the development of well-rounded individuals.

To summarise our key commitments, we will focus on:

- Fostering critical thinking skills
- Encouraging creativity in all subjects
- Supporting emotional well-being through various initiatives

We invite you to share your thoughts or experiences regarding the new year. Your insights are invaluable in creating a collaborative school-home partnership that enhances our children's educational journey.

Attendance Matters

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the significance of regular attendance at school. Research consistently shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve better academic outcomes. At Finham Primary, we understand that every day in the classroom counts, and we are dedicated to creating an engaging environment that motivates our students to come to school excited to learn.

To support this initiative, we encourage parents to discuss the importance of attendance with their children. Together, we can foster a culture of commitment to education. We will also be sharing success stories from our students who have benefited from consistent attendance, illustrating how being present in school contributes to their overall success and well-being.

Reading at Home

Reading is a vital part of our students' learning journey, and we encourage all parents to engage with their children through reading at home. Not only does this support literacy development, but it also strengthens the bond between parent and child. We recommend exploring age-appropriate books together, which can spark conversations and enhance comprehension skills.

To assist you, we will be providing a list of recommended books for various age groups in our upcoming communications. These resources will help you choose engaging stories that align with your child's interests and reading level. By fostering a love for reading at home, we can collectively support our children's academic growth and emotional development.

Innovative Teaching Methods

At Finham Primary, we are proud to implement innovative teaching methods that promote critical thinking and creativity among our students. Our dedicated teachers are continually exploring new strategies to engage learners and make lessons more interactive. This year, we will be introducing project-based learning opportunities that allow students to work collaboratively on real-world problems, encouraging them to think critically and creatively.



We believe that these initiatives will not only enhance academic performance but also prepare our students for the demands of the future. We look forward to sharing updates on these exciting projects and the positive impact they have on our students' learning experiences. Your support and involvement in these initiatives are crucial, and we encourage you to participate in any upcoming events related to these programmes.

Celebrating Our Achievements

As we embark on this new year, it is important to reflect on the achievements of our students and the school community from the past year. We have seen remarkable progress in various areas, from academic successes to personal growth. We will be sharing success stories and highlights in our future newsletters, showcasing the hard work and dedication of our students and staff.

We invite you to celebrate these achievements with us and to continue fostering a positive and supportive environment for our children. Your involvement in school events and activities plays a significant role in building a strong community, and we appreciate your ongoing support as we strive for excellence

Thank you to everyone that braved the weather today and came into school

Mrs Bracken

UPPER PHASE NEWSLETTER

This week, the children across Upper Key Stage 2 have returned from their Christmas holidays with remarkable positivity and enthusiasm. It has been heartwarming to witness so many students sharing their holiday experiences and entering the school gates with bright smiles. The holiday feels like a distant memory as they have seamlessly transitioned back into the full swing of learning.

In Year 4, students have embarked on an engaging new science topic focused on conductors and insulators. The learning objective involves conducting experiments to identify which materials can conduct electricity and which serve as insulators. This hands-on approach encourages active learning, enabling children to group materials and draw conclusions about their properties.

Year 5 students have been creatively exploring the literary work, "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes. They have been tasked with creating animations that present the story as if they were news reporters. This exercise has allowed them to effectively demonstrate their understanding of character interactions through the use of both formal and informal language, and they have produced great work.

Meanwhile, Year 6 has begun the captivating study of Shakespeare's "Macbeth." The children are deeply engaged by the intrigue and dark themes of the text, eagerly anticipating how the plot will unfold. Their excitement for this classic work is palpable, setting the stage for a rich exploration of literature.

Parent Information Sheets are in the process of being sent out to parents, so look out for these as they will contain more information about what is happening in each year group, this term.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 14th January

- **Inspire workshop Year 1 09:00-10:00**
- **Year 4 swimming 12:30-15:30**



SCHOOL PROJECT FOR YEAR 4

Can we please ask if you have any spare toilet roll cardboard tubes to hand them in to the year 4 teachers for a school project. Many thanks

ORACY QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Is snow good or bad for us ?



Message from WMFS to Parents and Carers

'Don't enter or venture' - Stay away from frozen open water as cold snap continues

West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) is urging the public to stay well away from lakes, ponds, rivers, canals and reservoirs as freezing temperatures hit the West Midlands. Frozen water can look harmless, but it's one of the most dangerous winter hazards we face.

Surface ice can look deceptively solid, but is often thin, fragile and unpredictable. It can give way suddenly – plunging people or pets into freezing cold water and serious danger.

Cold water shock can affect anyone, regardless of age or swimming ability, and can quickly lead to loss of control, exhaustion and drowning.

WMFS is particularly concerned about the risks to children, who may be tempted to play near or on frozen water, and dog walkers who may instinctively venture on to ice or into the water if a pet gets into difficulty.

Parents and carers are urged to speak to children about the dangers, to ensure they understand that no ice is ever safe. Dog walkers are advised to keep pets on leads near water during icy conditions. Never step onto ice, and - crucially – don't enter water or venture on to ice if a person or animal gets into difficulty. Call 999 immediately and ask for the fire service."

More [winter water safety messaging can be found here.](#)

PE DAYS – Please ensure your child wears the correct PE uniform on the correct day.

Monday	Year 1- Ball Skills Year 2 – Health & Well being Reception – Ball Skills
Tuesday	Year 3 – Gymnastics Year 5 – Gymnastics Year 4 – OAA
Wednesday	Nursery – Gymnastics & Ball Skills Year 4 – Swimming Xcel Year 5 – OAA Year 6 - Athletics
Thursday	Reception – Gymnastics Year 6 – Gymnastics Year 3 – OAA
Friday	Year 2 – Ball Skills Nursery – Gymnastics & Ball Skills Year 1 – Health & Well being

Please can all children wear their PE kit to school on PE days

Plain white T-shirt or white t-shirt with Finham Primary logo

1. Plain navy blue or black shorts
2. Plain navy blue or black joggers
3. Plain navy blue or black leggings
4. White Socks
5. Black trainers/pumps (that fit well)
6. Plain navy jumper
7. Navy Hoodie with Finham Primary logo

PLEASE ENSURE YOU LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

