



Forest Park Newsletter

11th September 2026



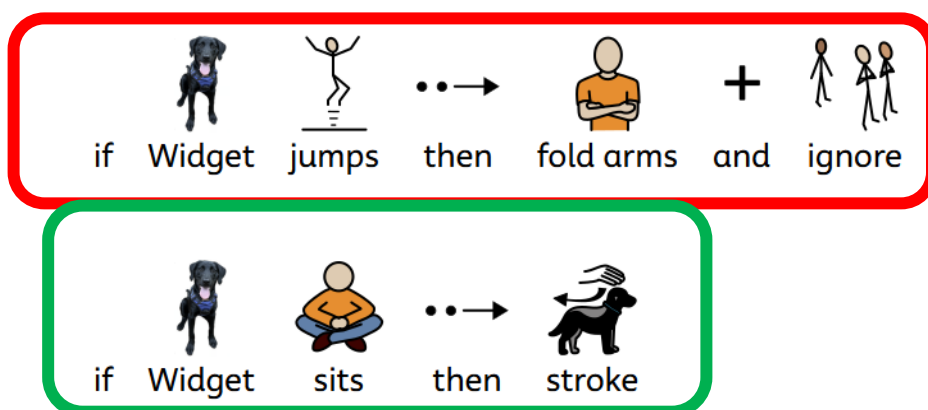
Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fabulous first full week back in school.

Pupils and Students have done really well either settling back into their old class with some new peers or moving to a brand new class and, in some cases, a brand new school.

We have already seen lots of small steps of success, particularly around transitions. We know this is such a key area and can be a real challenge for lots of our young people and adults. But, we have already seen lots of progression across this week.

Widget (Head of Canine Affairs) has started to meet some pupils in very small groups. He has quickly become our most popular member of staff! We are gradually teaching Widget to be calm and polite and we are teaching pupils and students how to interact with him and how to ignore him if he is being silly.



I really hope you enjoy the new look newsletter. There have been a lot of joy, smiles and laughter this week.

Have a lovely weekend,

David



Message from the Chair of Governors



Dear Parents, Carers and the Forest Park community

On behalf of the school governors it gives me great pleasure to welcome our new Headteacher, David Thomas, to Forest Park School. David has already spent considerable time during the summer getting to know the school, staff and community, and I am sure you will join me in making him feel very welcome. If you see him around school, please do take the opportunity to introduce yourself.

As Governors, our role is to support and challenge the school's leadership team, ensuring that every child receives the best possible education. We help to set the strategic direction of the school, oversee its financial performance, and ensure that the voices of pupils, families and staff are heard. Working alongside David and the school team, we remain committed to helping Forest Park continue to thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community.

Paul Shields
Chair of Governors



Important information

Oak Lodge Open Morning

23rd September 2026
9.30am - 12.30pm

www.oaklodge.hants.sch.uk

If you would like to attend, please visit their website and book your space!

Arbor – Please remember to update your details in your Arbor account, for example contact information, address, consents, medical details. If you need any help with Arbor please contact us.

Absence reporting – Please phone or email before 07.30am to report your child's absence

Appointments – Please notify us as soon as possible either in person, email or in your child's home school book with a copy of the appointment letter.

Authorised Absence – Please submit an Authorised Absence form (you can get these from reception), giving as much notice as possible. You will get notified with the outcome.

Autumn Term 2026		
Date	Event	Info
Tuesday 1 st September	Staff Training Day	School Closed for Pupils
Wednesday 2 nd September	Staff Training Day	School Closed for Pupils
Thursday 3 rd September	School Opens	Current Pupils Return
Friday 4 th September	New Pupils Start	All pupils in
Monday 5 th October	RE Day: Harvest Festival	Primary Assembly
Tuesday 20 th October	School Photographer in	Primary Site
Wednesday 21 st October	Parents' Evening	
Friday 23 rd October	School Photographer in	Secondary Site
Friday 23 rd October	Pumpkin Festival	Secondary
Friday 23 rd October	School Closes	3pm for all pupils

Giraffe Class Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 22nd October

Important information



CAMHS – THE BIG DROP IN

As part of World Mental Health Day, on the 8th October 2026, CAMHS are running a series of free drop-ins across Hampshire.

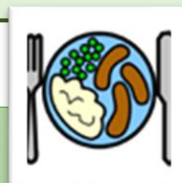
Bookable slots are available via their website or you can just drop in.

For more information visit hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/



Chartwells
Schools

School Dinners



- ❖ Our school lunches are provided by Chartwells School, please see the latest menu on our website. <https://www.fpshants.co.uk/School-Meals/>
- ❖ School lunches are £2.75 a day or £13.75 a week and should be paid in advance on Arbor.
- ❖ A payment reminder will be sent after 2 missed payments. When your dinner account exceeds 2 weeks of meals (£27.50) we must ask that you provide your child with a packed lunch until the arrears are paid.
- ❖ If you are sending in a packed lunch please remember **WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL**. Please check labels and packets on any food that you send in, to ensure it does not contain nuts.
- ❖ If you are having difficulty making a payment please contact the school office to discuss a payment plan.

What has changed with Free School Meals.....

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) has changed.

- ☒ **Targeted Free School Meals – For households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income below £7,400**
- ☒ **Expanded Free School Meals – For households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income above £7,400**

If your child already receives Free School Meals

If you have already applied through the Hampshire Portal and your child currently receives free school meals, no further action is required.

If you think your child may now be eligible

Please submit an application through the Hampshire County Council portal:

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals

Important information

In 2024 Spotlight launched 'Spotlight UK Scarlett's Smiles' to support children who have a parent or sibling who has a terminal illness or long term illness, children with terminal illness or long term medical condition, children in care, young carers and adult carers, children who have experienced traumatic loss or separation, and children affected by domestic abuse. They have implemented a membership program, to keep their activities available to all (The average discounts will be between 25-75% off main price). Visit spotlightuk.org/discount-activities for more information.



Discount Activities September

15th Sep | Bowling & Laser Tag Southampton | 6pm £4

17th Sep | Monkey Bizness Gosport | 6:15pm £2.50

19th Sep | Ice Skating Gosport | 3pm £4

19th Sep | High Score Arcade Southampton | 1pm £4.50

19th Sep | Ninja Warrior Southamptton | 3pm £5

21st Sep | Flipout Portsmouth | 4pm-6pm - £4.50

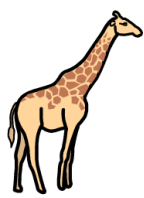
24th Sep | Bowling Farham | 6pm - £3.50

26th Sep | Family Swim Romsey | 1pm - £3.50

28th Sep | Monkey Bizness Southampton | 6:15pm - £2.50



To book please email activities@spotlightuk.org



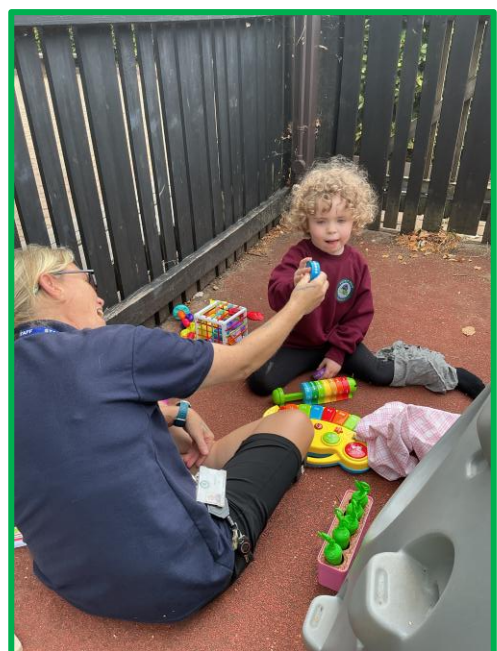
Giraffe Class



Giraffe class really enjoyed their sensory trail this week. Where appropriate, pupils were able to walk over different sensory materials or explore them with their hands. The fake grass proved to be a favourite.



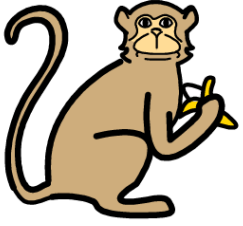
Koala Class



Koala Class

What an absolutely amazing start to our year it has been! We have welcomed children, old and new, into the class and they have all done a fantastic job of transitioning into school.

There have been so many wonderful things that have already happened and we are most excited to see what happens in the year ahead! From walking to our class, exploring inside and outside and enjoying our first PE lesson its been a busy week!



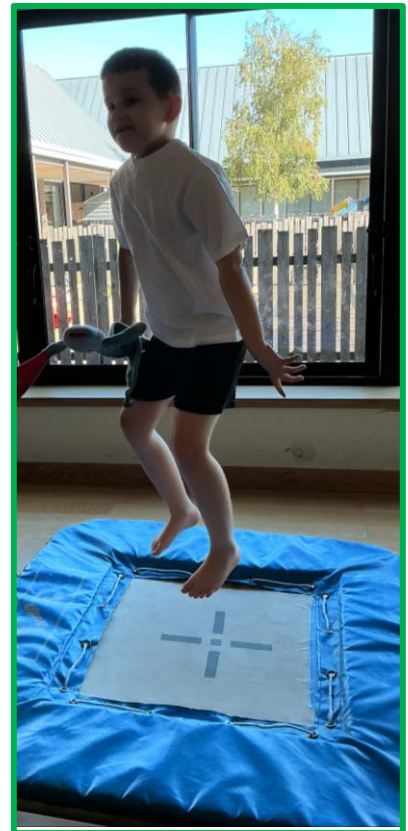
Monkey Class



It has been a great first week back for Monkey Class! The pupils have settled in well and are beginning to understand class routines. Monkey Class have been singing and signing along to songs during Circle Time and have particularly enjoyed Parachute time. Pupils enjoyed flapping the parachute slow, fast, high and low, going underneath it and throwing balls on top and watching them fly into the air.



Kangaroo Class



Kangaroo Class have settled back into school really well. We have enjoyed getting to know one another and learning our new routines. The children have loved exploring their new classroom and have had lots of fun playing with and discovering a wide range of resources. We have also enjoyed exploring the different areas around the school, including the soft play room and trampoline. These have been great opportunities for the children to have fun, develop their physical skills and build positive relationships with staff and friends.



Meerkat Class



Meerkat Class have had a fantastic first week back. The new students have settled in well and are already beginning to build positive relationships with staff. Throughout the week, we have been working on our transitions between different areas of the school, helping everyone become more confident with the daily routine. It has also been great to see all of the children eating together in the hall and adapting so well to this part of the school day. We are very proud of how well the class has started the year.



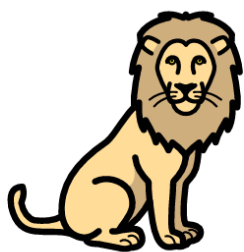
Panda Class



It's been a busy first week in Panda Class!

We have been keeping our bodies active by taking part in Dance, we really enjoyed the scarves and parachute. We explored the equipment in PE, the trampette was lots of fun.

We have been using chalk to draw around our bodies and our friends. But one of our favourite things was turn taking with our friends playing Pop up pirate. It has made us jump lots of times!



Lion Class



We have had a wonderful first full week back as the new Lion Class. We have welcomed our friends that have joined Forest Park those who have joined us from different classes.

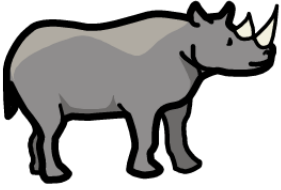
We have been focusing on our personal, social and emotional development building relationships, developing our likes and dislikes and turn-taking.



Zebra Class



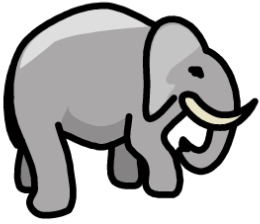
Zebra Class have had an amazing first week back at school! Our new members have settled in wonderfully. We have had lots of lovely time focusing on group work and interaction, we have particularly loved our bucket time sessions. They get very messy and exciting!



Rhino Class



Rhino class have been busy settling into the new school year this week. We have been having a go at our new key skills, enjoying being active in PE and even went on our first trip out for our first session of swimming at Romsey Rapids. We are looking forward to carrying on swimming over the next half term as well as progressing with our key skills!

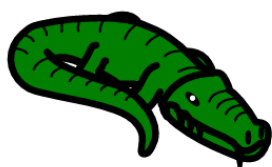


Elephant Class



Elephant class have made a spectacular return to school this Autumn term. We have been busy settling into our new routines and making both adults and children welcome if they are new.

Being helpful and friendly towards each other has been an important part of our day and the Elephants have been really good at this. Over the last week we have been discovering what each class member has enjoyed doing over the holidays. We have been busy creating some fabulous art work and have had our first school trip of the year which was Kayaking!



Crocodile Class



Crocodile Class have had a fantastic first week back at school. For those children who were returning to Crocodile class, it's been a lovely time to see their important adults again and for those that are new to the class, they have enjoyed exploring the classroom and outside and are getting to know our routines.



Maple Class



In Maple Class, we have been spreading *Joy* by using aided language boards to give compliments about our peers' biscuit designs for the Macmillan Coffee Morning. We enjoyed sharing positive feedback and celebrating each other's creative ideas.



Cherry Class



What a fantastic return to school Cherry class have had! We have been full of smiles and joy and are settling back into our routines very well.

We are working hard at our physio programmes already and some of us have even been trying out some new skills and equipment – and are rightfully very proud of ourselves!



Redwood Class



Redwood Class have thoroughly enjoyed their first full week back at school.

During our Maths and Cognition lessons we baked chocolate chip cookies. Once they were cooked, we tasted them. They were delicious!



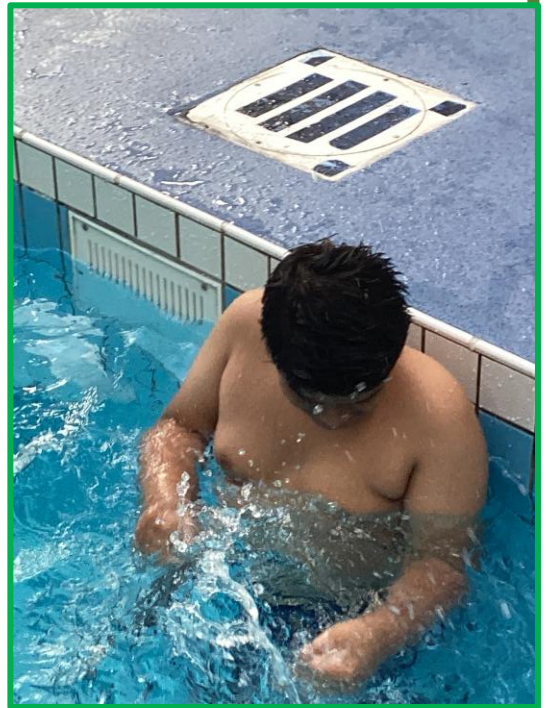
Sycamore Class



Sycamore Class have enjoyed seeing some familiar and new faces on their return to School! Everyone enjoyed a ride in the Forest with PEDALL in a new location!



Oak Class



Oak class restarted their swimming sessions at Romsey Rapids. There was a lot of joy to be back in the water with their friends and of course a lot of splashing.