



Autumn Term Newsletter 2026

Welcome back everyone. We hope you have had a lovely summer and hasn't the weather has been beautiful. It has been lovely to see all our children come back and see how much they have grown in the last 5 weeks. We have also welcomed some new friends this month and they are settling in lovely.

Here is my email if you need anything or pop in and see me: SHickling@Farnsfieldpschool.onmicrosoft.com remember Friday 25th September we have our 'Managers Mingle' giving you chance to come in and get to know me and discuss anything with coffee and cake.

Inset day days and term dates

We have scheduled these inset dates for the following academic year:

Wednesday 2nd September is an inset day, and we re- open on Thursday 3rd Sept 2026

Friday 12th February 2027

Monday 7th June 2027

Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th July 2027 are inset days

Autumn weather and Little Explorer sessions

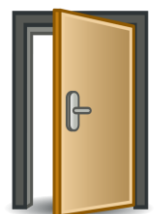
Please remember to send your child with appropriate clothing and footwear for all weather eventualities. One minute it is sunny and we are in shorts the next minute its cold and raining. Please pack a coat and appropriate footwear and put a jumper and trousers in your children's bags along with socks and pants just in case we need them. We are planning outings and sometimes spontaneous trips around the village, so we need to be prepared.

Drop off and collection

Please remember to collect your children for either 12 noon or 3pm, whatever is the end of their session. Early collection is always possible, just let us know when you drop off who is collecting and what time your child will be collected. We appreciate that on rare occasions you may be late due to emergencies or traffic, but please ensure you phone us to let us know. Staff have their own children to collect, and we need two staff to remain on site with your child if you are late, late charges may be applied.

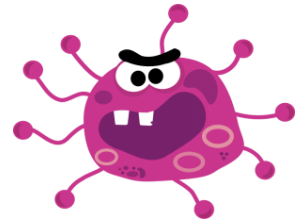
Open Door sessions

We are starting up our open-door sessions so you can stay and play for an hour, see your children in our setting. There is no need to book just come along on the selected dates – see our Diary Dates.



Illness

It is that time of year when the children return to Pre-School and school that the illnesses start going round. Please remember if your child has sickness and loose stools, they need to stay away until they have been clear for 48 hours since the last episode. If your child has a temperature, is unwell or has any contagious illness they must remain home. Please call us for advice if you are unsure whether to keep them off. Remember to call or email if they are absent so we can record the reason.



Sports with Jack & Becky Bops

New dates will be confirmed soon.

Managers Mingle

Each month I will be holding Managers Mingle to allow you to come and get to know me. It's an opportunity to discuss anything like changes to sessions/increase funding or seeking advice or just a coffee and cake.

The dates are:

Friday 25th Sept 10-11

Monday 12th Oct 2-3

Wednesday 5th November 10-11

Thursday 10th December 2-3



Halloween party

We are looking to have a Halloween party for the village again this year and was wondering if anyone would like



to sponsor the event. This would help us cover the cost of the hall hire, food and prizes

This is a fundraising event for a new kitchen and outdoor shelter. It is open to the whole village, we aim to raise a good chunk of what we need for our projects. Do you have a company that can donate anything for the cost of food/ decorations and prizes for our event? We are also looking for Halloween related items for a Halloween hamper such as sweets, candles, mugs, etc.

Dates for your diary

Monday 21st September - open door 9-10

Friday 25th September managers mingle coffee and cake 10.30-11.30

Tuesday 29th September open door 9-10

Wednesday 7th October open door 9-10

Thursday 15th October open door 9-10

Monday 12th October managers mingle 10-11

October half term closed 19th October - 30th October

Wednesday 28th October Halloween party 11am till 3pm

Monday 2nd November children return

Wednesday 25th November 10-11 managers mingle

Friday 18th December is our last day at Pre-School

We reopen Monday 4th Jan 2027

Monday 26th July- 2027 Graduation Party (school leavers only)



Attendance

If your child is absent, we need you to call or email to let us know why, even if it's a holiday, a day off or illness just let us know. Email SHickling@Farnsfieldpschool.onmicrosoft.com or farnsfieldpreschool@btinternet.com

Session changes or extras

Any changes to sessions, extra days or increases to sessions can be communicated via email to Sarah or to Tammi on the above emails. This ensures we can correct our registers, amend booking patterns and check staff ratios.

Tapestry

Please download and activate your Tapestry account, add a profile photo, and set a password. Please also check that your contact details and authorised collection arrangements match the information on your registration forms.

Sponsors and donations



We have some money raised for some of our projects but also require help/ funds towards some new /second hand kitchen carcasses and worktop and outdoor shelter. Can anyone spare their skills / time or contribute to the costs ? let us know if you can help. Your business can offset the cost of sponsorship against your advertising budget. We always add companies who have sponsored us to our website and social media to help with PR and advertising.

Join our committee

Help shape the future of our pre-school, share your skills and experiences to develop and move our setting forward. Join our committee to keep our setting open and viable for the local children. Even if you are a grandparent that can donate a bit of time each month to help our village Pre-School. We understand it's a lengthy process to join but once all the forms and paperwork are processed that is it and you can help shape the future of our Pre-School.



Sustainability

You may remember in January I shared our sustainability policy. As a setting remaining environmentally sustainable is something we are passionate about. We want to educate our children to care for the world around them. We already do lots with the children; compost our fruit/ vegetable peelings, re-use where we can, encourage pre- loved uniform, growing food to eat for snacks, little explorer sessions where we talk about the world around us. We also recycle all our soft plastics, although currently this is a job that often falls to the pre-school ladies. There will be lots of activities, books and conversations around recycling. Why not use the opportunity to do more at home. Clean, soft plastics such as crisp packets, bread wrappers, tube yogurt packaging etc.

Consumables Charge

You may have seen a lot in the press around additional charges settings are invoicing parents for. It is no secret that funds are extremely tight in early years settings. As helpful as additional funding is to parents, the funding settings receive does not stretch very far in a sector with very high overheads. Having said that, we have always remained open and honest about the consumables charge we have. Currently, on funded sessions we have a 75p consumables charge. This covers the 'above and beyond' of delivering the EYFS, such as snacks, sessions with Becky and Jack, extra staffing to enable Little Explorer sessions, events such as Christmas parties and graduation celebrations and printing photos for the children's books. No profit is made from the consumables charge. You may remember your contracts; we give you the choice to opt in/ opt out of the consumables charge. Those who opt- in are given a half- termly invoice. Prompt payment of this invoice really helps us to remain financially sustainable. If you find your personal circumstances have changed and are struggling to pay, please come and speak with us.

Food and Drink

As you know we have strict guidelines from the Department for Education around what food we can offer children in setting. These are reflected in policies and snack menus. We are a nut free setting- please remember this when packing lunch. Last term we had a lot of nut butters, nutty chocolate and whole-nuts in the lunch boxes. Can I also remind you water is encouraged in bottles. I have checked in with all local schools and water in bottles is the expectation, so starting healthy habits now will help with the transition to school. As with everything, reasonable adjustments can be made for children who have difficulties around food/ neurodiverse needs.

A few changes:

Dogs

Due to the changing of the Early Year's Foundation Stage, we have now decided it's best not to allow dogs on our premises accept assistance/ guide dogs. This is due to banned breeds in the EYFS and we feel it better to just ban all breeds. However, if there is any occasion where you do have a dog, please remain off the premises and call the setting and a member of staff will bring your child to you.

Sleeping

Safer sleeping is a priority for us and any children that fall asleep or require one will be placed on a sleep mat with staff in the room and checked every ten minutes. We will use cellular blankets and remove soft toys, excess clothing, dummy straps and ensure no child sleeps in a pushchair.

Safer eating

Children will be closely supported and supervised by first aid trained staff as we always have. Staff are sat with the children during the whole time they are eating.

Keeping children safe online

There is a huge focus on educating children and supporting parents to keep children safe online. Remember you can use parental controls and filters from your internet provider, tablets and phones too.

Top tips for talking to children about staying safe online

1. Start with the positives

Being online can be a great way for children to learn, be creative, and stay connected with friends and family. Recognising these benefits helps keep conversations balanced and encourages confident, safe use of technology.

2. Find the right time and place

Choose a calm moment to talk, such as during a walk, car journey, or shared activity. Avoid starting the conversation when emotions are high or during a disagreement.

3. Use child-facing resources and advice

Support your conversation with age-appropriate tools, videos, or guides. These can help children understand key messages and make the discussion more engaging and relevant to their stage of development.

4. Ask about their experiences

Use open questions like:

‘Have you seen anything online that made you uncomfortable?’

‘Who do you chat with online?’

‘Are they people you know offline?’

‘How do you feel when using certain apps or games?’

5. Make it part of everyday life

These chats don’t need to be formal or one-off. Regular, relaxed conversations help children feel supported and more likely to speak up if something worries them.

Use age-appropriate tools like **Talk PANTS**, **Techosaurus**, or **LEGO’s Build & Talk activities** to make online safety engaging and easy to understand. Keep language clear, avoid jargon, and reassure children they can talk to you about anything.

Help them build healthy habits from a young age, such as thinking before sharing, asking for help when unsure, and taking breaks from screens. If something has gone wrong, stay calm and focus on support, not blame. This helps children feel safe coming to you, no matter what’s happened.

Birthday cakes and celebrations

At Farnsfield Pre-school we recognise the cultural and personal importance of celebrating birthdays. Unless parents specify during registration we will celebrate all children’s birthdays. Suggestions in the Early Years food and nutrition guidance 2025, of non-food items for celebrations such as stickers/ bubbles or fruit platters welcome. Parents who wish to send a cake can do, we will happily sing and blow out candles with your child, then send a piece of cake home with the other children. Unfortunately, homemade goods cannot be shared with other children.

Lunchboxes/ snacks

As Farnsfield Pre-School do not provide cook meals all children who attend either a full day will need to bring a lunchbox. To meet statutory requirements, we as providers are not only expected to provide healthy well-balances snacks, but to also encourage parents to follow healthy eating guidelines when sending a packed lunch. Eating a healthy well- balanced diet is beneficial to both physical and oral health as well as supports the cognitive development and brain function of your child. Please include a cold pack /freezer block to keep the lunch cool. We ask families to support us by ensuring your child has a balanced packed lunch.

- NO NUTS, POPCORN OR MARSHMELLOWS
- NO FIZZY DRINKS, (milk/ water is preferable)
- NO SWEETS INCLUDING ‘FRUIT ROLLS’
- GRAPES/ PLUM TOMATOES/ SAUSAGES /OLIVES TO BE CHOPPED TO AVOID THE RISK OF CHOKING
- ALL LUNCHBOXES MUST CONTAIN AN ICE PACK, I YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE PLEASE LET A MEMBER OF STAFF KNOW
- WE CANNOT RE-HEAT FOOD, HOWEVER YOU ARE WELCOME TO USE THE FLASKS THAT KEEP FOOD WARM AND WE CAN DE-CANT TO A BOWL/PLATE

The 'Eatwell guide' has lots of great healthy packed lunch ideas. It can be very tempting to send lots of options; in our experience this simply overwhelms the children. One carb item, piece of fruit/ veg and a dairy option is plenty. Getting the children involved in packing their lunchbox is not only fun for them but will often help them to make the better choices. These healthy eating expectations are the same throughout education so fostering the good habits early on will be beneficial to both you and your children's future routines. If you are struggling with what to pack, please speak with a member of staff.

Pushchairs and Bikes

Please remember if it is necessary to leave a bike or a pushchair at Pre-School, please fold them up and place them in the shed. We have limited storage and often need to access equipment in the shed, so if possible, take them home.

Toys from Home

The going home box is proving to be a great success. The children are doing fantastic at putting their comfort toys in the box, ready for home time. Not constantly carrying a comforter allows the children to have both hands free for playing. It also means they are more open for interaction and communication with their peers. The handy thing with the box means the children know the comforters are available for times they really need them for regulating. We do have a few clever clogs who have learnt to work the system and are bringing lots of small toys from home and putting them in the box. However, throughout the day others are seeing these very exciting toys and they are going walkies! I do really need to insist unless it is a comforter, please do not allow your child to bring toys from home. Once at school even comfort toys are not usually allowed, please support us to ease your child into this transition.



Label those belongings!

I can't stress enough to label your child's belongings. Hats, coats, all clothing, bags- everything! The pre-school ladies are pretty good when it comes to the 'sniff test', but some things we simply cannot match up. Every half term we are left with a pile of belongings that no one claims!

Funding and Funded Hours

We wanted to remind you to apply for any 2-year funded hours and 30 hours funding by 31st December for the Spring term and email your funding codes. Please remember if you haven't applied and you are eligible you may not be able to claim your free or additional hours in the Autumn. If you already claim funding, please log on and check your funding codes, confirm if you are in your grace period ready for the next term.

It is important to consider accessing your full funded hours or increasing sessions if your child is due to go to school sept 2027, this allows us to prepare them for this big step.

Please remember if you do not need all the funded hours, we can sometimes claim the extras for any ad-hoc sessions you have. To confirm or apply for funding please click the link below.

[15 and 30 hours support - Best Start in Life](#)



Planning ahead - if you have a younger child that would like a place please email so we can add them to our waiting list to ensure we have a space for them.

Again, please continue to recommend us to anyone who may be wanting to access funded or paid sessions. We often promote our setting on social media. Please take a few seconds to share our posts if you see them, every little helps.

Pre-School and Baby and Toddler group

As we are in a small village it is vital to keep filling spaces in Pre-School and to attract new families to the Baby and Toddler group on a Friday. If you see any of our posts about the Pre-School on social media, please share them on your feed or with friends. Recommend us to your family and friends - we have so many families come after recommendations from friends. We feel the community needs our facilities, and the families and children benefit so much from them.

Autumn Term Snack Menu 2026

Milk and water are offered to drink at all snack times. All children are offered snack but it's their choice to eat it or not. If children do not want snack, they are encouraged to at least have a drink.

WEEK 1 (WK/B Aug 31^s, 28th Sept, 26th Oct, 2nd Nov, 30th Nov)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Crackers and cheese spread Gluten Milk	Fruit Bowl
Tuesday	Fruit Bowl	Rice Cakes and strawberries Gluten
Wednesday	Fruit Toast Gluten	Fruit bowl
Thursday	Fruit Bowl	Breadsticks and dip Gluten Milk
Friday	Malted wheat Cereal * Gluten	Fruit Bowl

WEEK 2 (WK/B 7th Sept, 5th Oct, 9th Nov, 7th Dec,

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Fruit Bowl	Peppers and cheese cubes Milk
Tuesday	Crumpets Gluten	Fruit Bowl
Wednesday	Fruit Bowl	Oat cakes and grapes
Thursday	Greek yogurt and blueberries Milk	Fruit Bowl
Friday	Fruit Bowl	Baby corn, cucumber and dip Milk

WEEK 3(WK/B 14th Sept, 12th Oct, 16th Nov, 14th Dec)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Crackers and cheese spread Gluten Milk	Fruit Bowl
Tuesday	Fruit Bowl	Rice Cakes and strawberries Gluten
Wednesday	Fruit Toast Gluten	Fruit bowl
Thursday	Fruit Bowl	Breadsticks and dip Gluten Milk
Friday	Malted wheat Cereal * Gluten	Fruit Bowl

WEEK 4, (WK/B 21st Sept, 19th Oct, 23rd Nov)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Fruit Bowl	Peppers and cheese cubes Milk
Tuesday	Crumpets Gluten	Fruit Bowl
Wednesday	Fruit Bowl	Oat cakes and grapes
Thursday	Greek yogurt and blueberries Milk	Fruit Bowl
Friday	Fruit Bowl	Baby corn, cucumber and dip Milk

*Cereal offered will likely be supermarket own brand, children will be offered the choice of milk/ dry cereal

Fruit bowl- Children will be offered a choice of apple, pear, banana, satsuma, plums, Grape, melon, pineapple
Where possible allergen free alternatives will be offered as close match as possible, dairy free spread is always used instead of butter.

Considerations will be taken into account for children who may have sensory issues around food.

If any of you need uniform t-shirts or jumpers for your children, we have new and some preloved ones available. Thank you for your continued support.