



End of Summer Term Newsletter 2026

Message from the Manager:

I would like to thank you all for making me feel welcome in my first few weeks and I have enjoyed getting to know all the children, staff and parents/carers. I will be your first point of contact and communications can go through the Farnsfield Pre-School email or my work email SHickling@FarnsfieldPschool.onmicrosoft.com. We wish all our school leavers the very best for their next adventure at big school. We will really miss you all. For those who are returning next term, here is some information (and a few reminders) for the next new term in September.

Inset days and term dates

We have these scheduled inset dates for the following academic year

2nd September - inset day

We are back open on Thursday 3rd September

27th and 28th July 2027 - inset days

Sports with Jack and Becky Bops

We are hoping to book more sessions in the autumn term. Dates to be confirmed.

Managers mingle

Each month I will be holding 'managers mingle' to allow you to come and get to know me, discuss anything like changes to sessions/funding or seeking advice. Dates will be advertised, but my door is always open if you have any queries.



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, so anything we make on the night is profit for new resources. This was sponsored last year by EFM Plastering & Building. Do you know if your company can sponsor us, or family and friends' companies? They can offset the cost by using this against their advertising budget.

Staffing

At the end of the summer term, we will be saying goodbye to Amelia. She's not going far as she will be working in St Michael's School with SEND children. We wish her all the best and want to congratulate her in securing her new role.



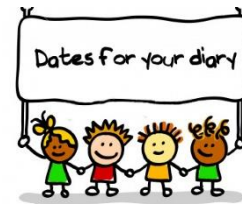
Dates for your diary

2nd Sept - Inset day

3rd September – Children return for the start of Autumn term.

25th September - Managers Mingle coffee and cake 10.30-11.30

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



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 units and worktop. We know we have some skilled parents who work in various sectors that may be able to help with fitting a kitchen or donating money or discounted units. If you can help, please come and see me. If you know of any businesses who could sponsor this or help with reduced costs we would also love to hear from you.

Join our Committee/Trustees



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. Please email us for more information.

Sustainability

You may remember in January we 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 and recycle 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 can all be recycled.

Consumables Charge

You may have seen a lot in the press around additional charges settings are invoicing parents for. We keep it no secret that funds are extremely tight in the Early Years Sector nationally. As helpful as additional funding is to parents, the funding that 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 consumable 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.

Below is an extract from our Food and Nutrition policy. (Full Policy can be found on our website). Oral Hygiene is highlighted as a focus by the government along with and obesity in children. At Pre-School we promote good oral hygiene and healthy food choices.

The NHS provides guidance on how to promote good oral health, including the following key messages:

Brush teeth twice a day for two minutes. Use the correct dose of fluoride toothpaste for age.

Spit, don't rinse with water to leave the fluoride coating the teeth.

Stop using a dummy and bottle when the child is one year old.

Visit the dentist regularly for check-ups.

These practices are part of the NHS's efforts to reduce health inequalities and ensure that children have healthy teeth and gums. The NHS also encourages parents and carers to model good toothbrushing and to cut down on 'free sugars' and sugary drinks

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 are welcome. Parents who wish to send a cake can do, and 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 and snacks

As Farnsfield Pre-School cannot provide cooked meals, all children who attend either a full day or an afternoon session will need to bring a lunchbox. To meet statutory requirements, we as providers are not only expected to provide healthy well-balanced 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 supporting the cognitive development and brain function of your child.

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 IN HOT WEATHER. IF 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 IF REQUIRED



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.

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 you 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.

Pushchairs, Bikes and scooters

Please remember, if it is necessary to leave a bike, scooter or 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 put 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! We also have to spend a long time every day trying to figure out which water bottle belongs to which child, especially at lunch time and the end of the day.



Funding and Funded Hours

We wanted to remind you to apply for any 2-year funded hours and 30 hours funding **before** 31st August for the Autumn term and email us any new funding codes along with your NI number and date of birth. Please remember if you haven't applied and you are eligible; you may not be able to claim your free or additional hours in September if you don't apply before the end of August. If you already claim funding, please log on and check your funding codes, re-confirm your details and, if you are in your grace period, you may need to confirm your current work situation, 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 in Sept 2027. This allows us to prepare them for this big step.



Please remember if you do not need all the funded hours, but often find yourself booking extra sessions, it is better to book the extras you think you will need as we can then claim them, rather than invoice extra ad-hoc bookings. By each half-term, we can also claim extra sessions attended before the funding claim task is finalised. For instance, if you only use 12 hours you can claim 15 hours per week if your child will attend an extra session regularly. If you then decide to keep them at

home, it is not a problem. To check if you are eligible to apply for any funding or for more information, please visit: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk>

Planning ahead

if you have a younger child that would eventually like a place when or after they turn 2 years old, please email so we can add them to our waiting list to ensure we have a space for them. It also helps plan if we have a rough guide of child numbers.

Babies & Toddlers

As we are in a small village, it is vital to keep filling spaces in Pre-School and to attract new families to our Babies & Toddlers group on a Friday. If you see any of our posts about Pre-School or Babies & Toddlers on social media, please share them on your feed or with friends. Recommend us to your family and friends too as 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 1st Aug 31st, 28th Sept, 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, 2nd Nov, 30th 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 or dry cereal*

Fruit bowl- Children will be offered a choice of apple, pear, banana, satsuma, plums, grapes, 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.

Final points

If any of you need uniform - polo shirts or jumpers for your children, we have new and some pre-loved ones available. Just ask a member of staff for details.

Last day of this term is Thursday 23rd July. Graduation Day for school leavers only is Friday 24th July at 11.00am prompt.

Please remember that my door is always open for you to drop in and talk to me.

I would like to thank all the staff team and our Board of Trustees for all their hard work and commitment.



Finally, we would like to wish you all a lovely, safe summer break however you plan to spend it. We look forward to hearing about your child's adventures and sharing memories of their summer next term. As always, the team and I would like to thank you for your continued support.

