



Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

Newsletter

Spring Term

9th January 2026

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Courage

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families enjoyed a happy and restful Christmas break. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. It has been a pleasure welcoming the children back to school this week. They have returned with smiles and enthusiasm which is wonderful to see. We are very much looking forward to an exciting term ahead, filled with learning, creativity and opportunities for the children.

As we return to school during the winter months, we are mindful that the weather has turned much colder. Please ensure that children come to school dressed warmly, with coats, hats and gloves which are clearly labelled. On particularly cold days, we will continue to assess outdoor playtimes carefully, but fresh air and exercise remain important whenever it is safe to do so.

As we start the new term, I would be grateful if you could note the following important reminders:

- **Absence:** if your child is absent, please contact **the school office** by **9 am** every day of absence by calling 01279 777344 or sending an email to admin@furneux.herts.sch.uk. It is important to note that it must be **the office** who are notified, not their class teacher. We are currently seeing incredibly higher absence rates than usual, so please so send your child in when possible and we can keep an eye on them during the school day unless they have had sickness or diarrhoea, in which case the 48-hour rule applies. Good attendance is 95% or above. 90% attendance does not sound low — but over a school year it adds up. It means roughly 19 days of school missed, which is almost four whole weeks of learning time lost. Missing these days is the same as being absent about 1 day every 2 weeks across the year. In terms of lessons, a pupil with 90% attendance has missed around 114 lessons in one year.
- **Clothing:** A gentle plea from our office regarding the challenge of lost property. Any items that are clearly named are returned to pupils; however, most lost property is unfortunately unnamed. By way of example, we currently have a full black bin of unnamed school clothing. Please do ensure that all clothing, bags and equipment are clearly labelled, (written with a Sharpie or pen on the label works) as this makes a significant difference and helps pupils take responsibility for their possessions.
- **Uniform:** We are seeing a range of items and clothing being worn in school that are not part of our uniform policy. Wearing a tidy, correct uniform plays an important role in school life and supports our pupils in many positive ways such as reinforcing high expectations. Just as we encourage children to take pride in their work and behaviour, we also encourage them to take pride in how they present themselves. This supports good routines, responsibility and independence from an early age. Our policy states:
 - Grey tailored trousers, shorts, culottes, skirt or pinafore, a white shirt and navy tie, or white revere blouse (no tie necessary for blouse) a jumper or cardigan with school badge.
 - Jewellery is limited to one wristwatch (not a smart watch), small objects of religious significance, and small, plain stud earrings, which must be removed for PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Please note: teachers are not permitted to remove earrings. If a child is wearing more jewellery, they will be asked to remove it, and it will be returned at the end of the school day.
 - All hair accessories should be plain and in Furneux Pelham school colours – either blue or white. Hairbands should not have objects attached to them. Make-up, nail varnish and temporary tattoos should not be worn in school.

Thank you for your continued support with this. Wishing you a lovely weekend,
Sarah Cook

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance – 98.05%
Whole School Target Set – 96%

Please contact school every day of any absence. This can be done by calling **01279 777344** and leaving a message on the absence line.

If you are going to be late, please also advise the school office before 9.00am to ensure a meal is ordered in time.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Kingfisher
Logan

Nightingale
Ruby

Skylark
Abigail



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS – returning next week

Woodpecker

Nightingale

Kingfisher

Robin

Skylark

READING AWARDS – returning next week

Woodpecker

Nightingale

Kingfisher

Robin

Skylark

MENU w/c 12 th January 2026		DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES	
Day	Menu		
Monday	Quorn Hotdog (v) Red Margherita Wrap (v) Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) Blue	Wednesday 7th January	Term starts for pupils
		Thursday 22nd January	FPSA Disco
		Tuesday 24th February	Skylark O2 Young Voices
		Mon 16th – Fri 20th Feb	Half Term
Tuesday	Pork Sausages & Gravy Red Roasted Butternut Squash Curry (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Grated Cheese (v) Blue	Wednesday 4th March	Bags2 School Collection
		Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
		Thursday 26th March	FPSA Easter Disco
		Friday 27th March	End of Term
		Monday 13th April	INSET DAY
		Tuesday 14th April	Term starts for pupils
Wednesday	Roast Beef & Gravy Red Roast Quorn Fillet (Ve) with Stuffing & Gravy Green Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) Blue	Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
		Mon 25th – Fri 29th May	Half Term
		Wednesday 3rd June	Bags2 School Collection
		Tuesday 7th July	KS2 Faith Tour
		Tuesday 21st July	Leavers Service 2pm Church
		Monday 20st July	FPSA Summer Disco
Thursday	Chicken Curry Red Bean & Vegetable Grill (Ve) Green Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo Blue	Wednesday 22nd July	END of TERM
		Thursday 23rd July	INSET DAY
Friday	Fish Fillet Fingers Red Margherita Pizza (v) Green Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (v) Blue		

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50% of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together.

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for 'HELP' and dial 999 or 112 if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to 'KEEP STILL' and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

St  Wise