



Farncombe Church of England Infant School

'Let all you do be done in love'

1 Corinthians 14:16

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 5th February

Year 2 Dance Workshop in school hall

Thursday 6th February

Year 2 music concert @ Charterhouse

Monday 10th February

Farncombe Friends School Disco in school hall (15:15 – 16:30)

Thursday 13th February

Year 1 Drama workshop in school hall

Monday 17th - Friday 21st February

Half term – school closed

Friday 28th February

'The Deep Sea Adventure' Drama workshops in school - all years

Friday 7th March

INSET Day – school closed

Friday 21st March

Red Nose Day/Comic Relief

Wednesday 26th March

Year R Mill Cottage Farm visit in school

Thursday 27th March

Parents' Evening 15:30 – 18:00*

Monday 31st March

Parents' Evening 15:30 – 18:00*

Wednesday 2nd April

Easter services @ St. John's 9:30 & 10:30

Friday 4th April

Easter Hat Parade – 13:00 on playground*
End of term 13:30

*Parents/carers invited – more information to follow via ParentMail.

Phonics for all

Of all the many and varied things that happen across the course of the day in school, few things have more life-long impact than the skills our children develop when they are learning to read. There is a wealth of educational research that supports this; reading is the key that opens up the rest of the school curriculum – not just in infant school but as they continue on to juniors and then into their secondary careers.



At Farncombe, we follow a systematic synthetic phonics teaching programme where children are taught individual sounds in a specific order to help them learn how to break words down - sometimes known as segmenting. Teachers then demonstrate how to take these individual sounds - called phonemes - and then put them back together through the process of blending. A word such as 'think' is broken down into th – i – nk before being reassembled.

As a complex language and often irregular language, English does not always follow a phonetic pattern and therefore we have to teach children words in which they cannot use their sounds to break down – tricky words. The combination of phonics skills and knowledge of tricky words coupled with books that match the sounds and words children know, enable them to read with increasing accuracy and fluency. The result of this comprehensive approach towards phonics and early reading is that our children become confident and competent readers who have the skills required to access the breadth and depth of the curriculum – both now and in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank to all those involved in helping the children at Farncombe develop their reading skills: our wonderful team of teachers; our caring and committed teaching assistants; a fantastically supportive administrative team; the many volunteers who selflessly give up their time to hear readers; a growing team of voluntary librarians and, of course, the support given from parents, carers and family members at home.

Mr Joe Bibby – Head of School

Reading for pleasure

Whilst it is clear that learning the technical skills required to read is very important, it is also absolutely essential that we give our children the chance to develop a love of reading. As a school, we are very fortunate to have an extensive library which the children visit regularly to collect and borrow books. High quality literature and books are used in class and stories are read to the children on a daily basis. It is also really important that children continue to read with and be read to by adults so that they can develop a love of stories and an affection for the written word. At Farncombe, we love to read and it is our aim to inspire all our children to become fans of fantastic literature.



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