



Little Miller's News



The Newsletter of **Fulwell Infant School Academy**
Mrs. Angus's message...

Number 1
October 2026

Settling In and Shining, Our School Journey Begins



Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of our first half term! It has been a very busy but lovely start to the school year, and the children have settled so well.

There has already been so much happening across school. Reception and Year 1 have enjoyed their Forest School sessions, we have celebrated our Harvest Festival together, children have taken part in tennis coaching and Year 2 had a fantastic visit from Zoolab.

Our after-school clubs have also started, giving the children even more opportunities to try something new and have fun.

This newsletter gives you just a flavour of some of the lovely learning and experiences that have taken place.

I hope all of our children and families have a happy and restful half-term break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back for another busy half term.
Best wishes

Wendy Angus

Wendy Angus
Headteacher



ELECTING OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL

We had our school council elections early in September. Candidates prepared their manifesto, spoke to their class mates before we all voted. Elections were very close as every candidate did well!

Rights Respecting

Article 15: right to join or set up groups and take part in meetings or school councils

Article 12: the right to express their views in all matters affecting the



GREAT NORTH RUN CHAMPIONS

We celebrated our Great North Run champions in assembly. They proudly wore their medals:

Rights Respecting

Article 31: the right to rest, play, and engage in age-appropriate recreational activities



MAXIMISING THE USE OF OUR OUTDOOR SPACES

We are very lucky at Fulwell Infants to have such wonderful outdoor spaces, and we are on a mission to make even more use of them throughout the year! (Parent view responses July 2026)

Forest School afternoon sessions are now in place for our Reception and Year 1 classes, giving the children lots of opportunities to explore, learn and enjoy the outdoors. Our meadow is also open at playtimes, providing another lovely space for children to explore and play.

So, if your child comes home a little muddy or dirty - you know why. It's all part of the fun!

Rights Respecting

Article 31: Right to relax, play and take part in cultural and creative activities



FOREST SCHOOL FUN!

We are delighted that our Forest School sessions are now taking place each week for Reception and Year 1 children. These afternoon sessions give children wonderful opportunities to explore the outdoors, develop new skills, build confidence and enjoy learning in our lovely school grounds.

Our after-school Forest School Club has also been a great success, with children enjoying a range of exciting outdoor activities, including toasting marshmallows around the fire!

Safety is always our first priority, and all activities are carefully planned, risk assessed and supervised to ensure children can enjoy these experiences safely.

Rights Respecting

Article 24: Right to be healthy and to learn how to stay safe.



Nursery News



A Wonderful Start!

What a lovely first half term our Nursery children have had! They have settled in so well, made new friends and enjoyed lots of exciting experiences, both indoors and outdoors.

The children have absolutely LOVED Tiny Tweeties, joining in enthusiastically with the music, singing and movement. They have explored pumpkins through drawing and painting, enjoyed mark-making activities indoors and outdoors, and had great fun turning their garden area into a zoo, hunting for animals!

It has been a fun-filled half term with lots of smiles, laughter and learning. We are so proud of how well our youngest children have settled into life at Fulwell!

Rights Respecting

Article 28 Right to an education



Rights Respecting Team



Rights Respecting
Article 12: Right to express their views



Rights Respecting School: Putting Children's Voices at the Heart of Our Community

This half term, our children have been deeply engaged in our Rights Respecting School work, exploring what it means to learn, play and grow in a community where everyone's rights are understood and respected. Across the school, pupils have been discussing key articles from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and linking them to everyday experiences — from feeling safe in school to having a voice in decisions that affect them.

Classes have charters that set out how children and adults will work together to uphold these rights. Pupils have shown impressive maturity in recognising that rights come with responsibilities, and that kindness, fairness and inclusion are essential to making our school a place where everyone can thrive. We are proud of the thoughtful conversations taking place and the way children are beginning to use rights-based language confidently and naturally. This work is strengthening our culture of respect and helping every child feel valued, heard and supported.

Tennis coaching



As the photos reveal we had tennis coaching from Puma tennis last week. Our sincere thanks to Graeme Fowler and his team—we really enjoyed it!

Rights Respecting
Article 31: Right to play, rest and leisure.



Children need at least 60 minutes of active movement every day, and adults need 150 minutes of activity each week to stay healthy and feel their best. Regular movement helps children develop strength, coordination and balance, while also supporting concentration, confidence and resilience in the classroom. In school, children are encouraged to be active through P.E. lessons, outdoor learning, playtimes/lunchtimes and our Forest School activities. We also value opportunities for families to be active together outside of school. Walking, scooting, dancing, climbing, playing outdoors, or exploring local spaces such as Roker Park are all excellent ways to stay active and have fun together as a family. Why not take part in a park run? These free, weekly community events are a fun and inclusive way for adults and children to run, jog, walk or volunteer with their families, helping to build healthy habits and a love of being active.

Roker Park Junior parkrun takes place every Sunday at 9:00am at Roker Park. It is a free, timed 2km event for children aged 4 to 14 years.

Fulwell Quarry parkrun is held every Saturday at 9:00am. It is a free 5km parkrun for all ages and abilities, where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer, or spectate.

Rights Respecting

Article 24: Right to stay healthy

Article 31: Right to play, rest and leisure



Movement Matters



The Daily Mile

The Daily Mile is a national initiative that encourages children to spend 15 minutes each day walking, jogging or running outdoors. The focus is on participation rather than competition, allowing every child to be active at their own pace.

As a long-term investment in our children's health and wellbeing, we are hoping to create an all weather Daily Mile Running Track on our school field. This would provide children with regular opportunities to be active throughout the school day, helping to improve fitness, wellbeing, concentration and overall health.

As you can imagine, this is a significant investment, and our School Council are already busy thinking of ways to help raise funds towards the project. We would also be incredibly grateful for any support from our school community. If you are a parent or have connections with a local company involved in groundworks, landscaping, construction, surfacing, playground development or related trades, we would love to hear from you. Whether you could offer materials, expertise, equipment, labour, sponsorship, or advice, your support could make a real difference in helping us bring this exciting project to life. If you feel you may be able to help in any way, please contact the school office.

By encouraging movement and active lifestyles from an early age, we can help our children grow into happy, healthy and confident individuals who understand the importance of looking after both their physical and mental wellbeing. So, let's keep moving, keep smiling, and make physical activity a natural part of everyday life for the whole family!

Rights Respecting

Article 31: Right to play, rest and leisure

Growing Together at Fulwell!

We were delighted to welcome Helen from Just Let Your Soul Grow, a wonderful, award-winning community garden and social enterprise based on Thompson Road in Southwick, just a stone's throw from our school!

Working in partnership with OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists), they are passionate about helping communities connect with nature, learn about sustainability and care for their environment.

Our Reception children enjoyed planting peas, while our Nursery children rolled up their sleeves to weed and prepare their garden for future planting.

Linking their learning to the story *The Scarecrow That Didn't Scare*, our Nursery children also created their very own scarecrow, Fulwell Freddie! The children learned how to use gardening tools safely and discovered how to care for their growing environment.

A huge thank you to everyone involved for giving our children such valuable hands-on experiences.

Rights Respecting

Article 29: Right to respect the natural world.



Year 2 enjoyed a visit from Zoolab in Hagrid's Hut, where each class had the opportunity to observe a range of animals and handle them if they wished. The sessions focused on habitats, bringing this term's science learning to life.

Rights Respecting

Article 29: Right to respect the natural world.

Zoolab visit Year 2



Dear Parents and Carers, Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal

This Christmas, we are delighted to be taking part in the Salvation Army's Christmas Toy Appeal to help support children and families in our local community who may need a little extra help this Christmas.

We feel that Christmas is a wonderful time to teach our children about kindness, generosity and the importance of helping others in our community. By taking part in this appeal, we hope to encourage the children to think about others and understand how even a small act of kindness can make a big difference. 🌟

The Salvation Army kindly asks for donations of **new toys** that are still in their original packaging, rather than pre-loved toys from home. They also ask that all donations are **left unwrapped**, as this allows their team to sort the presents appropriately before wrapping them ready for distribution. 📦

Toys of **all sizes** are welcome, and donations suitable for any child are greatly appreciated. **Every donation, no matter how small or large, will make a difference** and help bring a little extra Christmas magic to a child in our community. 🌟



Our collection dates will be **Monday 9th November to Friday 20th November**. Any donations can be brought into school during this time.

Taking part is **completely voluntary**, and there is absolutely no pressure to donate. We understand that every family has different circumstances, and we are grateful for your support in any way you can.

Thank you for helping us to spread a little extra joy this Christmas and for supporting us in teaching the children the value of compassion, sharing and looking after others in our community. 🌟



Help us spread Christmas joy!

Our Rights Respecting Team met with David from the Salvation Army to find out how we can help other children this Christmas. They all volunteered to donate their own toys which was a lovely gesture. Discussions continued and it was agreed that we would look for a single 'new' toy to be donated by as many families as possible (see the poster for dates). David is meeting the team again when we have finished the project. They are asking everyone to

Please support their Christmas Toy Appeal—see the poster below!

Rights Respecting Team Meeting



Thank you to all families so far who have looked after Riley and made him very welcome in their homes... We have lots of lovely photos that have promoted rights discussions in classrooms. We really appreciate your support with this. Riley will be visiting more families next half term and is hoping to be able to share 'Christmas holidays' with families!



Our School Council met this week and agreed three priorities:

- **Fundraising through art** - Phoebe and Hallie
- **An Inventions Day** - Arkley
- **Tackling parking problems** - Katie, Matilda and Jack

The children suggested another popular '**Break the Rules Day**' next term to raise funds. They were also excited about the possibility of a running track on the school field. Although the cost is likely to be a significant challenge, one of our governors has already offered some helpful starting points. We would welcome any ideas or support from families to help explore this possibility.

To encourage safer parking around school, the children will design signs for our railings, reminding drivers to park safely and considerately.

Rights Respecting
Article 12 - Respect for children's views



School council in Action

Early Years Artists at work

This week's Art and Design and Technology review was a wonderful celebration of our children's creativity, enthusiasm and growing confidence. From imaginative creations in Nursery and autumn-inspired artwork in Reception to exploring natural materials in Year 1 and developing design skills in Year 2, children showed real enjoyment and pride in their learning. We were particularly impressed by how well they remembered previous learning, explained their ideas and talked about their choices as young artists and designers.



Diary Dates Autumn 2

DATE	ACTIVITY
2.11.26	Return to school
9.11.26	1.30-5.30pm RECEPTION parent interviews in school hall (with books). 5 min appointments
10.11.26	1.30-5.30pm YEAR 1 parent interviews in school hall (with books). 5 min appointments
11.11.26	1.30-5.30pm YEAR 2 parent interviews in school hall (with books). 5 min appointments
13.11.26	Children in Need (no donations)
16.11.26	Anti-bullying week activities "Break the Silence" Odd socks day (no donations)
23.11.26	NURSERY parents as partners week (details to follow)
30.11.26	Book fayre (music room) Monday -Friday (4/12/2026) after school.
3.12.26	Y2 filming (AM) NURSERY (PM, Late Greens and PURPLES A-M)
4.12.26	Reception filming (AM) Y1 filming PM
7.12.26	Xmas filming NURSERY (AM, Early Reds and PURPLES N-Z) 2.30pm RECEPTION CLASSES performance 1 (class 7 and class 8 A-M)
8.12.26	9.30pm RECEPTION CLASSES performance 2 (class 9 and class 8 N-Z) 2.30pm YEAR 1 CLASSES performance 1 (class 4 and class 5A-M)
9.12.26	9.30pm YEAR 1 CLASSES performance 2 (class 6 and class 5 N-Z) 2.30pm YEAR 2 CLASSES performance 1 (class 1 and class 2 A-M) Nursery Xmas parties (AM and PM)
10.12.26	9.30pm YEAR 2 CLASSES performance 2 (class 3 and class 2 N-Z)
11.12.26	Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch
14.12.26	Year 2 Xmas party (PM)
15.12.26	Year 1 Xmas party (PM)
16.12.26	10.30am NURSERY performance 1 (AM, Early Reds, Purples A-M. 2.25pm NURSERY performance 2 (PM, Late Greens, Purples N-Z)
17.12.26	Reception Xmas party (PM) PM Year 2 to the Stack
18.12.26	Special visitor School closes for Xmas
4.1.27	Return to school