

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #78.10



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Science Fair

I had a fabulous evening on Monday touring the Science Fair with my fellow judges Dr Wyatt, Mr Steed and Dr Graham. At each stand Key Stage Three scientists shared their projects and passions. We were struck by the variety of ideas, research and experimentation all based in scientific thinking. There were many projects including understanding how painkillers function, improving our recycling, creating wind tunnels for Formula 1, exploring the qualities of raptors and identifying how FPSS could be more energy efficient. The evening showed the tremendous thinking skills amongst our students and left me confident that scientific research will be in safe hands in the future.

Many thanks to our Science team, parents and all those who supported the event. More details are on page 3.



First XI Football

Many congratulations to our Boys 1st XI who made it to the final of the East Berkshire School Football League (EBSFA) on Thursday. Along with great teamwork and camaraderie, there was some high-quality football played. A huge well done to all the team and coaches.

Inter House Netball

I have also enjoyed seeing the teamwork and effort on display in the inter house netball this week. The competition between the mixed teams was friendly but intense. Congratulations to all involved.

Progress Reports

The last two weeks of term see the publication of the latest Progress Reports for students. There will be much to celebrate but I am sure also some areas for development. Please do speak to your daughters and sons to identify challenges and targets for the summer term.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

Next week (Week B) - Upcoming Events

WED 25 MARCH	Spring Concert	7pm
THU 26 MARCH	Year 10 Parents & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm-7.15pm
FRI 27 MARCH	End of Term 4	12.30pm finish
MON 30 MARCH - FRI 10 APRIL	Spring Holidays	
MON 13 APRIL	Start of Term 5 (Week A)	8.40am-3.15pm
THU 23 APRIL	Early Finish for all year groups	2.45pm
THU 23 APRIL	Year 7 Parents and Students' Consultation Evening	3.45pm-7.45pm
FRI 24 APRIL	Late Start for all year groups	9.15am

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Spring Concert

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Concert next Wednesday.

Take care,

Dr Andrew J Morrison (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)

YEAR 9 REPORTS



Reports for students in Year 9 have been published on Go 4 Schools. Staying up to date is a great way to support your child throughout the year and celebrate their successes.

If you have any issues please contact reports@furzeplatt.net

Mrs K Avery, Data Manager

VIEW REPORTS

HOW TO ACCESS GO4SCHOOLS

GUIDANCE TO GRADING

ADDITIONAL INSET DAYS



FRIDAY 19TH JUNE AND FRIDAY 3RD JULY

There are two additional INSET days this year to allow staff to work on activities in preparation for September and the new academic year. The school will be closed for students (except for one student taking an exam on 19th June).

Thank you for your support as we continue to look to provide the highest quality of education for our students.

63 YEARS AT FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL



23RD APRIL 1963 – 2026

On 23rd April we celebrate 63 years since our school opened (as Furze Platt Secondary School). In that time, we have had only five Headteachers; Mr Whitaker, Mr Edwards, Mr Hill, Ms White and Dr Morrison.



The school opened with 202 students (picture from our first day below).



PLEASE CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR ALUMNI!

YEAR 10 PARENTS' AND STUDENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING



THURSDAY 26TH MARCH

Time: 4:15–7:15pm

Location: Theatre & Main Hall

We are pleased to invite parents and carers of Year 10 students to attend our Parents' Evening at Furze Platt Senior School.

This is a valuable opportunity to meet subject teachers, discuss your child's progress, upcoming assessments, and how best to support them with revision.

Appointments can be booked now and will close at 2pm on Thursday 26th March:

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK YEAR 10 PARENTS EVENING](#)

Please note:

- Appointments include a short transition time to keep the evening running smoothly
- A member of staff will represent each Science class to ensure all families can access feedback

We strongly encourage all parents/carers to attend and look forward to seeing you there.





We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part in this year's Science Fair. Their creativity, curiosity and hard work were on full display through an impressive range of innovative projects - what a fantastic event!

Congratulations to our winners:

1st place: Zoe Davies & Alice Young – Comparing different brands of painkillers

2nd place: Jake Laycock – Aerodynamics of F1 cars

3rd place: Felix Beard, Theo Hubbard & Eddy Bookman – Strengthening eggs through different solutions

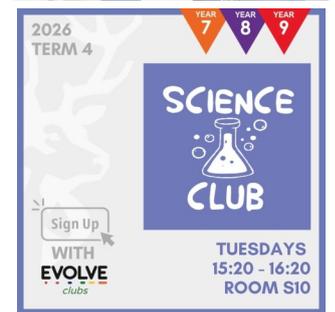
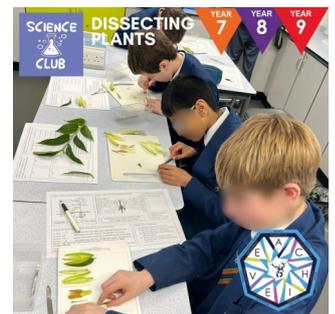
Most Innovative Idea: Hirun Fernando – Smart AI Recycling Bins

Well done to everyone involved and a huge thank you to Mrs McElligott, Mr Wright and our Science Technician Team for making the event such a success.

SCIENCE CLUB IN ACTION!



This week, students have been dissecting flowering plants to explore their different structures - developing their practical skills and deepening their understanding of Biology.



STAR SCIENTISTS



Great work from our Sparx Science Champions this week!



SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS

1. JAYDEE MITCHELL
2. MYA BIRK
3. MEYORA DE SOUSA
4. SEB SUTEHALL
5. SUMMER FOSKETT
6. TALIA ABOU SALEH
7. ALI EL GUOSHI
8. AYAAN TARIQ
9. SIMRAN VADHER
10. ILYANA ALI

'TRUNKS ACROSS THE THAMES'



We are currently working on the 'Trunks Across Thames 2026' project with Thames Hospice as part of our community initiative.



These elephants will form part of a wider display organised by Thames Hospice. Once returned to FPSS, they will be installed at the front of the school as a permanent sculptural piece, accompanied by a mural.

On Wednesday 25th March, our KS5 Art students will be leading the painting of the elephants, which will take place throughout the entire day.



[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TO THAMES HOSPICE](#)

Mr G Bahra, Head of Art

How You Can Support Your Child During Exams



If you missed this webinar you can still access a recording below, plus a link to The Bulletproof Booklet, part of the Mistake Bank Resources.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE BULLETPROOF BOOKLET](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR ELEVATE EDUCATION'S WEBINAR](#)

YEAR 11 PSHE



Thank you to the Youth Substance Misuse Team for delivering an important and informative session to our Year 11 students as part of their Health Education and personal development.



PE IN THE SUNSHINE



It has been wonderful this week outside - we are looking forward to summer!



SPRING CONCERT

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 7PM

Tickets available now!



We are excited to announce that tickets are now available for our annual FPSS Spring Concert! This special event is a celebration of music at our school, showcasing performances by our talented students.

Our students have been working hard to prepare a variety of performances, including choral renditions, instrumental pieces, rock bands, and vocal solos. For some, this will be their final performance at FPSS, making it an emotional and memorable evening. We would love for you to join us as we bring the spring term to a wonderful close with an evening of music.



[CLICK HERE FOR SPRING CONCERT TICKETS](#)

BERKSHIRE BOOK AWARDS



From now until the 13th May, we will be following the Berkshire Book Awards in the FPSS library. The Berkshire Book Awards are nominated and voted for by students in Berkshire with the intention of encouraging a love of reading. Thousands of students from over 90 Berkshire schools take part each year to pick the best, recently published book written for young people. The shortlist this year includes the following 8 books, most of which are available to borrow from the library:



The Grandest Game by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

A Box Full of Murders by Janice Hallett

The First Year by Matt Goodfellow

Under a Fire-Red Sky by Geraldine McCaughrean

Skandar and the Spirit War by A.F. Steadman

Mondays are Murder by Ravena Guron

Impossible Creatures: The Poisoned King by Katherine Rundell

Lottie Brooks vs the Ultra Mean Girls by Katie Kirby

The books are guaranteed to be great reads as they have been picked by students and have already survived one stage of voting! We will be encouraging students to read as many of them as they can so that they can participate in the next voting step. Voting for the shortlist will close on Wednesday 6th May, for the winner to be announced on Wednesday 13th May.

You can vote in school or by clicking the link below:

[CLICK HERE TO VOTE](#)

Make sure to get involved and vote for your favourite!

May the best book win!

Mrs A Sweetland and Mrs T Allanson, School Librarians



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You can vote in school or by going to the following website www.berkshirebookawards.org.uk

Make sure to get involved and vote for your favourite!
May the best book win!

www.berkshirebookaward.org.uk





Over the past two weeks, Year 7 PSHE has turned to the Furze Platt workplace for insights into the world of work.

We've been fortunate to welcome a range of support staff who shared their career journeys, giving students a real understanding of the different roles that help our school run every day.

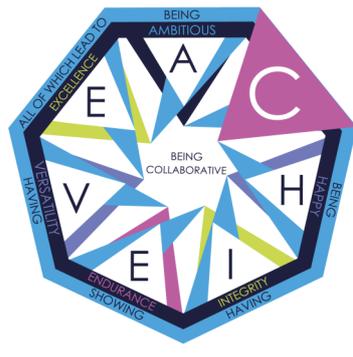


Students asked thoughtful, ambitious questions, leading to engaging and meaningful discussions about future pathways.



A huge thank you to the staff who gave their time to inspire our Year 7 students:

- Mr Gumbs (PE Assistant)
- Mrs Bartram (Theatre Manager)
- Mrs Paternoster (HR Officer)
- Mrs McSweeney (Parent Support Advisor)
- Mrs Eadie (Teach Maidenhead & Departmental Administrator)
- Mrs Shaw (Learning Support HLTA)
- Ms Carty – (Head of Falcon House & Alternative Curriculum Manager)



Our FPSS Roadshow continued at St Edmund Campion Primary, where students took part in a fantastic MFL x Tech workshop inspired by Day of the Dead and Hispanic culture.

Working with Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Dixon, students designed and created their own sugar skull keyrings to take home - combining creativity, cultural learning and practical skills.

It was brilliant to see such enthusiasm, imagination and engagement from all involved. A great example of our FPSS ACHIEVE values brought to the students of St Edmund Campion Primary School!



YEAR 7 AND 8 DRAMA CLUB

Monday after school in DS2

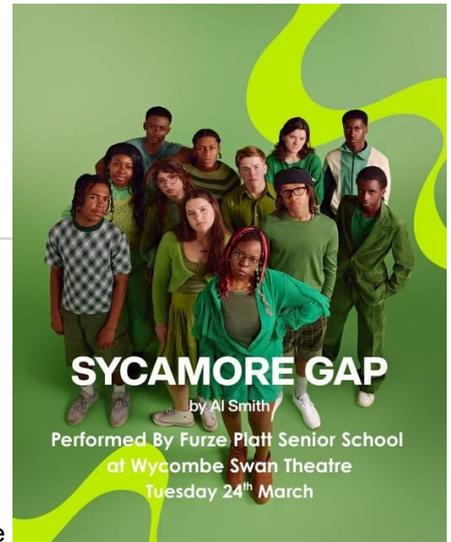
There will be one session of our Year 7 and 8 Drama Club this term and it will then resume after Easter.



SEE OUR STUDENTS PERFORM AT WYCOMBE SWAN THEATRE

We're thrilled to be part of this year's National Theatre Connections project at the Wycombe Swan on Tuesday 24th March.

Our Year 10 students will be performing Al Smith's Sycamore Gap - a gripping, school set whodunnit inspired by the real life felling of the Sycamore Gap tree.



To book your tickets please click the link below (make sure you select 24th March) - we'd love your support for our fantastic cast!

[BOOK YOUR TICKETS HERE](#)

GARDENING CLUB

Gardening Club took advantage of the great weather to:



- plant Duke of York potatoes
- tidy the summer raspberries
- plant perennial kale, autumn raspberries and a blackcurrant
- build some plant protection with bamboo canes and a net



Then as a reward for all the hard work we harvested our rhubarb.

YEAR 9 PSHE – 'HOOKED' THEATRE PRODUCTION

On Monday, our Year 9 students took part in the first of three sessions of the 'Hooked' theatre production.

A huge thank you to Performance in Education for delivering such an engaging and informative session, exploring nicotine addiction with a focus on vaping and cigarettes.

This powerful experience combined drama with personal development, encouraging students to reflect on the impact of their choices and make informed decisions for the future. We look forward to the next sessions!

'HOOKED' THEATRE PRODUCTION VISITORS



SCHOOL CLUBS FOR TERM 5 WILL BE SENT OUT NEXT FRIDAY

How can...
...my child take part in clubs and activities at FPSS?



SCHOOL CLUBS LIST



8665



8550



8916



8143

HOUSE WINNERS THIS WEEK



Our winners this week are the Hawks! Who will be our House End of Term winners...?



TOP TEN FALCONS

- 1st - Halid Yusuf
- 2nd - Seb Sutehall
- 3rd - Rory Johnson
- 4th - Tomasz Pantaleao
- 5th - Lexie Kuomi
- 6th - Felix Beard
- 7th - Stephanie Ezea
- 8th - Beatrice Poulter
- 9th - Joshua Rowles
- 10th - Zoey Nash

EASTER EGG DESIGN WINNERS

Brilliant designs for our Easter Egg competition! Well done to all our winners (all of whom also won an Easter Egg).



1st place:
Mihailo Bosnic
7ISW



2nd place:
Bernardo Dinardo
Pedrosa 9ELF



3rd place: Ruby Parkman-Mills
8CD



4th place: Olivia Young 8MJR

HOUSE ASSEMBLY - FALCON

This week the House Captains from Falcon delivered their House Assembly.



FALCON HOUSE WINNERS

Well done to all our Top 10 Falcon students for gaining the most points since September. All were rewarded with an Easter egg.






SPRING CONCERT

Wednesday 25th March 2026 - 7.00pm

TICKETS
NOW
ON SALE

UPDATES FROM OUR CAFÉ



ST PATRICK'S DAY

Our Furze Platt Café truly delivered with a fantastic festive spread from our colleagues at Accent Catering, including homemade soda bread, colcannon mash topped shepherd's pie, green velvet cupcakes and lucky charm marshmallow treats.



WORLD BOOK DAY

To celebrate World Book Day, staff at our café highlighted some of the books and authors - Years 7, 8 & 9 had an Alice in Wonderland themed dessert counter featuring Queen of Hearts shortbread, Painting the Roses red cupcakes, "Eat Me" jam tarts & "Drink Me" berry smoothies.

Counter 2 we paid an homage to the late great Sir Terry Pratchett with a Discworld C.M.O.T Dibble food stall, featuring his world-famous Sausage-inna-Bun, mostly meat pies with personality & crunchy brown bits, a favourite of the folk of Ankh-Morpork.

We even had a visit from the White Rabbit!

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making these events so much fun for our staff and students.



FANATICAL ABOUT CRICKET?

MESSAGE FROM SQUARE ONE CRICKET ACADEMY

If there are any girls or boys in years 11-13 at your school who aspire to play cricket to a top level whilst at University, then please share with them this digital brochure outlining the new Cricket Academy programme Square One has launched in partnership with the University of Brighton.

There are 60 free scholarship places available each year, accessible via a trial process. 2026 trials are being held on the 8th and 9th of April.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK A TEAMS CALL](#)



[CLICK HERE FOR DIGITAL BROCHURE](#)

EID MUBARAK FROM FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

Wishing all members of our school community celebrating Eid a joyful and peaceful time with family and friends.

May this special occasion bring happiness, reflection and togetherness to all.



Feel strong from the inside out



Fitness and Strength for Women

Kettlebells | Circuits | Yoga | Boxercise | Core & Mobility





Information for Young People

NHS

Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Meningitis Outbreak in the UK



There is a **current outbreak** of meningitis in the South of England, mainly affecting young people in sixth forms and universities. Sadly, two preventable deaths have already been reported, and 11 other young people are currently seriously ill in hospital.

Meningitis can come on **very** suddenly and get worse quickly. The symptoms aren't the same for everyone, and not all symptoms appear at once.

The best way to **protect yourself** is to make sure you've had the **meningitis vaccine**. If you're not sure whether you've been vaccinated, please contact us — we can check for you and help you stay protected.

Please scan the QR code for further information on the vaccines.

@ Eastschoolimms@berkshire.nhs.uk

0300 365 0077 (Mon to Fri 9am – 4pm)



Scan me

PAID TEACHING INTERNSHIPS



SCAN ME

CONSIDERING TEACHING AS A CAREER?

Teaching Internships can help you decide if teaching is right for you.

If so, then Teach Maidenhead's 3-week teaching internships could be for you!

Starting on **Monday 8th June**, lasting 3 weeks and spread across the 6 secondary schools in Maidenhead you will have the opportunity to gain some hands-on classroom experience. The programme will include shadowing teachers and students, opportunities to observe and evaluate teaching practice. You'll experience life in the classroom and join a team of teachers who can help you gain insight into what it's like to be part of the profession.

For more information, please scan the QR code above.

Or follow this link:

<http://www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk/index.php/sep>

Or contact: claire.eadie@furzeplatt.net

ARE YOU...

- a current undergraduate in 2nd, 3rd or 4th year or master's student?
- studying Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Modern Foreign Languages, Design & Technology or a closely related degree?

WOULD YOU...

like to earn **£455 per week** whilst gaining a good understanding of the daily life of a teacher.

WWW.TEACHMAIDENHEAD.CO.UK



Launch Event Invitation

Monday 23rd March 2026

10:30am – 1:30pm

Cippenham Community Centre, Earls Lane, Slough. SL1 5TD

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)?

You are warmly invited to join us for the launch of the Slough SEND Parent Carer Forum — a new independent voice for families in Slough

Join us to:

- ✓ Meet other parents and carers
- ✓ Learn about the role of a Parent Carer Forum
- ✓ Find out how you can get involved
- ✓ Share your experiences and ideas
- ✓ Help shape services for SEND children and young people

Refreshments will be available

Forum for parents/carers of previously looked after children and those in kinship care

Monday 20 April 2026 Online (Google meet)



10.00 - 11.30am OR 6.00 - 7.30pm

Who is this for? Parents/Carers of Adopted Children and those in Kinship Care (SGO/CAO or informal arrangements)

We will discuss the different forms of support for Previously Looked After Children and those in Kinship Care in AfC schools, including Pupil Premium funding, CATCH and communication with schools.

We will consider **transitions** for children and young people between year groups, key stages and new schools and colleges, exploring with our educational psychologist **how to support your child** and discussing what settings could **offer** to make them **feel more secure**.

There will also be an opportunity to **engage** with other parents and carers and to discuss general questions about the education of your child.

To book your space please contact Matthew Wolfskill stating whether you would like to attend the morning or evening session and your child's current year group.

matthew.wolfskill@achievingforchildren.org.uk



DREAM ELITE

Cheerleading Academy

5 WEEK CHEERLEADING INTENSIVE

Join our 5 week Cheerleading Intensive and learn the fundamentals of cheer, including stunts, jumps, tumble and dance in just 5 weeks!

Experienced or not, we'd love to welcome you!

Dates

13/4/26
20/4/26
27/4/26
11/5/26
18/5/26

AGE 12-18

£40 per athlete

Enrol below:



Scan me

or email:

DREAMELITEACADEMY@GMAIL.COM

19:15-20:15
Mondays

Address

Dedworth Green First School
Smiths Lane
Windsor
SL4 5PU

OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN A TEAM IN SEPTEMBER FOR THE 26/27 SEASON!



MAIDENHEAD FESTIVAL

SOUND LAB

UNLEASH YOUR INNER MUSICIAN AT THE SOUND LAB!

This May Half Term, dive into the world of music at Maidenhead Festival's Sound Lab—a fun, hands-on experience for all ages!



Dates: Wed 8th & Thurs 9th April 2026

Time: 10am - 3pm

Location: Nicholson Shopping Centre

FREE ENTRY

- Try instruments like trumpets, clarinets, saxophones, flutes, and pianos
- Join The Piano Sessions - showcase your talent, inspired by Channel 4's The Piano
- Plus other workshops to be announced!
- Fun for all-kids and adults welcome!



Don't miss this chance to explore music and discover your hidden talents!



Our Partners:





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YOUTH CYCLING CLUB
PALMER PARK VELODROME READING

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 For Ages 8 - 18

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 @palmerparkvelo

Book A Free Trial Now! Contact Chloe - 07507 597 583
 admissions2@palmerparkvelo.com




The rowing club for Windsor Girls' School and girls & boys at Comprehensive and Independent schools in Windsor and surrounding areas

EASTER LEARN TO ROW

12:00 - 15:00
30 March - 2 April

Book Here
<http://tinyurl.com/LTREaster26>

Day 1
 Rowing technique
 Water safety tests

Days 2-4
 On-water rowing sessions

2 day 30-31 Mar **£95** **3 day** 30 Mar - 1 Apr **£150** **4 day** 30 Mar - 2 Apr **£175**

Rowed before? Please email for alternative options

Girls & Boys
 Years 7-13 (ages 11-18)
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EERC Clubhouse
 14 Maidenhead Road
 Windsor SL4 5TY

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www.etonexcelsiorrowingclub.org/juniors



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REFCOM safe National Fire Protection Association Environment Agency LGA Constructionline HCS

Reading Sailing Club
Open Day

9TH MAY 2026
11am - 3pm

FREE TASTER SESSIONS

Sailing taster sessions for adults & children

BBQ | SAILING | MODEL YACHT RACING
WINDSURFING | PADDLEBOARDING

For more information & to book a session, email enquiries@readingsc.org.uk or visit readingsc.org.uk/openday

Reading Sailing Club, Sonning Eye, Reading RG4 6TT