Foundry Lane Primary School

Working Together

September Newsletter | Autumn Term 2026

Dear Families,

We hope you have all had a lovely summer. It has been a busy holiday here at Foundry Lane: painting, new carpets, new chairs, playground works and some classroom moves, all ready for the new school year. We look forward to showing you the finished results very soon.

Our school website has also been refreshed over the summer, with updated pages across our curriculum, pastoral support and enrichment offer. Take a look.

We look forward to working together this year!

Welcomes & Goodbyes

We are sure you will join us in warmly welcoming Mrs Roue, Miss McKay, Miss Lawrence Miss Muldoon and Miss Atkinson who are joining our teaching team and Miss Hogarth who has joined site cleaning team.

We would also like to update you on some other staffing changes that have taken place over the summer break.

Mrs Lane, who has been a valued member of our community for many years as a parent, childminder and, more recently, a member of our Learning Support Team, has decided to leave Foundry Lane to focus on growing her dog grooming business. We would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication in supporting our pupils and wish her every success in this exciting new venture.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Cousens. Mrs Cousens joined the Foundry Lane family in 2005 as Miss Whyte and has taught generations of Foundry Lane pupils during her time with us. She has worn many different hats throughout her career here, including English and History Lead, Gifted and Talented Champion, and has always enthusiastically supported our whole-school events.

We would like to thank her for her many years of hard work, commitment, and dedication to our community. We wish her all the very best for the future as she focuses on her health and family.

Vision and Values

As part of our INSET day this year we revisited our Motto 'Working Together' and our school values: Community & Kindness, Resilience & Independence and Creativity & Critical thinking. We will be focusing on these throughout the year in circle times and across the curriculum.

These will be the focus of our Celebration and Values Assemblies too.



School Development Priorities 26/27

Our school development priorities this year are:

Curriculum & Assessment: We are continuing to implement the Cornerstones Curriculum and RWI phonics. We are excited to be introducing some new texts to inspire our reading and writing too! We will continue to collaborate with schools across the Trust on this exciting journey.

Maximising Learning for All: We are continuing to embed our Golden Rules and classroom routines. We want our children to be their best and make great progress in their learning.

Improving Attendance: We need to raise our whole school attendance. Remember, every moment counts so be an attendance HERO: Here, Everyday, Ready, On Time.

Golden Rules

Following pupil voice last year, we reviewed our Golden Rules and behaviour policy. Our Golden Rules are Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Your Best: in school, on the playground and when out and about representing our community. The children co-created the behaviour curriculum with staff and did a great job putting it into practice last term. Let's have a fantastic year and show what a great Foundry Lane team we are! #workingtogether #teamworkmakesthedreamwork



Pupil Voice and Pupil Leaders

Pupil voice is really important to us. Last year children voted for their new class names and told us they wanted clearer Golden Rules. We will start the year learning about the British Value of Democracy by voting for our pupil leaders, and we look forward to announcing our House Captains soon.

This year, we are looking forward to extending our pupil voice and leadership groups. We are introducing some important new roles into Year 6, including Head Boy, Head Girl and Pupil Prefects. In other year groups, we will be looking for children who want to become Playground Pals,

Eco Champions and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, to name just a few.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Our virtual Meet the Teacher meetings take place during the week commencing 7th September. Details for each year group are below. We will send an e mail with the year group links on them, and we will also post these onto dojo.

Year 1	Tuesday 8th September 3:45 -4:00
Year 2	Tuesday 8th September 4:00 - 4:15
Year 3	Tuesday 8th September 4:15 - 4:30
Year 4	Monday 7th September 3:45 - 4:00
Year 5	Monday 7th September 4:00 - 4:15
Year 6	Monday 7th September 4:15 - 4:30

Using Arbor: Details, Dinners, Absence, Acorns

Arbor is the main App we will be using for communication. We will send you letters through here and it will be your main port of call for all things admin related.

Please take a moment to check that we have your correct address, phone number and emergency contact details on file. You can update these yourself via the Arbor App. Keeping this information current helps us reach you quickly, especially in an emergency.

We would appreciate it if school dinners could be booked in advance via the Arbor App. You can find the autumn term menu on the website.

To report your child's absence, please use the Parent Portal and Arbor App. To do this, you must access the Attendance section. Alternatively, please call the school office on 02380774814

School Uniform

- Burgundy cardigan or jumper
- White polo shirt
- Grey or black trousers, skirt or shorts
- Black shoes or trainers (no open-toe shoes or crocs)
- Jewellery Stud earing's only (must be taken out on PE days)

Uniform with the school logo can be purchased online.

PE Days and PE Kit

Please see below for PE days by year group. PE kit should be worn to school on the relevant day(s).

Year Group	Indoor PE	Outdoor PE
Year R	-	Thursday
Year 1	Friday	Thursday
Year 2	Friday	Tuesday
Year 3	Tuesday	Friday
Year 4	Thursday	Tuesday
Year 5	Wednesday	Monday
Year 6	Monday	Wednesday

PE Kit:

- Plain white round-neck T-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black trainers

No hoodies or jewellery, for health and safety reasons.

Medication and Inhalers

If your child has an inhaler in school, please ensure a full, in-date inhaler is brought in, along with an up-to-date Asthma Care Plan, which can be downloaded from the NHS App or requested from your child's GP.

If your child needs any medication in school this year (for example, an EpiPen, pain relief or allergy medication), please bring this to the school office on the first day of the new academic year, along with any relevant care plan.

Please also let us know of any allergies or medical conditions and keep this information up to date with the office throughout the year.

Allergy Aware School

Foundry Lane is an allergy aware school, and this year brings an important change nationally. Benedict's Law, also known as the School Allergy Safety Bill, comes into effect this term as part of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act. It requires all schools to have a published whole-school allergy policy, to provide allergy awareness training for all staff, and to hold spare in-date adrenaline auto-injectors on site for use in an emergency.

We are updating our allergy policy and staff training in line with this new guidance and will share our updated policy on the website in due course.

No birthday treats: in line with our allergy aware approach, we kindly ask that birthday treats (such as sweets or cakes) are not sent into school to be shared with the class. We are very happy to celebrate birthdays in other ways; please speak to your child's class teacher if you would like suggestions.



Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

We know that school meals matter for children and families: they help children eat well and learn well. From the start of this September, the rules for free school in England are changing.

Key changes

- The old Universal Credit earnings limit no longer applies.
- Some children who currently have free school meals may need to meet the new rules to keep receiving them.
- A rule that let some children keep free school meals ends at the close of the 2025 to 2026 school year.

- When children move into Year 3, families will need to meet the free school meal rules for their child to keep receiving them.
- The changes apply across Years 3 to 11.

What this means for your child

- Children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 will still receive free school meals.
- Children moving into Year 3 may only receive free school meals if the family meets the new rules.
- Families receiving Universal Credit will still be able to receive free school meals but will need to apply.

What you need to do

- You will need to apply, or reapply, for your child to receive free school meals, including if you receive Universal Credit.
- You may need your National Insurance number when you apply, using the Southampton City Council application form.

We understand that changes like this can feel worrying. We will make sure you have clear information before anything changes, and please contact the school office if you need any help.

Mobile Phones & Social Media

As a school, we do not support or encourage children's use of smartphones.

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will be able to securely lock their mobile phones away at the start of the school day. The phones will then be returned to them at the end of the school day.

While we use social media to share school news and celebrate achievements, any engagement or sharing should be done by adults using their own accounts. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and TikTok have age restrictions, and all our pupils are below the recommended age.

We appreciate your support in helping to keep our children safe.

Squishy Toy Safety Warning

Southampton City Council's Trading Standards team are advising parents, carers and retailers to be aware of safety risks around squishy toys. Concerns include burn injuries, most commonly from toys that have been heated, and the presence of harmful chemicals in some imitation products, as highlighted by the Child Accident Prevention Trust.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards has issued a recall for 'Squeezy Dumpling' toys due to a serious chemical risk. If your child has one of these, please remove it from them straight away.

BBC 500 Words Returns

The UK's biggest writing competition encourages children aged 5 to 11 to write a story they would love to read. From 8am on Tuesday 29th September to 9pm on Friday 6th November 2026, children can submit a story of 500 words or fewer.

Punctuation and grammar don't matter; it's creativity that counts! Check out the BBC 500 Words learning resources for help preparing your child to enter.

Olio App

In the UK, a third of all food ends up in the bin.

At the same time, many families are feeling the pressure of rising living costs and looking for ways to make their budgets go further.

Olio is a free app that helps people share surplus food and household items within their local community, so that perfectly good items don't go to waste. Families can collect free food from local supermarkets and other community members, as well as pick up useful household items they need.

More details can be found at www.olioapp.com or by downloading the Olio App from your Appstore.

Schools Safer Parking Campaign

Southampton City Council will be launching a Safer Parking Campaign starting in September and running throughout the year to promote safer and more considerate parking behaviour around schools.

The key campaign messages encourage drivers to:

- Park considerately and legally.
- Never Park on School Keep Clear markings (zigzags) or yellow lines.
- Park a little further away from the school if necessary and complete the journey on foot.
- Avoid parking near junctions, driveways and crossing points.
- Do not Park on the pavement
- Remember that unsafe parking can result in a £70 Penalty Charge Notice.



Important Dates for Your Diary

- Tuesday 1st September - INSET day
- Wednesday 2nd September - INSET day

- Thursday 3rd September - Years 1 to 6 return to school
- Week commencing 7th September - virtual Meet the Teacher meetings
- Week commencing 7th September - Year R start school (Monday and Tuesday until 1pm, full time from Wednesday to Friday)
- Week commencing 14th September - Year 5 Healthy Relationships Project
- Monday 21st to Friday 25th September - Year 6 Stubbington residential
- Tuesday 29th September - BBC 500 Words competition opens
- Friday 2nd October - KS2 Jacqueline Wilson author visit
- Monday 19th October - individual school photographs
- Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - half term
- Monday 16th November - Anti Bullying week
- Friday 11th December – Christmas Jumper day & School Fate.
- Wednesday 16th December – Church service
- Friday 21st December – 2nd January – Christmas Holidays.