



Fulfen Newsletter

Leading the way to a brighter future

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Issue: 23
18th July 2023



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Foreword

What an action-packed few weeks we've had to finish off our school year! From celebrations to school trips to leavers' performances and sports days; our children have certainly had the opportunity to showcase their talent and enthusiasm. Each year group has been incredibly industrious and certainly finished this academic year with a bang.

Our open evenings were also incredibly successful with performances from Fulfen Voices and Little Voices across the two evenings and it was lovely to see our pupils proudly showing off our school.

We also had our transition day, where children met their new teacher for next year and we offer a warm welcome to the new members of staff who will be joining us in September: Miss Spiers in year 1, Mrs Martin in year 2 and Miss Russell in year 3. They share our vision of providing a truly creative and enriching education and will make excellent team members, dedicated to providing the best for our pupils.

That's it from me for this year. All that is left to say is thank you to all our parents for the support you've given us throughout this academic year. We hope you have a wonderful summer break and look forwards to seeing all the children again on Tuesday 5th September. I hope you enjoy reading this bumper edition of our newsletter.



Happy holidays!



Stars of the week!

Luka Williams, Eleanor Jackson, Paige Ranger, Rainy Peace, Theo Thorpe, Paige Dixon, Arthur O'Neill, Izaak Johnson-Cashmore and Paige Dixon, Bobby Knowles, Evie-Mae Mullan, Pippa Madeley, Maya Cockayne, Bodhi King, Mason Bird, Siena Milligan, Ollie Ayre, Bodhi Dingle, Olivia Freeman, Tommy Derry, Esmae Gorman,

William Fry and Sky Webster, Isabelle Kendrick and Arthur Derry, Chloe Warner, Alfie Benton, Leo Ritchie, Sophia Smith-Hickman, Chloe Warner, Skye Thomas, Jessica Watson, Lenny Greens, Emilee Hall-Williams, Cory Flemming, Oscar Pember, Olivia Odejimi, Luca Bott, Tilly Lightfoot, Oliver Jarvis, Thomas Heming, Jaxon Lemm, Zack Jagielski, Roman Polyviou,

Ella-Rose Woodward, Freddie Irons, Toby Rock, Eva Bartlett, Kian Yeomans and Emily Mansell, 4GR. Lauren Webster Brandon Hickman, Sienna Darnley Florence Watson Emily Mansell, Lucas Norman, Franki Hawkins, Erin Saint, Zachary Smith, Harry Burn, Nathan Wright, Taio Ranger, Tommy Jennings and the whole of Year 6

Love of Learning...

- dream big, have a thirst for learning and achieve your ambitions...

Encouraging...

- to be supportive of yourself and others and value everyone's ideas...

Adaptable...

- being versatile, creative and being prepared to take risks...

Determination...

- being resilient when the going gets tough...

Parental Questionnaire Results

What a positive response we had to the parental survey that we sent out in our last newsletter!

It was lovely to read all the comments and these have been passed on to class teachers to show them how appreciated their efforts are. The full report can be found here:

https://www.fulfen.staffs.sch.uk/serve_file/18855748



Love of Learning... Encouraging... Adaptable... Determination...

Digital Learning

With Apple visiting our school last week, there was an awful lot of activity going on with our iPads! Our iPad scheme has been running successfully for over 4 years now and our visitors were very impressed with the work the children are doing and also with their attitude to learning and their impeccable manners!

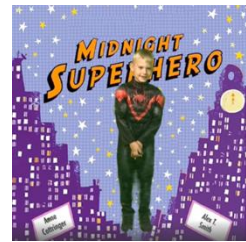
Here are a few snippets of some of the digital tasks completed recently. Click on the images to watch their videos:

In their geography lessons in Year 4, children have been creating weather forecasts for the United Kingdom.



We also had children performing poetry in our lovely garden. I'm sure we'll see some of these superstars on stage or screen at some point in the future!

As part of their super-hero day, Year 2 used green screen to create a scene from the book they're using in English at the moment – "Eliot, Midnight Superhero" by Anne Cottringer. NB click on the image and then look through **both** pages of the activity.



We also had coding activities, Sphero chariot racing, a digital orchestra playing "Pachelbel's Canon" in three parts, interviews with characters from books and exploring shapes on a digital geoboard. The activities this week were just a sample of the way iPads enhance learning at our school and were a great way to show off our pupils' creativity!



Did you know?

Parts of our newsletter are interactive! Try tapping on the images above to watch the videos!



School Uniform Reminder

As the end of this academic year, draws to a close, we realise that many parents will be starting to purchase school uniform over the holidays ready for next year.

We thank you for your co-operation in maintaining the high standards of the appearance of our pupils, knowing that a smart uniform promotes better behaviour and a readiness to learn as well as promoting a sense of identity within our school.

Our smart uniform:

- White polo shirt / white shirt
- Navy jumper / cardigan with Fulfen school logo
- Grey trousers/skirt
- Sensible black school shoes



PE Kit:

- Plain white T-shirt
- Black shorts
- Fulfen school hoody and navy tracksuit bottoms in colder weather

Jewellery / Hair/ Makeup:

- one pair of discrete stud earrings may be worn (must be removed for PE lessons)
- make-up and nail varnish should not be worn to school
- hair should be styled appropriately for school (no tramlines, hair dye)

Full uniform information can be found [here](#) on our website.



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Free School Meals – are you eligible to apply?

Amid the ongoing hardships from the rising cost of living, some families may find that their circumstances have changed recently. Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time.

School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime and you can save yourself time and money. You can only apply online if you meet the low income criteria. Remember, you can only claim free school meals if your child is going to be in Reception year or above when the meals begin. <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awardsbenefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Applyonline.aspx>

After completing an application, you can print a copy of the confirmation page to give to the school for meals to start immediately. If you are unable to print you can still make your application online, but will need to wait for us to advise the school before you can start to receive the free school meals.

HAF – have you booked?

For children who already get free school meals, there are free activities on during the school holidays. You can book up to 16 half day (or 8 full day sessions for free!)

If your child already gets free school meals, the office will have already contacted you with a code so that you can register for your child to take part. You can register here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/GX2Rn8uACZ>

SUMMER FUN!

FREE

Holiday Activities and Food

for children and young people aged 5-16 who get free school meals*

Registration opens: 4pm, 3rd July 2023

[staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities](https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities)

*Eligible children and young people will be sent a code via school to register

Scan Me

Department for Education

Staffordshire County Council

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD



Focus on Online Safety!

Is your child on Tik Tok?

It can be easy for children and young people to come across inappropriate content on the TikTok app. Because TikTok uses algorithms to show users new content, it's easy for young people to come across inappropriate or upsetting videos. The platform also has communication features that allow users to privately message each other which could put your child at risk of being contacted by someone they don't know. Tik Tok is rated as 13+ and is not suitable for Primary aged children to use unsupervised.



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app: it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

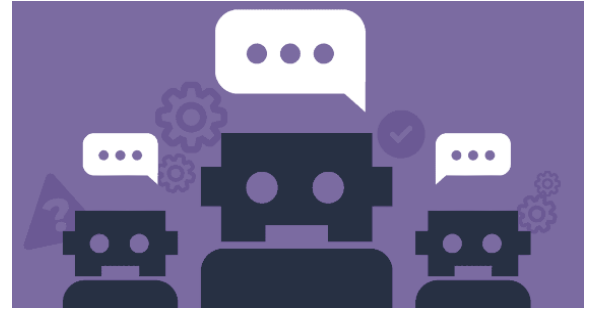
Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.



Has your child started to investigate AI?

Artificial Intelligence seems to be taking the world by storm – are we ready for it?

Internet Matters have put together a useful parent guide to learn about AI tools available and how parents can support learning and creativity using AI at home [HERE](#). You can also click on the image to get to this guide.



Online Gaming – Parent Information



Come rain or shine, over the summer holidays many children and young people will be spending longer on gaming consoles. It is so important that parents take an active role and understand gaming (it isn't just playing games), the games their children are playing, potential risks and how to mitigate those risks.

There is a gaming hub with a whole library of information just for parents covering the areas above and more. You can get to the gaming hub [HERE](#).

Year 4 Sculpture

Our Year 4 children have had a cultural visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park where they were inspired by the amazing sculptures they saw!

This is Kian's work in response to the artist Barbara Hepworth whose work is on show at The Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

The children have explored how to make a sculpture balance, how to model materials adding and taking away clay, whilst adding texture. Here are some pictures from the trip:



Year 6 Leavers' Performance

We were transported into the heart of Sherwood Forest as Robin and Marion helped us discover the hilarious truth behind the legend of Robin Hood. With singing, dancing, heroes and, of course, the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham to stir things up a bit!

Our talented year six pupils amazed the audiences and certainly hit the bullseye with their performance! Here are a few pictures:



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Fulfen Club Holiday Club

Fulfen holiday club is running for the first 4 weeks of the summer holidays (including the two inset days).

As well as a free choice of sports, cooking and craft activities, we'll also be having a wide range of wow days including a magician, a disco, martial arts, multisports, football camp experience, inflatable fun day, an ice cream van and much more!

Holiday club is on from 8:30am - 3:30pm with a different theme each week:

w/c 24th July – At the Beach

w/c 31st July – Science Madness

w/c 7th Aug – Forestry Fun

w/c 14th Aug - Sports Week

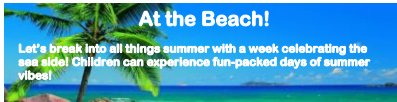

Full details on the timetables on the right:

If you want to book your child in for holiday club, complete this [booking form](#) and send it to the school office or email it to fulfenclubfinance@fulfen.staffs.sch.uk by 8am of the Friday before the week you want to book.

Half a day session is £13.50

Full day £27 including all the activities and lunch.

This year, holiday club will be running the HAF programme for children who receive free school meals and you can find more information [HERE](#) including menus for each day.

		Monday 24 th July	Tuesday 25 th July	Wednesday 26 th July	Thursday 27 th July	Friday 28 th July
 At the Beach! Let's break into all things summer with a week celebrating the sea side! Children can experience fun-packed days of summer vibes!						
 SUMMER FUN! FREE Holiday Activities and Food						
8:30pm-9:30pm	Free choice stations Including creative table, painting, sand, water, roleplay area, construction, modelling station and more!					
9:30pm-10:30pm	Sea side dreamcatchers	Jellyfish creations	Sea side wreath	Paper plate beach craft	Beach collage	
Free choice stations Including creative table, painting, sand, water, roleplay area, construction, modelling station & outdoor play.						
10:30pm-11:00pm Snack & free choice including a blast outside.						
11:00pm-12:00pm	Hurdles	Volleyball	Bowling	Team Games	Tag Ball	
12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch						
Free choice stations Including creative table, painting, sand, water, roleplay area, construction, modelling station & outdoor play.						
1:00 pm-2:45pm	Decorate a cupcake!	Pizza making	Create an exotic Fruit Salad	Smoothie Making	Marshmallow People!	
2:45pm-3:30pm	Snack and wind down for the end of the day.					

		Monday 31 st July	Tuesday 1 st August	Wednesday 2 nd August	Thursday 3 rd August	Friday 4 th August
 Science Madness! Explore the world of science with spectacular experiments and investigations!						
 SUMMER FUN! FREE Holiday Activities and Food						
Free choice stations Including creative table, painting, sand, water, roleplay area, construction, modelling station and more!						
9:30pm-10:30pm	Balloon Rocket Race!	Eggsitting Egg Experiment!	Jar Fireworks!	Rainbow Volcano!	Rain Cloud in a Jar	
10:30pm-11:00pm Snack & free choice including a blast outside.						
11:00pm-12:00pm	Mini assault course	Football or Hula Hooping	Archery	Team Games	Rounders	
12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch						
Free choice stations Including creative table, painting, sand, water, roleplay area, construction, modelling station & outdoor play.						
1:00 pm-2:45pm	Wow Experience! Disco, magic show, high energy party games.	Wow Experience! Funky Foods! Cooking Experience with our very own chef!	Wow Experience! Garden Experience! Investigating all things earthy in Fulfen Garden.	Wow Experience with MAMA Martial Arts		
2:45pm-3:30pm	Snack and wind down for the end of the day.					

		Monday 7 th August	Tuesday 8 th August	Wednesday 9 th August	Thursday 10 th August	Friday 11 th August
 Forestry Fun! Love the great outdoors? Join us for exciting, nature-based activities all in our very own forest! Children will love being able to explore and discover meaningful activities!						
 SUMMER FUN! FREE Holiday Activities and Food						
Free choice stations Including creative table, painting, sand, water, roleplay area, construction, modelling station and more!						
9:30pm-10:30pm	Nature Treasure Hunt	Bug Huntin	Exploring the environment	Mud Kitchen!	Natural wand making	
10:30pm-11:00pm Snack & free choice including a blast outside.						
11:00pm-12:00pm	Multisports	Team Games	Races	Basketball / Trikes	Skipping, ball games & Hula hooping	
12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch						
Free choice stations Including creative table, painting, sand, water, roleplay area, construction, modelling station & outdoor play.						
1:00 pm-2:45pm	Wow Experience! Wizard workshop, mini-disco, street-style magic show.	Wow Experience! Funky Foods! Cooking Experience with our very own chef!	Wow Experience! Scavenger Hunt in the forest – work as a team exploring all things natural!	Wow Experience with MAMA Martial Arts		
2:45pm-3:30pm	Snack and wind down for the end of the day.					

		Monday 14 th August	Tuesday 15 th August	Wednesday 16 th August	Thursday 17 th August	Friday 18 th August
 Sports Week! A jam-packed week full of physical activities providing enjoyment to all!						
 SUMMER FUN! FREE Holiday Activities and Food						
Free choice stations Including creative table, painting, sand, water, roleplay area, construction, modelling station and more!						
9:30pm-10:30pm	Mini Assault Course	Jump Mat!	Badminton	Team Games	Bouncy Hoppers	
10:30pm-11:00pm Snack & free choice including a blast outside.						
11:00pm-12:00pm	Races	Mini Marathon	Bouncy Balls	Mini Golf	Free Choice Friday!	
12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch						
Free choice stations Including creative table, painting, sand, water, roleplay area, construction, modelling station & outdoor play.						
1:00 pm-2:45pm	Wow Experience with MAMA Martial Arts	Wow Experience! Disco, high energy party games & disco lights	Wow Experience! Multisports with Mark from First Football Academy	Wow Experience! Football with Mark from First Football Academy	Wow Experience! Inflatable sports, water fun session and a visit from the ice-cream van	
2:45pm-3:30pm	Snack and wind down for the end of the day.					



Garden Update!

Our Story So Far...

Fulfen has always had a school garden, but over the last few years it has been a little unloved! Last year Izzy, a year 6 pupil, won a competition to design a Peace Pole Garden. The competition was organised by The Rotary Club and once we saw her design come to life, we decided to give our garden an overhaul. A lot of hard work produced an outdoor learning environment that the whole school can use.

In April, we ran our first Saturday morning Gardening Club and after 6 weeks our garden really began to take shape. We have added 3 small allotment plots and have bought 4 potting benches.

Everything we are planting and growing can be used to make soup. We will be harvesting our vegetables in September and the children will be making their own vegetable soup!

Where are we now?

We are currently running an after-school garden club on a Wednesday for years 3 & 4 and will continue to run clubs for different year groups from September. Here are our Wednesday Gardeners holding the 'apple bird feeders' they've made. This term they've learned about worms, pollinators, water conservation and composting.



What we've planted so far:

Strawberries
Raspberries
Carrot
Courgettes
Potatoes
Onions
Leaks
Garlic
Runner Beans

French Beans
Marrow
Aubergine
Pumpkins
Sweetcorn
Peppers Chillies
Cucumber
Radish
Herb Wall



During our last Gardening Club, we harvested our lovely radish. These have been grown from seeds that were planted in a piece of recycled guttering.

The children all had a chance to dig up some radish, as they were now ready for harvesting. The children thought it was like digging for gold!



Next Steps and our Fulfen Garden Appeal

We would really like Polytunnel so that we can grow our own fruit, vegetable and bedding plants from seed and also have a sheltered outdoor space that we can use during the winter.

We are aiming to grow and then sell produce to parents and staff; this would be a wonderful experience for the children to run their own small enterprise!



Let's Talk Chickens...



We are working with the British Hen Welfare Trust to re-home some ex-battery hens. We would like to get this set up over the summer holidays. We are looking to re-home 3 hens to start with. This will be a wonderful project for the whole school to get involved with. Having hens will develop team working, a sense of personal responsibility and support a huge range of curriculum aligned skills. This will bring different age groups, staff, parents and the local community together and enrich school life in positive and unexpected ways.

As you can imagine the set-up costs and ongoing cost for this project are quite significant. We estimate that the one-off cost would be approximately £500 - £600, which would include building a hen house and secure run and then there will be ongoing costs for food, bedding and vet fees.

The advantages for the school are endless, we will teach the children how to care for the hens and hopefully be able to sell the fresh eggs to families and teachers!

Can you help us?

Please help to raise some funds for our allotment and hen re-homing scheme. "Our Garden Appeal" has been added to your ParentPay account and if you would like to make a donation, please make it here. We are grateful for any donations and if you, or anyone you know, would like to volunteer at our gardening club then we would be very grateful.



There's music in the air!

Children were treated to a performance by Mr Beer and our Fulfen guitarists earlier this week. They were absolutely fabulous and thoroughly enjoyed showing off their guitar skills.



Would your child like to learn a musical instrument?

As a school, we offer musical lessons in guitar, flute, clarinet, keyboard and violin to pupils in Key Stage 2. If you would like to express an interest in your child learning to play any of these instruments, please fill in this form and Mrs Shermer will contact you in due course with further details: <https://forms.office.com/e/bniMfhzbVe>

Staffs Peripatetic Teachers Perform!

On Tuesday afternoon this week, all children will be lucky enough to be entertained by our "Music Live" concert. Music Live is performed by the peripatetic teachers themselves and is a great opportunity for pupils to experience a high-quality live music performance! They perform selection of recognisable pieces from Disney to pop music and it is always highly entertaining.



More Music Opportunities Next Year



Looking forward to next year, on 22nd January 2024, we will again be taking some of our Young Voices choir to perform amongst thousands of other children at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham. Details will be sent home for any children who might want to participate in this amazing opportunity.



Love of Learning... Encouraging... Adaptable... Determination...

Sports News!

Football

To round off an amazing year, our Phoenix football team beat Christchurch in their last match of the season 5-0 and our year 5 team played St Peter's and St Paul's and beat them 2-0.



On top of this, both Phoenix and Falcons have won their leagues – which is AMAZING! There were 9 teams in each league. Mrs Owen is incredibly proud of both teams' achievements and is looking forward to next year already!

Athletics

Fulfen were also overall champions at the Athletics tournament at Beacon Park against various other local primary schools. Our children completed in 200m, 400m, relay, long jump, shot put and javelin. This is the 6th time that Fulfen have been awarded the shield for athletics and it will remain in our cabinet trophy this year.

Well done Fulfen!



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 18th July – Ice Cream Man Visiting Fulfen

Friday 21st July - Year 6 Leavers' assembly 9:30 am

Friday 21st July – Last day of school – no school uniform.

Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th July – INSET days – school closed to all pupils

Tuesday 5th September 2023 - Return to school

