



Newsletter No. 1



Jesus said 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

Our Value this Half Term is to grow CONFIDENCE

September-October 



Dear Parent/ Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year, which is packed full of wonderful news and photos from learning and events at Forty Hill CE School. We always start the year by sharing our school Vision and Values along with our 8 key priorities for the academic year so you know what we are focusing on this year. You will also find information at the end of the newsletter regarding forthcoming dates and online safety. Please can I also remind you that next week we have parent consultations so school will finish at 2pm on Tuesday (14th). We also have our

Multicultural Celebration Day on Friday 17th and we would love everyone to come in cultural/heritage dress, the colours of the national flag or in purple to recognise our fundraising for Polio vaccinations worldwide – no football kits though! Wishing everyone a happy weekend!

With my very best wishes,
Ms Izard- Head teacher

Our Vision and Values

Our Vision



Jesus said "As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples." John 13:34 -35

Following Jesus's example, we treat each other, our community, and God's amazing world with love, respect and compassion. We aspire to ignite curious minds, nurture a passion for learning and enable everyone to experience and share **faith**, **hope** and **service**.

Learning and living in Faith, Hope and Service

Our Values



To develop **confidence** and **respect**,
to show **compassion**,
to learn to be **reflective** and **responsible**,
to grow **resilience**.

Learning and living in Faith, Hope and Service

FAITH- Faith in God, ourselves and each other

Values to support learning and living in FAITH-

Confidence and Respect

HOPE- Hope in God's promises for us and for the future

Values to support learning and living in HOPE-

Being Reflective and Resilience

SERVICE- Serving each other with selfless love

Values to support learning and living in SERVICE-

Compassion and being Responsible

Our Priorities for 2025-26

At **Forty Hill** this year we are working on:



Knowing how to improve our writing by working on our personal targets



Recalling my previous learning and making connections to my current learning.



Learning being adapted to meet our different needs and knowing what I can use to help me



Understanding the different ways we learn, think and question in R.E



Moving around the school and grounds responsibly and respectfully.



Playing together positively and purposefully



Growing a good understanding of Spiritual Development and what it means to each of us



Creating a Climate Action Plan to ensure we are taking more responsibility for our environment



Jesus said 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples.' John 13:34-35

Nursery – Miss Bissett, Mrs Golebiowska and Mrs Sofroniou

The children have settled into nursery exceptionally well, and it has been a delight to observe them establishing positive routines. Shared snack time has been a particular success, with the children not only enjoying this social experience but also demonstrating responsibility by helping to tidy up afterwards. It is remarkable to see the independence and capability of our 3-year-olds, especially so early in the year. Our days have been enriched by singing, laughter, and storytelling. The children have enthusiastically engaged with nursery rhymes and story sessions, which have both stimulated their imaginations and nurtured a growing love for language and creativity. Relationships within the nursery are flourishing. The children are



developing strong connections with both adults and peers, learning important skills such as sharing, cooperation, and mutual support. This has contributed to the creation of a caring and inclusive community. We have recently introduced our Religious Education sessions, beginning with the theme "Who Am I?" Through these sessions, the children are exploring what makes each of them unique,



alongside an introduction to the Christian belief that every individual is loved by God. In the creative area, the children have been introduced to the work of Andy Warhol and have produced their own interpretations of his famous pieces. Their vibrant artwork reflects their individuality and creativity, and we look forward to sharing these wonderful achievements with you.

Reception – Mrs Munt, Mrs Toumazou, Mrs Sofroniou and Ms Darby

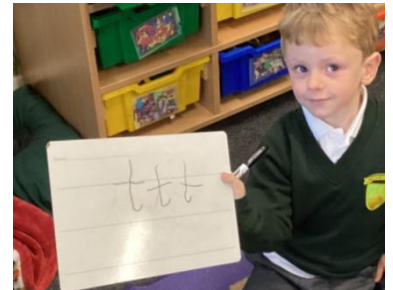
September is always a whirlwind of emotions and learning alongside huge progress. The children are transitioning well and new routines and expectations are beginning to feel more settled. We have spent time getting to know each other through play with Bug in a Rug being a firm favourite!



We have used our value in focus: confidence to recognise where we have made progress within our new setting and to celebrate what we feel good at already too! The children relish their child-initiated learning opportunities and as we follow their lead, we get to know them through various creative and imaginative ways. We have participated in our whole school portrait project by learning about the artist Amy Sherald creating bright outfits in the style of her work. We've begun our Phase 2 Phonics programme and are making progress with our Grapheme to Phoneme Correspondence and letter formation. In Maths we



have been sorting objects into groups and comparing amounts using the language of 'more' and 'fewer'. We have just introduced the story of *The Little Red Hen* which the children will get very good at re-telling over the next few weeks so listen out for the "Oh very well, I'll do it myself, and so she did!". We are embracing the joy of Autumn, being able to use the field still and conduct lessons outdoors where we can and utilising all of the



'Autumn Treasures' the wind blows our way. The children have really enjoyed attending singing Acts of Worship in preparation for our Harvest Festival and we were SO proud of the way they conducted themselves in the service. Thank you for all of your generous donations for the foodbank and tissues for the classroom. What a busy, but happy, few weeks it's been!

Year 1 – Miss Piccone and Ms Bowery

Year 1 have had a tremendous start to the year and have settled beautifully into their new routines! This half term we have taken a more child-led approach, and the children's curiosity and enthusiasm have really shone through. In Literacy, we dove straight into our purpose for writing: letters! Using the story *Dear Dinosaur*, we explored the features of letter writing and even planned our own letters to the dinosaur. The most exciting part? We actually got a reply back! Maths has been full of hands-on fun, with lots of manipulatives, teamwork, and problem-solving as we strengthened our understanding of numbers up to 10. Our topic



this term, *Footprints from the Past*, has been a roaring success.

The children have stepped into the shoes of palaeontologists, gone on a dinosaur dig, and even discovered fossils! They have

loved learning about how fossils are formed and are looking forward to making their own later this term. Forest School has also been a highlight. Year 1 have been busy exploring the woodland, collecting autumn treasures, creating nature-inspired art, and enjoying time outdoors. In RE, our big question is: "What responsibility has God given people about taking care of the world?" The children have been thoughtful and passionate, discussing how we can look after God's creation and suggesting small but powerful changes we can make in our everyday lives. It has been a joy to see Year 1 throw themselves into their



learning with such excitement and energy. Keep up the amazing work Year 1, we are so proud of you!

Year 2 – Miss Wisbey, Mr Lyster and Mr Theodosi

What a brilliant start Class 2 have had this year! They've settled in so well and have already been busy with lots of exciting learning. In Art, the children loved finding out about Picasso and had great fun creating their own cubist-style portraits. Our History lessons have whisked us back to the Stone Age, and the



class have been full of curiosity and enthusiasm—sharing facts, asking questions, and really bringing the topic to life. In Literacy, we've been exploring setting descriptions in our Talk for Writing unit; imagining what it might be like inside a cave - which has led to some fantastic ideas and writing. The children have also been performing a shared class text with actions (ask them to show you at home—they're brilliant!). In RE the children have been exploring the Big Question: "Why did Jesus teach the Lord's Prayer as the way to pray?" They have been asking lots of good questions, considering the themes of

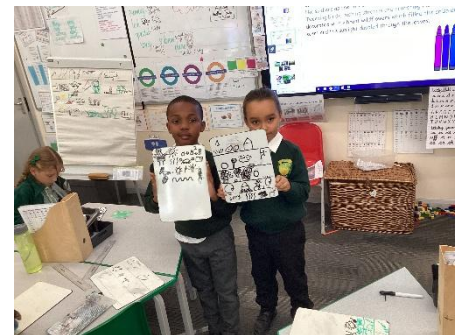
forgiveness, temptation and provision. We're so proud of their energy and positivity—it's been a fantastic start to the term – Keep it up Year 2.

Year 3 – Mrs Ates, Mrs Watson and Ms Darby

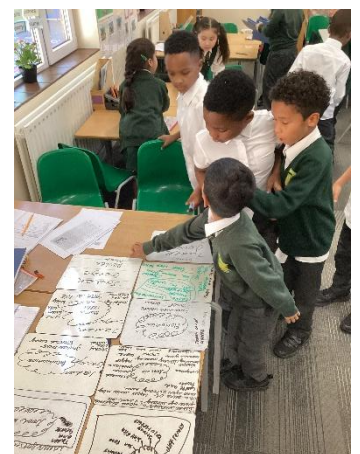
This term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities! The children have shown excellent teamwork as well as great independence in their learning. We began the term by exploring spirituality through the book 'Be a Tree'. Using this as inspiration, the children created beautifully written poems that compared parts of a tree to family members and themselves. These poems were proudly displayed. In PE, the children developed teamwork and collaboration skills through



'Game Sense', practising strategies for attacking and defending the ball whilst having lots of fun. In RE, we have been delving into the 'Big Bible Story'. The children built on their prior knowledge and explored the Bible to understand the eight core concepts. They engaged with the material in different ways—some



enjoyed sharing their views, others asked thoughtful questions, and many took great pride in recording notes. In Literacy, we have been focusing on 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the story in Guided Reading sessions, while also developing their writing through persuasive letters and setting descriptions. This work



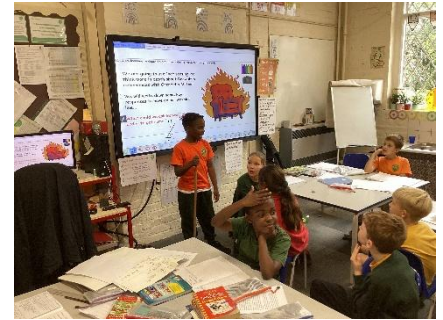
was enriched with drama activities, hot-seating, story mapping, and the creation of toolkits to strengthen their writing skills. We were also fortunate to welcome a very special visitor to our class. Audrey's aunty, a gemmologist, led an exciting workshop where she shared a fascinating collection of rocks, stones, and gems. This provided a wonderful hands-on opportunity to extend our science learning. A huge thank you to Natalie for making this possible! Finally, there has been a real buzz around maths this term. The children have been eager to practise their times tables on TTRockstars, showing fantastic enthusiasm and determination. Well done, Year 3! Keep up your focus and confidence as you continue your learning journey.

Year 4 – Mr Kansara and Mrs Bishop

It has been wonderful to have some time to settle in, but the children have also shown great maturity in understanding that it's time to get on with our learning. While the transition into a new year can sometimes be challenging, every child has demonstrated resilience and confidence as they've stepped into Year 4. We've made our learning as hands-on and engaging as possible. In maths, we've been using number lines and Base 10 resources to deepen our understanding of place value and the value of digits within numbers. These visual and practical



methods have really helped us build a strong foundation. Drama has quickly become a class favourite! Whether we were reenacting *Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man*, stepping into the shoes of Beowulf as he battled Grendel's mother, or explaining why the Anglo-



Saxons invaded Britain, the children have loved bringing learning to life through performance. We've also put a lot of effort into building our vocabulary. Using dictionaries is a skill we are actively working on, and it's been exciting to see the children engage with new words and their meanings. One of our main highlights so far has been our self-portraits, inspired by the work of Kehinde Wiley. These stunning pieces helped us kick off the year with creativity and confidence. If you attended the 'Meet the Teacher' evening, you would have had the chance to see this amazing artwork on display. If not, please enjoy the attached photo—we're incredibly proud of what the children have created! We're looking forward to an exciting and enriching year ahead!

Year 5 – Miss Garcia and Mrs Buller

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks in Year 5! In English, the children have been preparing to write their own suspense-filled stories inspired by our current class text, *How to Train Your Dragon*. They've been learning how to build tension, keep readers on the edge of their seats, and create vivid settings that capture the imagination. In RE, Year 5 have been exploring the divine and human side of Jesus by studying the miracles he performed. They are beginning to make



wonderful connections between the Old and New Testament, showing deep curiosity and thoughtfulness in their discussions. Maths has been all about place value. Using counters, Gattegno charts and number lines, the children have investigated big ideas like rounding, making numbers come alive in practical and visual ways. Science has certainly captured their enthusiasm this term! Year 5 have been busy investigating



the properties of different materials and exploring how to separate them. They've enjoyed experimenting, recording their findings in tables, and debating their results with great excitement. A huge well done to Year 5 for approaching all of their learning with such energy, creativity, and curiosity—we can't wait to see where the next few weeks take us!

Year 6 – Miss Dale and Mrs Brewer

What a fantastic start to the year Class 6 have had! I am incredibly impressed with many of their positive and mature attitudes and the hard work they have put in so far, which I am sure will continue. In Literacy, we have begun the study of our class book 'Letters from the Lighthouse' which links to our WW2 topic. The children have written some excellent descriptions of a Blitz air raid, using both their own historical knowledge and understanding of our text, and their ideas and vocabulary have been superb. In history, we have also looked at the causes of the second world war, rationing and evacuation. We are using our research to help us write



letters home in role as evacuees and are having fun using our own billeting forms and creating war-time names for ourselves! We are really looking forward to our trip to the Henry Moore studios and gardens this week, where we will find out more about this amazing sculptor and artist whose work included sketches inspired by London civilians huddling in underground stations during the Blitz. Our RE unit is focusing on the big

question: What is the Journey of Life and Death like from a Christian perspective? The children have been thinking about rites of passage and sacraments, and learning more about baptism, confirmation, Christian marriage and funerals, and the importance and symbolism of these events to Christians.



'Cold Calling' in the Classroom

This half term we have introduced Cold Calling. It is a teaching approach designed to engage all of the children in the classroom and to develop better focus during lessons. There are 5 stages to the process, these are, 1) posing the question, 2) giving thinking time, 3) inviting someone to respond, 4) teacher responding to the pupil's response, 5) inviting another student to answer.

The key difference to what you may be used to is that children do not put their hand up to answer a question. This promotes everyone in the room to take responsibility for their learning and to develop confidence and resilience in a warm, safe environment. By using an invitational approach towards children, they can attempt to answer the question without feeling singled out. Questions are posed and answered in a respectful manner and peers respect each other's answers. Furthermore, this technique promotes inclusion - giving everyone a chance to share their thoughts.

Colour Run! Friday 3rd October

Thank you to the Friends of Forty Hill for organising this incredible event for our children and thank you to all the families who have taken part raising some much-needed funds for our wonderful school!



Football News

Well done to our magnificent football teams who have taken part in two rounds of the Best Boys league this half term with



our A-Team being presently undefeated, and our B Team showing vast improvements. Thank you to Mr Kansara and Mr Lyster who have overseen our matches and to Fairview Homes who have sponsored our A-team kit this year.



Ways you can support the Friends of Forty Hill

Sign up to the Easyfundraising app and select the Friends of Forty Hill as your chosen charity. This means when you shop with a wide range of shops or businesses online, they will give to your chosen charity every time you spend. It is really easy to set up and can bring in regular and impactful income to the school. If you sign up using this link below, the Friends will get a bonus of £5 for every new signup once you have also raised £5!



https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=290529&invite=awqpnj&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=GPT-143&utm_source=easyfundraising-app&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=copy-link

The Friends have also set up Asda Rewards “cashpot for schools”. Everytime the app is downloaded and our school is selected by a new user, Asda will pay us £1.00.

Shop at Asda?

Raise £1 plus 0.5% of every shop for our school FREE!

Easy as 1, 2, 3...

- 1 Open your Asda rewards app
- 2 Tap 'Cashpot for Schools'
- 3 Search for and select **Forty Hill CofE School**



Information

Whilst we will continue to email lots of information, don't forget that our calendar and curriculum information can all be found on website, www.fortyhill.com. The information from the meet the teacher meetings, as well as spelling lists and extra information as it comes available can all be found here.

Curriculum Booklets (Nursery- Year 6) can be found in the Class News section of the website. These include a variety of different learning activities for your child to complete over the next half term.

As part of our ongoing commitment to **Online Safety**, the children will be talking about staying safe online. It is such an important life skill to understand the impact their digital footprint has and also the ways to keep themselves safe whilst experiencing all of the wonderful opportunities the internet can provide. If you haven't already seen the online video, please do click on one of the picture links below:



**Reception, Year 1 and 2
(Grab the Banana)**



**Year 3 and Year 4
(Band Runner)**



**Year 5 and Year 6
(Jigsaw)**



For more information on Online Safety, click here: <https://www.fortyhill.com/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=51>

Forest School Sessions	
Year 1	Autumn 1
Year 2	Autumn 2
Year 3	Spring 2
Year 4	Spring 1
Year 5	Summer 1
Year 6	Summer 2 (Thu pm)



Forthcoming Dates

w/c 13th October Multicultural Week

14th October - Parent Consultations: school closes at 2pm

15th October – Community Prayer- Prayer Garden 8:20 am- All Welcome

15th October- Parents Consultation after school

17th October- Multicultural Food Festival / Fundraiser for Polio

Dress up in Purple for Polio or your cultural dress as part of multicultural week celebrations

21st October- Y4,5,6 Macbeth Workshop with Young Shakespeare Company.

22nd, 23rd, 24th October- INSET days- school closed

27th- 31st October- Half Term

3rd November- Back to school

A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

