



Fairhaven Primary School & Nursery

BARNETT LANE, WORDSLEY, STOURBRIDGE, DY8 5PY

Telephone: 01384 958292

Email: Fairhaveninfo@stbartsmat.co.uk

Website: www.fairhaven.dudley.sch.uk

A Place of Growth, A Path to Excellence

Headteacher: Mrs Louise de Graaff

5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. It has been so wonderful to have all of the children back in school this week and to hear the buzz of excitement in every classroom. We have enjoyed listening to the children's tales of their summer adventures and seeing their beaming smiles around the building.

I would like to offer a very warm welcome to all of our new families. I hope that you soon feel part of the Fairhaven family and that your children are very happy and successful with us. I would also like to welcome three new members of staff to the team. Miss Gordon joins us as ex-pupil herself and will be teaching year 6 this year, Miss Vaughan is starting her career with us by teaching year 1 and 2 and, finally, Mrs Shuttleworth brings her wealth of experience to Fairhaven and will be leading English across the school and covering 3B in Mrs Baluch's absence. All three teachers are a fabulous addition to the Fairhaven team.

Communication

ClassDojo is a wonderful way for us to be able to share information and updates on your child's education with you. You are also able to send messages to your child's class teacher, or to me, directly through this platform. Please be aware that teachers will only read messages on ClassDojo after 8am and before 5pm but that they cannot pick up message whilst they are teaching. Therefore, please do not report a child's absence through ClassDojo or send messages that need to be picked up before the end of the school day during the afternoon – always telephone the school office or email Fairhaveninfo@stbartsmat.co.uk.

Class teachers will be sending home curriculum newsletters on Monday which will outline your child's learning for this term along with any classroom routines and their PE days. Please note that whole school Celebration Assemblies will take place at 2.45pm on **Fridays** this academic year.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education, my door is always open. You can arrange an appointment with me by contacting the school office or contact me via ClassDojo.

Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform and how smart the children look when wearing it. Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct uniform (including black shoes) or school PE kit, every day. We do not insist that the children wear items of clothing with the school logo on, but the children **must** wear items that are the correct colour and style as stated below:





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	Uniform Item	Generic/Branded
Winter	Pale blue polo-shirt Grey trousers/grey pinafore/grey skirt Navy blue cardigan/pullover Grey socks/grey tights Comfortable black shoes	Either Generic Either Generic Generic
Summer	Pale blue polo-shirt Grey shorts/grey skirt Blue and white checked dress	Either Generic Either
PE Kit	T-shirt matching the child's house colour Navy blue/black shorts/skirt Navy blue/black jogging/tracksuit bottoms/leggings Navy blue sweatshirt/tracksuit top/hoodie Sports trainers Black pumps (indoor only)	Either Either Either Either Generic Generic

Children are only allowed to wear small stud earrings (which must be removed for PE), a watch or religious bangle or necklace. Please ensure that hair garments like clips, bobbles and headbands are of a sensible size and colour.

Healthy Snacks and Water

All children should have a named water bottle in school every day. The children are only allowed to have **water** in their bottles and are allowed to refill this at break and lunchtimes. They may bring a small carton of juice to drink with their lunch but are not allowed squash or juice in their water bottles in order to protect their teeth. The children in KS2 may also bring a snack to eat at playtime (please note that the children in EYFS and KS1 are given a fruit or vegetable snack each day). A healthy snack is either a piece of fruit, some raw vegetables, buttered crackers, plain breadsticks or toast. Crisps, biscuits and chocolate bars are not healthy and therefore not permitted at breaktimes. The children in KS2 are also able to purchase toast from the kitchen via ParentPay. Milk can now also be purchased through the Cool Milk Scheme.

No Nuts

Please do not give your child any food items that contain nuts. This includes breaktime snacks or as a part of their packed lunch. Please be aware that we have children in school with nut allergies and we therefore need to minimise the risk for these children. Under no circumstances send your child into school with peanut butter, Nutella or cereal bars or biscuits containing nuts.





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Parking

Please consider our neighbours and local community when parking your car at drop off and pick up times. Do not park on the double yellow lines on the school drive or over people's drives. Try to arrive a little earlier and park away from the school making the final part of your journey on foot with your children.

Wrap Around Provision

We offer before and after school club provision from 7.45am until 5.45pm. If you wish for your child to attend either breakfast or after school club (FAB) we ask that you book their place via ParentPay. At the end of the last academic year, there were an increasing number of parents requesting this provision with very little notice. Please ensure that you have booked your child's place at least two days in advance unless you encounter an emergency.

Holidays in Term Time and Attendance

In the unlikely event that you wish to take your child out of school for reasons other than medical appointments, please complete a school Leave of Absence request form, which can be obtained from the school office. As stated by the Department for Education, headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. If the circumstances meet the guidelines for exceptional reasons, the absence could be authorised, but if the reasons are not deemed exceptional, then the absence will always be marked as **unauthorised** and referred to the local authority. This is then reviewed by the council and a fixed penalty notice (£160 per parent per child but can be reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days) may be issued.

A new three-year rolling period starts for parents when the first penalty notice is issued to them. If a second penalty notice is issued within three years of the first penalty notice, then this will be at a fixed rate of £160 per parent per child, with no reduction for early payment. A third penalty notice cannot be issued within the three-year rolling period; therefore, the local authority will deal with any further unauthorised leave through prosecution in the Magistrates Court. If the parent is found guilty, the fine is up to £1000.

It is vital that your child attends school everyday, unless they are unwell, to ensure that they make good progress, develop healthy relationships with their peers and have every school opportunity available to them. Thank you for your cooperation with this important matter. The school's attendance has historically been poor and needs to improve as a part of our whole school improvement plan.





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Breakfast and a book Events

This half term we would like to invite you or a valued family member, to come and share a book and a slice of toast with your child. Due to the space in the hall, we are inviting one adult to join each child to share a love of reading whilst enjoying a little breakfast. We will send more information closer to each event, but pop the dates below in your diary.

Important Dates

Tuesday 9th September – Reception Phonics Meeting for parents, 5pm

Thursday 11th September – Y1 Phonics meeting for parents, 5pm

Tuesday 16th September – Reception Breakfast and a book event, 9am

Wednesday 17th September – KS1 Breakfast and a book event, 9am

Tuesday 23rd September – Y3&4 Breakfast and a book event, 9am

Wednesday 24th September – Y5&6 Breakfast and a book event, 9am

Tuesday 30th September – Individual Photographs

Thursday 9th October – Parents of children with SEND drop in for a coffee, 9am

Monday 13th October and Wednesday 15th October – Parents' Evenings

Friday 24th October - INSET Day

Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October - Half term

Friday 19th December – Break up for Christmas Holidays

Monday 5th January - INSET Day

All of the staff are excited about the year ahead and having the opportunity to build on the successes of last year. We look forward to enriching your child's education with visits and experiences and watching them achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise de Graaff

Headteacher

