

Felix Primary School

Spring 1 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message



Dear all,

It has been a great start to 2025, and we can't believe where the time has gone since the last holidays!

We have a few staffing updates to share. We have welcomed new staff this half term including:

Mrs Spurgeon –Assistant Head and SENCO

- Mrs Brooks MDSA
- Miss Alderson- MDSA

Miss Hart –Pine Lead Teacher

We have said goodbye and good luck to:

Mrs Bhagwandas- Assistant Head and SENCO of the Specialist Units

Mrs Cleland is staying with us one day a week to support SEND across the school.

Miss Matthews will be teaching Cherry class on a Monday and Tuesday after half term.

Miss Barlow is continuing to support in Elm during Mrs Hunt's absence.

As you know, we will be recruiting a new Headteacher for September and we will keep you updated on this.

Please ensure reading about all of the exciting updates in this newsletter ☐

We look forward to the next half term and the fun and learning to come.

Jess Hearn

Headteacher



Whole School News

Hop to It:

Once again we would like to thank those that took part in our dress down day on 14th February. This event raised £140 bringing the total raised so far £317. The money raised will go towards the cost of the entering the schools Hare into the Hop to It event for the St Elizabeth Hospice.

[Hop To It! Suffolk 2025 - St Elizabeth Hospice](#)

The minimum amount needed to enter the Hare is £750 which means we are just £433 away. The winner of the hamper was Mason from Elder class.

Preparation to decorate the Hare will soon be under way so listen out for ways your child can be involved.

Attendance:

We continue to promote and raise awareness of the importance of good attendance. Our target is 96% but we are a way off reaching our target.

We left the autumn term with a whole school attendance of 92.2%, and at this moment in time whole school attendance is 91.1%

We have been seeing a lot of illnesses since last term and would just like to remind you of ways to contact the school to report absence, you can do this in the following ways:

Calling the absent line - 01394 283374 opt 1 OR emailing at office@felixprimary.org

It is school policy that this is done on each morning of each day of absence.

It is also very important to remember the 48hr policy regarding sickness & upset tummy.

If you have any worries or concerns regarding attendance, please do not hesitate in contacting the school office.

School attendance to date is as follows:

Class	Attendance Spring 1	Attendance Year to Date
Elm	77.6%	82.7%
Acorn	89.4%	89.5%
Cedar	86.9%	88.7%
Elder	89.1%	90.2%
Cherry	93%	93%
Rowan	95%	94%
Maple	94.7%	94.8%
Willow	92.4%	92.4%
Pine	93%	95.2%
Poplar	94.8%	95.2%

We would welcome any feedback on how you think we can improve attendance and what barriers you or your children face in regards to attending school.

Whole School News

Inclusion and Pastoral



Inclusion:

Thank you to everyone for making me so welcome when I joined the team as Assistant Head/SENDCO in January.

I am slowly getting to know the children and parents.

Thank you to all of you who attended the 'Meet the SEN Team' on the 6th February and introduced yourselves to me and the rest of the SEN Team.

The SEN Team are currently in the process of completing Annual Reviews and Referrals to various agencies. If you have spoken to us regarding a referral, please bear with us while we organise these. It takes time to build up evidence and complete forms. We will let you know when these have been submitted.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child, please get in touch via the school office or you can email direct to:

senadmin@felixprimaryschool.org



Pastoral:

It has been good to see all the smiling faces back after Seasonal Holiday.

I have been doing interventions with some children, talking about any concerns/worries and general check-ins with some of the children.

I am glad the children feel they are able to come and have a chat if they are feeling overwhelmed by things or any concerns they may have. I will try my best to talk it through with them and discuss ways to make it better.

We have the pleasure of Level Two coming into school to talk about things with some of the older children. Please also remember the other outside help you can access. The food banks in Felixstowe can be found on the internet with their dates and times of collections. Anyone that needs information or have any concerns please let me know, can speak to me via DOJO/on the gate/email the school and they can forward to me during the day.

Whole School News

Enrichment

Enrichment:



During Spring 1 term we were very lucky to have a live concert by a group of local musicians. We were able to listen to violin, guitar, trombone, clarinet, saxophone and drums.

We all enjoyed clapping and singing along.



Our new school values are
Achievement
Resilience
Kindness



We have animal mascots to celebrate these
Achievement albatross
Resilience Rhinoceros
Kindness kangaroo



Each week our mascots head to different classes to help the children think about their value. In our house assemblies this half term, we have been working collaboratively for our first ever House Art Competition to create some posters to represent our values.

We are so very excited to share them and see which house will hold the House Art Competition trophy

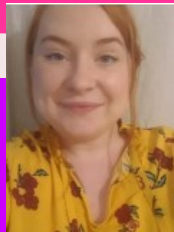
Whole School News

Clubs

School Council:

This term we have had lots of meetings discussing our targets to achieve this year. We decided we would like to buy some more equipment for playtimes. The children then discussed how we would achieve this.

We look forward to the summer term when our plans can come to fruition, and we can hopefully achieve our target for the year!



Youth Forum:

This term we visited our first town council meeting. The children thrived when asked to share their opinions. They did this in front of 4 other primary schools and the high school. They shared their concerns about the new buildings destroying the groves and we were lucky enough to be one of the first to see the new plans for 2 new parks in Felixstowe. Next term we will be attending 3 more meetings. I look forward to what we shall debate and vote on next !

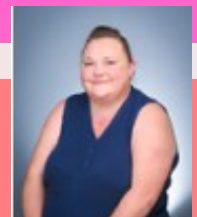
Gardening Club:

Gardening Club is due to start back after February half term and we look forward to seeing you all.

We have been planning activities for the children to do when they return to Gardening Club. These include planting fruit and vegetables in our new raised planters (provided by The Felixstowe Lions and Rotary Club). In assembly, the children from last terms Gardening club received their certificates and badges for entering the Ruby Robin Awards. Well done!

We have entered the Suffolk Show School Gardening Competition and we want help from all staff and pupils. Details to follow. Last term the children from Gardening Club chose the theme 'The Secret Garden'. So watch this space!

If anyone has any spare seeds etc then we would appreciate this as we want to make our entry as colorful and diverse as we can. Thanks. Miss Fish and Mrs Schrier



Whole School News

Sports and Sports Clubs



Sports:

This half term has been a very chilly and wet one. All classes have had a Gymnastics unit to work through incorporating lots of different elements that include gymnastics rolls, jumps, balances and apparatus work.

We have also had our KS1 classes learning about Dance, lower KS2 have been looking at ball skills, Yr 5 have started their swimming and Yr 6 have been working on Basketball.

We have had three events this half term, starting with the cross country at the high school. The year 5 and 6 children that took part did amazingly well with a special mention going out to Max Windel for his 1st place finish in the Yr5 boys race.

Just this week we took two groups of children from lower and upper KS2 to a football festival at the high school. Battling the elements the children were amazing, they spent the first half of each session doing some skills and drills and the second half playing matches against the other school. I am extremely proud to say that we won all of the matches we played. The children did a fantastic job!

Please get your children signed up to after school clubs after half term as we have two dodgeball competitions, a girls U10's football tournament at ITFC and another football competition at Felixstowe High School.



Whole School News

Friends of Felix



Friends of Felix:

The Friends of Felix continue thrive to provide as many extra curricular resources for the school as possible.

At Christmas we organized a school disco which the children loved. Discos remain a firm favorite for all and help to raise much needed funds for the school. The Christmas disco raised enough funds for the Friends of Felixstowe to provide a film afternoon with snacks for all the children in school.

We would like to hold more events during the year but are really struggling to get the help we need to make these events a reality. Please look out for the new date of the Friends of Felix AGM, we would like to welcome as many parents, teachers and friends of the school as possible; and unfortunately if we do not manage to get more volunteers/committee members we will be unable to continue. Any time you give to help is gladly received, this could mean you join the committee, have an active role on the committee OR just volunteer to help at our school events

We are needing your help to help the school.

We would welcome any feedback on past events and how to improve them. We would also welcome any fundraising ideas you may have.

This half term the Friends of Felix have funded new sports tops for the school. These will be used by the school teams attending sporting events.

If you have any feedback or would like to help please contact our secretary by emailing the address below:

Many thanks for your continued support

Friends of Felix

Specialist Support Units



Elm: We have had a lovely start to 2025.

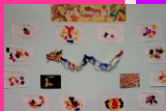
We have looked at rhythm, call and response in Music. The children enjoyed listening and matching the beat and then stopping.

We have been basing all our Literacy and Maths on 'The Enormous Turnip'. We even acted out pulling the turnip from the ground. The carousel approach is going well. The children are settling into their TEACHH trays and seem to enjoy the time where they can focus quietly on their learning.

In Phonics the blue room have been doing spellings in their group and the purple room have been doing sensory bucket phonics and green room have been completing sensory buckets with phonics.

The children have been loving their weekly trips to the library. This along with attending assembly has been great and is teaching the children about being part of a wider whole school community.

Art – we focused on 'Chinese New Year' and the children completed some lovely dragons and lanterns.



Science – we have been looking at plants and their life cycle. We even planted some cress seeds. We have enjoyed watching them grow from seeds to plants.

We are looking forward to continuing our learning when we come back after half term.



Poplar: Welcome back Poplar Class!

We hope you have all had a wonderful and restful break. We are extremely excited to be welcoming you back to Spring term and all that this will bring. I am sure you will all settle back into school as well as you did in September.

We will continue with our class timetable and each child's individual provision and personal timetable where all extra support and interventions are completed. This includes support such as Rudland short-term memory interventions, fine and gross motor skills activities, Makaton and Speech and Language support tailored to meet your child's specific needs.

In maths, we continue to follow The Felix way using White Rose and I expect the children will approach their learning with as much enthusiasm as last term. We will continue to teach English using The Write Stuff to support our holistic teaching. We will continue to work on our phonics by completing Read, write, Inc lessons daily.

PE will be every Thursday with a second session on Friday mornings. Please send your child in their PE kit with a school jumper. We will also have forest school on Friday afternoons for the whole spring term, so please ensure your child has clothes that you are happy to get muddy with and suitable footwear.



We will continue to use dojo to share and celebrate your children's learning journey and we hope you will continue to add your views and comments as your children very much enjoy seeing and reading them. We will also be outside at the gate every morning where this is an opportunity for you to discuss items which arise.

We all look forward to another term teaching your children to a holistic and enriching curriculum aimed at their individual needs.



Pine:

Pine are having an incredible start to the new term. They have dealt with the many changes admirably and are now settling into a routine that is very child led.

This term, we have focused entirely on ourselves and our body. We have learnt the difference between the skull and the spine, the tibia and the thigh and identified features of the face. To do this, we have created life size skeletons, mini moving skeletons and 3d replicas of our rib cage. Look out for more parts of the body!

We have really been embedding our learning about personal space and how to keep ourselves safe. Pine have even been practicing how to brush their teeth, how to react when feeling frustrated and understanding that we control our bodies.

In mathematics, Pine have been using counters, base ten, and number lines to understand place value. We will continue to develop this knowledge by transferring it to the understanding of money.

It is imperative that Pine are equipped with the life skills that they need when they leave school, so by the time you read this, they will have learnt what to do in an emergency as well as learning their address.

There are many photos and updates on Class Dojo on a weekly basis if you would like to see more information.

Thank you for all the continued support.





KS1

Acorn:

The Amazing Acorns have had a full and exciting half term. Our topic this half term has been winter. We have been observing the seasonal changes that we have seen in the world around us. The children particularly enjoyed observing ice melting through the day and experimenting with ways to make the ice melt faster.

We have discovered and explored the continent of Antarctica and even went on an expedition where we spotted penguins, seals and walruses. Our write stuff text was "Penguins" and the children enjoyed finding out about the unique roles of male and female emperor penguins. We then read "Handa's surprise" and found out all about the African savannah. The children enjoyed comparing the two very different habitats and finding out about other habitats around the world. The children enjoyed trying some of the exotic fruits that can be found in Africa.

We also learnt all about Chinese New Year. We listened to the story of The Great Race. The children found out that they were born in either the year of the pig or the rat.
We also enjoyed trying prawn crackers.

In maths we have begun to extend our knowledge of numbers beyond 5. The children have been investigating how the numbers 6, 7 and 8 can be composed. We have also been finding doubles and sorting numbers into odd and even

Cedar:

Well, our 'Super Cedars' are certainly showing us what hardworking Year 1's they are! We have been enjoying 'The Last Stop on Market Street' and 'The Queens Hat' so far this term in English. The children have been really showing us how they understand the story and producing some great writing! In Maths we have been focusing on addition and subtraction, using lots of practical resources to help us understand.

We have been lucky enough to have the 'Resilience Rhino' mascot in our classroom this half term. It helps us to focus on never giving up, persevering in all that we do and challenging ourselves. We have talked about this whole school value in assemblies and in class. We all decided that whilst it can be tricky, we feel really pleased with ourselves when we have managed to complete something we couldn't do before – however small it may be!

Please could you continue to read with your children at home and access phonics videos to support your children further. We are still hoping to get some certificates on Numbots too for children that access this at home.

If you have any spare plant pots Cedar Class would be very grateful. Our Science topic is 'planting' and we are really hoping that we can grow plenty of plants for our class garden. Let's hope we get some more lovely bright, Spring sunshine to help our plants thrive. We look forward to sharing some photos with you next half term – fingers crossed they grow well!

Elder:

We have had an amazing term in Elders. We welcomed our new 'ARC' jar. When the children have been showing our values of Achievement, Resilience and Kindness they have been awarded stars to go into the jar. So far, we have 4 stars, and we are looking forward to our class treat when it is full!

In English we have been writing about 'the building boy'. We particularly loved watching the children writing about the emotions and feelings within the story.

In Maths we have finished our money topic and started multiplication and division. The children have enjoyed setting up shops and using their money to buy their snacks at breaktime. We were also very excited to have been chosen to discuss the future park plans at Seaton and Walton Rec. We have discussed what we would improve and sent these recommendations to the town council.

Every day we have seen the children grow their love of learning. All eager to get their own ideas down. We look forward to seeing the sun return and what else we can achieve in summer term!

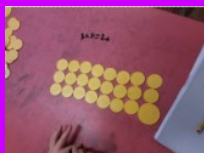
KS2

Cherry:

What an exciting start to the year we have had! Cherry Class have been working so hard and I am extremely proud of how kind and resilient everyone is being and how much we are achieving.

In English we have been exploring 'The Blue Umbrella' and 'A Star in a Jar' and Cherry Class have written some beautiful stories. We have been thinking hard about what we need to make a good sentence and focusing on our presentation.

In maths we have spent lots of time working on multiplication and division and really securing our knowledge with these skills. We have been using our resources to support our learning and transferring these skills into our pictorial and written methods of maths as well.



In music we have had so much fun creating and playing our own pentatonic melodies inspired by Chinese New Year.



In Art we have been exploring paint, texture and colour. We used acrylic paints to create a sea scene and then had a go at sewing onto our paintings. Cherry Class all showed so much resilience when it came to sewing and were really proud of themselves for achieving something quite tricky and something that a lot of them had never done before.



Have a lovely, restful break with lots of fun mixed in and I can't wait to see you ready for another exciting half term!

Rowan:

It has been another wonderful term, filled with children achieving amazing things, showing real resilience and daily examples of kindness being seen. Across the school we have had a focus on our school values ARK – Achieve, Resilience and Kindness. Miss Atashkar and I are really proud of how well Rowan class display the values.

We have had a fantastic term in English, going back in time to Ancient Egypt and have written some great diary entries pretending we were Tutankhamun.

In maths we have continued with our mantra of practice makes progress and have learnt lots about multiplication and division. We showed great determination whilst learning the written methods to multiply 2 and 3 digit numbers by a 1 digit number. Our knowledge of place value from the Autumn term held us in good stead and there have been lots of 'lightbulb' moments which has been wonderful to see. TTRS continues to feature heavily in Rowan and our scores continue to improve – keep on practicing – it is fantastic to see how well we are all doing!

In science we have been learning about sound, in RE, Hinduism, PSHE, Diversity and Communities and History, The Ancient Maya Civilisation.

Rowan class daily amaze us with their enthusiasm for learning and it has been a pleasure to see each child continue to thrive – we look forward to the summer term for continued progress and sunny skies!

KS2

Maple:

We have had a super term so far. In maths, we have been looking at multiplication and division. We have really enjoyed using the manipulatives and other resources to help us understand multiplication and division facts. In one lesson we used straws and made triangles, Mrs White was very sneaky and gave us more straws than we needed, or some said not enough straws so we were able to see that sometimes when dividing we might have a remainder.



To help us with our timetable knowledge we would really like to see the children accessing TTRS more. We have lots of rewards to give out.

In English, we have just finished writing our stories based on Anthony Browne's book Gorilla. We really enjoyed the sentence stacking lessons and applied all of our knowledge to our writing.

We have really enjoyed science this half term revisiting fossils. We looked at different layers of sediment and how fossils come to the surface by using jelly and sweets (our classroom smelt divine!) We also enjoyed drawing pictures of fossils and researching a paleontologist – Mary Anning.



Please remember Year 5 have swimming on a Wednesday and they must come to school in their school uniform.

Please continue to read at least 4 times a week. Reading diaries are checked every Tuesday and rewards are given out every Friday

Willow:

In English we have been writing stories based on the poem 'The Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll. We have written some brilliant stories using noun phrases, subordinate clauses and relative clauses. We also tried to include some tricky punctuation such as hyphens, dashes, colons and semicolons.



Now we are studying flashbacks using a beautiful short film called 'The Piano'.



In maths we have been studying decimals and we have now moved on to percentages. We have also been doing lots of practice arithmetic tests!

In history we are learning about WWI and will be moving onto WWII. We wrote letters from the trenches with a supply teacher and she was really impressed with how thoughtful they were

Whole School News

We would like to take this space to say a huge THANK YOU to the following companies and people for their hard work and help within school.

Mrs Debbie Bartlett of Litter Free Felixstowe, Felixstowe Relief Charity.

Felixstowe Men's Shed.

Felixstowe Lions Club.

More information about how we are working collaboratively with these will be shared in our next newsletter.

Autumn Term - 2024	
Monday 2nd September	Start of Term
Monday 2nd September	Trust staff professional development days (no staff on site)
Tuesday 3rd September & Wednesday 4th September	Staff professional development days
Thursday 5th September	Whole school start of term
Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November	Half Term
Monday 4th November	Staff professional development days
Friday 20th December	End of Autumn term
Spring Term 2025	
Monday 6th January	Start of Term
Monday 6th January	Trust staff professional development days (no staff on site)
Tuesday 7th January	Whole school start of term
Monday 17th - Friday 21st February	Half Term
Friday 4th April	End of Spring Term
Friday 18th April	Bank Holiday
Summer Term 2025	
Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Term
Tuesday 22nd April	Staff professional development day
Wednesday 23rd April	Whole school start of term
Monday 5th May	Bank holiday
Friday 23rd May	PD day
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May	Half term
Tuesday 22nd July	End of Summer Term

Term dates:

Current events:

Date	Event
10th February	Under 9s football am Under 11s football pm
13th February	PGL meeting 3:00
14th February 2025	Valentine's Day dress down – wear red, pink or hearts (or all of them!)
14th February 2025	Valentines Disco 3.15pm – 4.15pm KS1. This has been cancelled. 4.30pm - 6pm KS2
25th February 2025	Tractor visit for KS1, Pine and Poplar (Fish)
17th March - 4th April 2025	Friends of Felix Easter Event tbc
11th March	Dodgeball am
3rd March	Swimming gala am
10th March	Under 10s girls – schools games event pm
18th March	Dodgeball am
20th March 2025	9-10.30 - Playground proms visit 1
20th March	Under 11s football am
27th March 2025	Movie Night 3.15pm – 5.15pm
28th March 2025	Playground proms – visit 2
2nd April	Cross country at RHS am
1st April	Rocksteady concert 2-15

Please see below a list of events for the remainder of Spring term. These are subject to change:



From all at Felix Primary School