



Fitzwaryn School
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January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope that you all enjoyed the holiday period.

Once again, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks for the gifts, cards and well wishes that the staff received at the end of term - your kindness is much appreciated.

I am delighted to say that all the pupils are settling back into school after the break, into their school routine and finding out about the new topics that they will be learning. As usual, you will be receiving a curriculum map and timetable from your child's class teacher over the next week plus a letter to explain what is going on this term for the pupils so please look out for those.

Illness and Attendance at School

We understand that from time-to-time pupils are unwell and need to stay at home to recover. Unfortunately, we have had some children sent into school when they are too unwell for a day at school which puts other children and staff at risk of illness. Please can I remind you of the following:

- If your child has a high temperature they should stay at home and wait until it has passed before returning.
- If your child has had diarrhoea and/or vomiting please wait until 48 hours after the **last bout of illness before they return to school.**
- If your child has a runny nose, or a slight cough without a temperature and they can manage a day at school, then they should be at school.
- Good hand hygiene helps to stop the spread of viruses and we will be reinforcing this with pupils at school.
- **Contact with school during a period of absence** - If your child is ill and needs a day off to recover, please do not rely on a message being sent in with the transport providers. School Policy is that parents must contact school directly if their child is ill and update us daily.

School Closure Procedures due to Bad Weather/Emergency situation

If we have to close the school for any reason, a decision will be made giving you as much notice as possible. Once a decision has been made, you will receive a text message via Arbor and a banner will be placed on the website to inform everyone of the closure. You will be required to inform your transport provider if known. School will also let transport know. We will then keep in touch with you regarding when the school will reopen. If you do not receive a text or there is not a banner on the front of the website, presume the school is open. Please do not phone the school to see if it is open or not as the phones will not be manned if staff cannot get to school.

Speech and Language session for parents.

As you are already aware, our new SaLT Laura Sargent is running a session for parents:

Oxford Health SaLT team would like to invite you to a parent training session on how we work and support children in Oxfordshire. Aims of this session include:

- Re-introduce the SaLT team at Fitzwaryn
- Overview of our service model and children's journey through Speech and Language Therapy
- What is episodic care?
- Opportunity for questions and requests for further parent training opportunities.

We will be running this session on **Monday 19th January at 2:15pm - 3pm** in Fitzwaryn School. **Please email CITSLT@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk** if you would like to attend.

Earwig

The feedback that we have had about our new assessment platform *Earwig* has been overwhelmingly positive. There are some parents who have not yet logged on – please let the school office know if you are having difficulties and we can support you with it.

Personal Care

Many of our pupils require personal care, please can we ask that a pack of wipes is put into your child's bag for use at school, thank you.

Term-Time Holidays

We are receiving a number of requests for term-time holidays. As you are aware, I am unable to authorise such requests. As a school we have not issued any fines to parents for taking their child out of school during term time, but if term-time holidays are requested, it is highly likely that a referral to the County's Attendance Team would be made. [School attendance and absence: Legal action to enforce school attendance - GOV.UK](#)

Choir – a message from Mrs Breen

All students across every age group of the school are welcome to start choir this term - 12.45pm - 1.15pm every Thursday in the hall (Starting on Thursday 15th January) Pupils are welcome to come for a trial if they would like to. Any questions please email the office FAO Mrs Breen.

Labelling Clothes

We do our very best to match lost items of clothing with their owners, but we struggle when clothing is not named. Please ensure that you name all items of clothing, including spare clothing, PE kits, wellies.

Friends of Fitzwaryn

The next meeting of Friends of Fitzwaryn is on **Wednesday 4th February 2026** at 9.30am in the school staffroom. There is also an opportunity to link in via Zoom, please let us know if you would like to take up this opportunity.

The committee will be discussing the next round of fundraising initiatives – everyone welcome!

Parents' Evening and Careers Fair

The next Parents' Evening is on **Wednesday 4th March 2026** where you will be able to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher.

Our **Moving Onto Adulthood Fair (inc. Careers)** will now be held at the same time as our Summer Parents' Evening Event on **Wednesday 10th June 2026**. Feedback from these events in the past has been positive so I encourage as many of you to attend as possible, even if your child is in the younger years at school.

Coffee Mornings

Our very popular coffee mornings are returning this term from 10.00 – 11.30am in the Student Centre. The dates for these are as follows:

Friday 30th January

Friday 27th February

Friday 27th March

All welcome!

A reminder that school breaks up for the Half-term holidays on **Friday 13th February 2026**. Staff and pupils return on **Monday 23rd February 2026**.

The end of the Spring Term is on **Friday 27th March 2026** with pupils and staff returning to school on **Monday 13th April 2026**

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office should you have any queries about your child at school.

With very best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher