



Fitzwaryn School
Denchworth Road
Wantage
Oxfordshire
OX12 9ET
Tel: 01235 764504
Email: office@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk

Thursday 10th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new school year! I hope that you enjoyed the summer break.

There are a few changes to the structure of the Leadership team at Fitzwaryn. I am very proud to share that I have recently taken on the role of Head of School. Mrs Coneboy has not gone away; she has moved into the new position of Executive Headteacher. In this role, she will oversee the continued development and expansion of Fitzwaryn at St John's, while I take responsibility for the day-to-day leadership and running of Fitzwaryn School. We will continue to work closely together to ensure the best outcomes for all our pupils and families. My most recent role was as Deputy Headteacher at Woodeaton Manor which is now also part of the Propeller Trust. Before that, I worked in the Castle School in Newbury which has a very similar profile to Fitzwaryn.

I am delighted to be joining a community that places young people at the heart of everything. Fitzwaryn's values, expertise and commitment to inclusion create an environment where pupils can thrive socially, academically and personally. I believe our role is to support our pupils to become as independent as they can be and to understand all the possibilities that await them after Fitzwaryn. Thank you for the very warm welcome that I have already received from the parents that I have met and I look forward to working with you. Please do let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

OFSTED

As you know, Fitzwaryn was inspected by OFSTED in early July. The report is about to be published, and Mrs Coneboy will write to you about this.

New School Year

Last Thursday and Friday, the children started settling into school, either back into a familiar class or into a new class. They are all doing well and there is a great sense of purpose in the school. New pupils joined us last week and we hope that they will all be very happy at Fitzwaryn. We also welcomed three new teachers and new Teaching Assistants to the school; we are fortunate to have a very strong team of staff. An updated list of staff can be found on the school website here:

<https://www.fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Meet+the+team%21&pid=322>

INSET

On Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September we had 2 full INSET days where we completed statutory safeguarding and medical training. We also had presentations on *interoception*, the developing Curriculum and key information from therapists.

NB, we have **INSET days** this term on **Monday 5th October** and **Monday 2nd November** and therefore school is closed to pupils on those dates.

Class Information

Your child's class teacher will be sending out essential information that you will need to know via a letter very soon. You will receive a timetable and curriculum map for the term. You will also receive your child's Autumn Term IEP.

Meet the Teacher – on Teams Wednesday 16th September

On Wednesday 16th September there will be an opportunity to meet your class teacher on Teams from 4.15 – 4.45pm. The class teacher will outline routines of the class and you will be able to ask any questions that you have. You will receive a Teams invite soon.

Senior Leadership Team

Executive Headteacher – Stephanie Coneboy

Head of School – Will Harvey

Deputy Headteacher – Hannah Gordon

Assistant Headteacher – Katie Murphy

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Claire Tobin

Business Manager – Helen Davies

Summer Works

Over the summer break, there has been significant maintenance and upgrading to the school (Denchworth Rd) site including a brand-new heating system and a total refurbishment of the Sensory Theatre.

Summer Holiday Club

There was much fun to be had at the Summer Holiday Club! The pupils all enjoyed being with their friends over 7 fun-filled days. There were also 18 days of off-site activities with Serious4Sport, supported by Fitzwaryn staff, and a football session at Oxford United. Thank you to Sarah Gniadek-Pitt and her team of staff for providing these days. Sarah has planned some great After-School events starting this term – please refer to the list that was sent out before the holidays or get in touch with Sarah for further details (s.gniadek-pitt@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk) or if you have not received the list via email.

Clothing and Belongings

Please ensure that all clothing is named – it is very hard to match the lost jumper to the owner if there is not a name in it! Please also name as many belongings that come into school as possible so we can minimise things getting lost.

Attendance

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils uphold excellent attendance which in turn maximises a child's learning opportunities. Parents/carers have a vital role in promoting positive attitudes to good attendance. Evidence shows that pupils who attend school regularly make better progress both academically and in friendships with their peers. Every lesson counts and it is this commitment to learning that will have a positive impact on your child's attainment and progress.

Medication

Please refer to the website for details of the procedures and permissions if medication is required in school: <https://www.fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Nursing&pid=35>

Transport

We are aware that some of you have had issues with transport arrangements over the holidays and into the first few days of term. As you know the school is not responsible for transport but please do let us know if there is anything the school can do to support you and your child. If you are experiencing any issues, please contact SEN transport on 01865 519 800 (select option 2) or by email

EE-SpecialEducationalNeedsITU@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dates for your diary

The Student Centre are once again planning their wonderful coffee mornings which run from 10:00 – 11:30. All parents / carers / family and friends of the school are invited to come along and sample the delicious biscuits, cakes and drinks.

Friday 25th September 2026 - Macmillan

Friday 23rd October 2026

Friday 27th November 2026

Friday 18th December 2026 - Christmas

Parents' Evenings

We have three on-site parents' evenings during the year, where you can book an appointment to discuss your child's progress at school. The evenings will run from 3.30pm – 6.30pm and you will be able to book a slot nearer the time on Arbor.

The dates for your diaries are:

- Wednesday 11th November 2026
- Wednesday 3rd March 2027
- Wednesday 16th June 2027 – in conjunction with our Moving On Fair

Therapists

Laura Sargent and Katie Wild are the Speech and Language therapists; Joanne Mercer is the Physiotherapist for the school and Kathryn Stevenson is the Occupational Therapist.

Friends of Fitzwaryn – please see the separate communication from Friends of Fitzwaryn

Thursday 17th September 2026 – first Friends meeting of the year 9.30am in school – ALL Welcome!

Saturday 28th November – Christmas Fair – Time to be confirmed

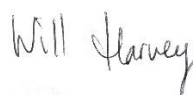
Term Dates

The Term Dates can be found on the website and attached to this letter. Please take a look as they do vary from school to school. <https://www.fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=26>

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries about your child at school – your child's class teacher is your first port of call and they can be contacted via the school office.

With best wishes

Will Harvey



Head of School