

# FHA Newsletter



**Falconer's Hill  
Academy**  
★★★★★  
Broadening Horizons

September, 2016

Falconer's Hill Academy, Ashby Road, Daventry, NN11 0QF

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## **Welcome back!**

Welcome back to the start of what is bound to be a very exciting new school year. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome parents and carers who may be new to our school. The school newsletter which is published monthly is one of the ways in which we let you know what is happening in school. We also use the school's Facebook page to keep you up to date with school news.

This year we are having a whole school focus on Maths and will be sharing with you ways in which you can help your child at home. We also have an exciting new approach to the teaching of Maths in school and some great opportunities to get involved with maths outside of the classroom.

Working in partnership with parents and carers is vital if children are going to achieve their best. We always encourage you to speak to us about things that are going well or anything that you or your child may be uncertain about. Class teachers (alongside myself or Mrs Hudson) are available on the playground at the start of the day for a brief chat, but please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you wish to have a longer conversation about your child.

Whether this is your first year with us, or your children will be moving to secondary school next year, we will be working hard to ensure that we light the fire of learning in your child so that they are happy and successful at our school.

**Matthew Reetz**

## **What we've been doing so far...**

Even though we are not even four weeks into the new school year, we have been very busy already!

Year 4 enjoyed a visit from Roman Tours, during which they spent the entire day learning all about what it was like to be a Roman Soldier. They learned how to walk in regiment, what kind of uniform the soldiers wore and how battles were planned.

Year 4 are also taking part in a First Access music programme for this term, and this means they will all have the opportunity to learn to play brass



instruments, and there will be a recital towards the end of term – more details for follow!

After school clubs are underway. These change each half term, and details of the clubs available are sent home at the end of each half term. Please remember to apply as quickly as you can, as our free clubs are always very popular.

Swimming lessons are now taking place, and this rotates each half term so different year groups take part. You will receive a letter when it is your child's turn to attend lessons. Please remember goggles must not be worn unless you have written to the school office to give your permission due to medical reasons.

Year 3 and 4 have begun to take part in exciting music opportunities throughout the year courtesy of the Voices Foundation. This is alongside the return of the 'Big Sing' event held at the Derngate and many other opportunities to perform.

Years 3 & 4 have taken part in a Science Workshop where they cast a set of teeth and found out all about human skeletons! Very exciting!

A selection of Year 5 students are taking part in Food Technology sessions for three weeks over at the Parker Academy. The first session focused on Soup which is just right for the colder weather!

We have had a whole school Theatre Production by M&M Productions of A Little Princess, and Year 6 had a theatre workshop afterwards. It was very loud and enjoyed by all!

### **#fhamathletes**

Hopefully by now you will have heard about our Maths Selfie competition which is based around children using Maths in their everyday home-life. If you have not heard about this, please ask your child – they should know all about it! The closing date for entries is Friday, 30/09/16 and please email your photos with the title #fhamathletes to [office@falconershillacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@falconershillacademy.co.uk). Please remember to include your child's name and class.

### **Family Learning – Cooking on a Budget and Magic 1,2,3**

We had booked in some dates for Family Learning to come into school to deliver some sessions on cooking and behaviour management. Unfortunately, we did not have anyone attend which is a shame. Further dates are scheduled, and we welcome you to come along if you are able to do so – dates are shown at the end of this letter.

### **Social Media**

We thought it may be useful to remind you of the minimum ages for certain social media websites and platforms. We know that a lot of these are very important for communication purposes, but some are being used by our children and some of the content may not be appropriate.

#### Minimum Age Limit of 13

- Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Secret, YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest

Further details and useful information can be found here:

<http://dwn5wtkv5mp2x.cloudfront.net/ufiles/Parent-Factsheet-SID16.pdf>

### **Breakfast Club**

Our wonderful breakfast club runs every morning from 7.45am to 8.45am. If you haven't tried this yet, you are very welcome to come along! The cost is £2.50 and this covers breakfast, childcare before school and all activities. Children in receipt of free school meals can come along for free. You don't need to book – just turn up with an empty belly!



### **Governor Vacancies**

We are delighted to let you know that our Governing Body is expanding, and we now have vacancies for both parent and staff Governors. The roles of both Parent and Staff Governors are very important and provide further views and opinions for the senior leadership team to assist them in school improvement. This is a very interesting role, and details of how to nominate yourself have already been sent home. If you feel you would like to know more beforehand, please speak with Mr Reetz.



### **Fundraising**

Our Friends of Falconer's Hill School committee hosted a Cinema & Hot Dog night earlier in the month. We raised more than £300 as a result of this, and our school council will find out what the children feel this should be spent on. We are always delighted to recruit more members, so please come along to our meetings – we would love for you to get involved if you have free time to do so.

### **MacMillan Coffee Morning**

We are holding a coffee morning on Friday, 30/09/2016 from 8.45am to 9.45am. Please come along and support this very worthy cause – coffee and cakes will be available to purchase, and we would also be delighted if you would donate some cakes by Thursday, 29/09/2016.



### **Safety Reminder:-**

Please be reminded that the Bus Bay at the end of the school drive belongs to The Parker Academy and is used for their student bus services. Please DO NOT park there to drop off or collect your children as this causes significant safety risks.

Also, the Phoenix Centre car park is very congested in the mornings due to contract works. We would advise walking or parking elsewhere where possible.

## **Recruitment**

Are you interested in working for our school? If so, we are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

- Teaching Assistant
- Administrative Assistant
- Midday Supervisor

If you would like to apply, please email [mjoiner@falconershillacademy.co.uk](mailto:mjoiner@falconershillacademy.co.uk) to request an application pack. The closing dates for all positions are coming up quickly, so please get in touch as soon as you can if you are interested.

## **ParentPay**

You should already have received activation codes for ParentPay. This is the online payment system that we will be using from now on for the booking and payment of school lunches. Going forward, we also plan to use this for paying for trips, music lessons and other school events. Please activate your account as soon as possible, even if you do not intend to order school lunches.

## **Data Update**

Letters were sent home last week asking you to check, update and return Data Capture Forms from our school database system. It is vital that we hold information that is as up to date as possible, so please will you return these by Friday, 30/09/2016.

Also, if you are entitled to Free School Meals but have not registered to claim them, please will you arrange to do this as soon as possible. Claiming for Free School Meals provides further access to funding which can benefit your child here at school. This is a very quick process and can be done online by searching for Free School Meals at: [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk). Alternatively, please speak to the school office.

## **Diary Dates**

Below are a list of dates as they currently stand. These will be updated in each newsletter and any other changes will be posted on our Facebook page.

28<sup>th</sup> September – Family Learning Cooking on a Budget - 1.00pm to 3.00pm

29<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 & 6 Pioneer Centre Meeting – 3.30pm to 4.00pm

29<sup>th</sup> September – Flying High To Achievement drop in session – 3.15pm to 4.00pm

30<sup>th</sup> September – MacMillan Coffee Morning – 8.45am to 9.45am

5<sup>th</sup> October – Family Learning 1,2,3 Magic – 1.00pm to 3.00pm

6<sup>th</sup> October – Family Learning Cooking on a Budget – 1.00pm to 3.00pm

10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> October – Life Education Bus Visit to all students – all day

10<sup>th</sup> October – Friends of Falconer's Hill Academy Meeting – 9.00am to 10.00am

12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October Y5 & 6 Residential Trip to Pioneer Centre – all day

19<sup>th</sup> October – School Photographs (Tempest Photography) – 1.00pm to 3.30pm

20<sup>th</sup> October – Friends Halloween Disco – 6.00pm to 7.00pm

W/C 24<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term

31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 – Training day – Children not in school

3<sup>rd</sup> November – Year 3 Past Alive Anglo Saxon Workshop – in school

9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> November – Parent Consultation Meetings – session times to follow

14<sup>th</sup> November – Open School for new Year 2 parents – session times to follow

17<sup>th</sup> November – Year 5 Shakespeare – Romeo & Juliet performance at Derngate – times to follow

9<sup>th</sup> December – Friends of Falconer's Hill Christmas Fair and Party – 2.00pm to 3.30pm

12<sup>th</sup> December – Area School Carol Service, Holy Cross Church, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

15<sup>th</sup> December – School Christmas Lunch – bookable online via ParentPay