

Newsletter

Fair Oak



Thursday 26th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As promised, I have reviewed my first term at Fair Oak. I was challenged to do it in the form of a sonnet, so what it loses in content it gains in style (see below).

Now for some business – if you would like your child to be excused from PE because they have, for example, injured themselves, please email the school office with instructions. I have learned from experience not to take a child's word for it when I have been given messages like, “Mum says I shouldn't do PE because of my tonsils.”

The Easter holidays are coming, and it's a long break for children. Over the years, we have found that for some children, the first day back can be a challenge, as they struggle with separating from family, getting back into routines, and waking up early. We will be giving the children a soft landing back to school on 13th April. Although there will be lessons as usual, we will also give time for reconnecting (e.g. sharing news) and re-establishing routines. To help with this, I would ask parents and carers to support children in going back to earlier wake-up times before the first day back, and to remind them of something they have done during the holidays that they can share with the class.

The manager from the gym has expressed some concern about children playing on the patch of grass between the Year 4/5 gate and the gym. I have explained that I am happy for children to play there, but I have had to concede that playing with balls while they wait will have to stop. This is because I have been told that balls have sometimes hit parked cars and left muddy marks on the gym windows.

Enjoy your holiday with the family.

Jim Hartley
Interim Headteacher



When first I came to Fair Oak's welcoming gate,
An interim charge, yet rich in hopeful air,
I thought to serve a brief and modest fate,
Then yield the post with light and measured care.

But lo, within these halls of eager minds,
A deeper joy than years before I found;
For Portsmouth's tides, though dear in former times,
Ne'er stirred my heart as does this learning ground.

The laughter bright, the staff in purpose strong,
The pupils' spark that daily doth inspire,
Have made each passing week feel swift, not long,
And kindled still within my breast new fire.

So I delayed the rest I once held near,
And chose to serve, for this good work is dear.

