

Forest Way School Newsletter



Summer Term 2 2026

Diary Dates

Tuesday 7 July 3.20pm	Last day before the start of the Summer Holidays
Monday 24 August 8,50am	School Opens for Autumn Term 1 2026
Monday 31 August	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 23 September	Parents Evening
Friday 16 October 3.20pm	Last day before the start of October Half Term
Monday 26 October 8.50am	School Opens for Autumn Term 2 2026
Friday 18 December 3.20pm	Last day before the start of the Christmas Break
Monday 4 January 8.50am	School Opens for Spring Term 1 2026

A Word From Mark & Sarah

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements, memorable experiences, and milestones that have made this year so special for our Forest Way community.

Throughout the year, our pupils have continued to demonstrate resilience, determination, curiosity, and kindness. Whether in the classroom, out in the community, on educational visits, through creative projects, sporting activities, work experience placements, or personal development opportunities, they have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and pride. Watching our young people grow in confidence and independence remains one of the greatest privileges of working at Forest Way School.

This term alone has been filled with outstanding achievements. From successful enrichment visits and exciting community experiences to our first Secondary Awards Evening, Post-16 celebrations, and the remarkable success of our Amazon internship programme, there has been much to celebrate. We are particularly proud of our Year 6 and Post-16 leavers as they prepare for the next stage of their journey. We know they will carry the values and skills developed at Forest Way into their future adventures and continue to achieve great things.

None of these successes would be possible without the dedication of our exceptional staff team. Every day, they go above and beyond to provide the highest quality support, learning opportunities, and care for our pupils. I would also like to thank our governors, external partners, and the many organisations who have supported our school throughout the year.

Most importantly, thank you to our parents and carers for your continued trust, encouragement, and partnership. Your support plays a vital role in helping our pupils thrive, and we are grateful for the strong relationships we have built together.

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we are excited about the opportunities that await us and remain committed to providing the very best experiences for every child and young person at Forest Way.

On behalf of everyone at Forest Way School, I wish you and your families a safe, happy, and restful summer break. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 24th August.

With best wishes,

Mark & Sarah

Online Safety

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

School's out ... for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or frying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

THERE'S NO NETWORK LIKE HOME

Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.



KEEP TALKING

It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about what they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.



WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING

With no school, children often take every opportunity to fit in 'just one more go' on their favourite game – sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but it could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.



IT'S 'THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON

For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney+ and Minecraft will still be there on drizzly Sundays in October.



LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF

This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep – which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.



PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE

It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.



FOCUS ON FACTS

The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital rumour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online – especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.



LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES

When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.



DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS

Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example – and, especially, sees that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

EYFS and Key Stage 1: A Year to Remember

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements, growth and successes of all our children in EYFS and Key Stage 1.

Our new children

Firstly, we would like to start by congratulating our new children on a fantastic first year at big school! Starting school is a huge milestone and we are so proud of the fantastic progress you've made. We've all enjoyed watching you grow in confidence, build friendships, learn new skills, develop your communication and, most importantly, have fun! We know you will continue to shine as you move into your new classes.

Curiosity Curriculum

This year, we have focused on embedding our Curiosity Curriculum into all classes which places children's natural curiosity at the heart of learning. We encourage pupils to ask questions, explore ideas, investigate problems and make connections across different subjects. The children have grown in confidence and independence, learning through play, exploration and hands-on experiences. They have developed foundations in communication, language, early literacy and numeracy, while also building important social skills such as sharing, cooperation and kindness.

A goodbye message to our Year 2 children

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to all our Year Two children! We are so proud of everything you have achieved. You've worked hard and filled our classrooms with laughter, curiosity and creativity.

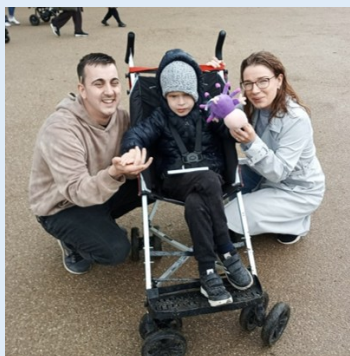
As you get ready to move on to Key Stage 2, remember that you are capable of amazing things. Be brave, work hard, and always believe in yourselves. We know you will continue to shine and make us proud. Thank you for all the happy memories, the smiles, the enthusiasm and the joy you have brought to school each day. We will miss seeing your friendly faces, but we are excited to hear about all the wonderful things you will achieve in Year 3 and beyond.

A big thank you to our parents and carers

We would like to end by saying a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. Your involvement has played a vital role in the children's success and wellbeing. A further thank you to everyone who joined us on our Twycross trip; it wouldn't have been possible without your support.

As we look ahead to the next school year, we are confident that the children are ready for the exciting opportunities and challenges that await them. We hope you all enjoy a happy, restful and safe summer break filled with fun, family time and new adventures.

Thank you for being part of our school community, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year.

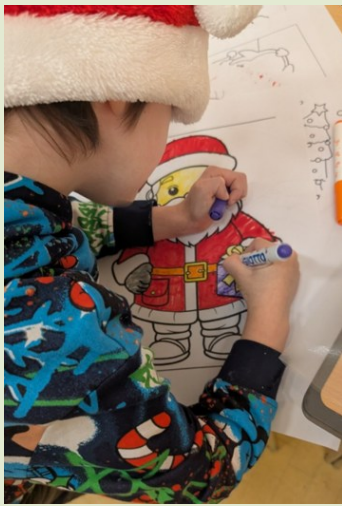


Key Stage 2: A Year of Adventure, Creativity and Firsts

As we look back over the academic year, we are incredibly proud of everything our Key Stage 2 students have achieved. It has been a year packed with learning, laughter, and breaking new ground. Here are some of the absolute highlights that made this year so special.

Out and About: Exploring the Community

Community access and experiential learning are at the heart of what we do. This year, we set an ambitious goal, and we are thrilled that every single class in Key Stage 2 accessed two school trips! From sensory-rich local explorations to exciting new environments, our students showed incredible resilience, practiced their independence skills, and, most importantly, had a wonderful time representing our school.



Festive Fun: Our Christmas Crafts Event

In December, our school hall was filled with festive cheer for our Christmas Crafts event. It was magical to welcome so many parents and carers into school to work alongside their children. Together, families explored a variety of accessible, sensory, and arty activities—creating everything from glittering decorations to handmade keepsakes. Thank you to everyone who attended; seeing our community create together was a true joy.

History in the Making: The Year 6 Forest Fest & "Camp-In"

This year also saw the launch of some brand-new school traditions! For our oldest KS2 pupils, transition and independence are key focus areas. To celebrate their journey, we hosted our first-ever "Forest Fest and Camp-In"!

- **Forest Fest:** Our grounds came alive with karaoke, musical instruments, face painting, and camp-style camaraderie. We had a delicious BBQ and a scavenger hunt to solve the clues so we could unlock a special Minecraft spider themed pinata.

The "Camp-In": The school hall was transformed into a campsite filled with tents. It was an unforgettable night of team building, independence practice, and late-night giggles. It was a massive milestone for our Year 6s, and they handled it brilliantly.

We wish all of our KS2 families a fantastic, restful summer break. To our Year 6 leavers, we wish you the absolute best of luck as you move on to your next adventure in Oaks—you are going to be amazing!



Celebrating Success: Our First Awards Evening

This term, we were delighted to host our very first Awards Evening, celebrating the incredible hard work and achievements of our pupils in Year 9, Year 11, and Post-16. At Forest Way, we pride ourselves on offering a diverse range of pathways for everyone to succeed, and it was a privilege to recognise milestones in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Functional Skills, Sports Leaders, Forestry, and the Arts Award. The turnout was fantastic, with a wonderful atmosphere shared by both past and present pupils. A huge well done to all of our deserving award recipients, and a heartfelt thank you to the teaching staff whose dedicated organisation and administration made this memorable evening possible. We already look forward to next year!

Recognising the Achievements of Our Amazon Interns

Celebrating Our Amazon Interns: A Phenomenal Year of Success

What an incredible, unforgettable year it has been for our internship program at Amazon. Over the past 12 months, our four brilliant interns have poured their hard work, creativity, and dedication into their roles, earning glowing feedback from Amazon staff and leadership along the way.

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that **three of our interns have been offered permanent employment at Amazon!** All three have enthusiastically accepted their offers and are looking forward to officially launching their careers there this summer. Achieving a conversion rate like this at one of the world's most competitive companies is a massive testament to their talent, resilience, and growth.

A Graduation to Remember

To mark the end of this chapter, we held an official graduation ceremony at Amazon to celebrate all four interns successfully completing their program. It was a fantastic event filled with inspiring speeches, reflection, and well-earned recognition.

A true highlight of the ceremony was hearing directly from the interns themselves. Each of them stood up before an audience of peers and Amazon professionals to share their personal highlights, key learnings, and favourite moments from the year. Speaking in front of a corporate audience takes immense courage, and they handled it with absolute grace and professionalism.



Looking Ahead

"I am extremely proud of what our interns have achieved this year. They stepped into a fast-paced, complex environment and truly excelled. They should be incredibly proud of themselves for what they've accomplished."

As they take this exciting next step into the corporate world, we want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who mentored, supported, and cheered them on throughout this journey.

Please join us in giving a massive congratulations to our graduating interns! We cannot wait to see what they achieve next.



Goodbyes, Celebrations and Dancing Shoes!



Tuesday 30th June was a very special and memorable day for our Post 16 student as we came together to celebrate the achievement of our leavers before heading to continue the celebrations at the Charnwood Arms. We were joined by our Amazon interns too, to make sure our day included all of our leavers. The prom went off with a bang, with lots of students hitting the dancefloor (and a few teachers too!)

There wasn't a dry eye in the house as we looked back at the wonderful things our students have done with us over the years and we all wished them well in their new ventures.

We are incredibly proud of everything our leavers have achieved and know that they will continue to shine in whatever they choose to do next. A huge well done and heartfelt thank you goes to the entire Post 16 team for all their hard work, dedication, and support in making both the leavers' celebration and prom such a resounding success. These events created lasting memories for everyone involved and gave our students the special send-off they truly deserved. We wish all of our leavers the very best for the future and look

Enrichment at Forest Way School

The final term at Forest Way is always exciting when it comes to enrichment opportunities! We have had lots of engaging activities take place both within and outside of school, including the final class-based trips and enrichments.

EYFS and Key Stage 1

Thank you to the Rotatory club who supported and funded the department trip! All our learners did fantastic transitioning (for many the first time) on a large coach. When we arrived, each class went off to see their favourite animals! Despite the periods of thunder, lightning, heavy rain and sunshine; each class transitioned brilliantly across the zoo and were able to see everything they wanted to! Some of the classes' favourites were the giraffes, monkeys and penguins!

The Rotatory club kindly donated each learner a new reading for pleasure book and a cap – as well as access to the zoo and coaches.



Key Stage 2

The KS2 department had their final summer term class-based trips! Each class was able to access a location or activity within the community, which was meaningful and engaging to them! Some of our classes went to local farms, spending time holding different animals and even seeing piglets! Other classes went to Twinlakes Adventure Park and Jumping Giants trampoline park. It has been lovely to see the KS2 department to access the community and celebrate the end of year with their peers and teachers!

Spo-Gomi

In June Forest Way got involved with Northwest Leicestershire's 'Love your Neighbourhood' project. The council supplied the school with the equipment to participate in the school's first Spo-Gomi event! A KS5 class spent the afternoon to learn all about this new, emerging sport. We learnt that Spo-Gomi originated in Japan and is a team, competitive sport whereby teams aim to collect as much litter as possible, within a time frame! Oaks 11 spent the afternoon in two teams, searching for as much litter as possible, before we weighed the bags and announced the winners. Thank you Northwest Leicestershire for providing us with the equipment, which we will be able to use in the future for similar activities and projects!

