

FINCHALE FLYER

We see the magic in every child... and help make them sparkle.

Key Autumn Dates:

OCTOBER

Black History Month

- 2nd Y2-6 Eco Sessions with Northern Gas Network
- 8th Open Event for Potential New Starters 2026 (2.45pm and 5pm)
- 10th World Mental Health Day
Finchale Family Jiggly Jog
- 13th-16th Parent/Carer Appointments
- 17th Show Racism the Red Card Day (Wear Red)
- 20th High Borrans Residential Meeting (5pm)
- 22nd PTA Spooky Disco (4.15.-5.15pm - Rec/KS1; 5.30-6.30pm - KS2)
- 24th Harvest Festival:
1.45pm - Families can view competition entries
2.30pm - Y3 Harvest Assembly
School closes for half term holiday

NOVEMBER

- 3rd School opens for Autumn 2
Pupil Flu vaccinations
- 10th Anti-bullying & Inter-faith Week
- 11th Remembrance Day
- 12th Pupil Photographs
- 13th World Kindness Day
- 14th Children in Need
- 17th Road Safety Week
- 24th UK Parliament Week
- 28th PTA Christmas Fair - time TBC

DECEMBER

- 9th Y4 Brass Concert (1.45pm)
Y5/6 Brass Musicians Concert (2.30pm)
- 11th Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Lunch
- 15th KS1 Christmas Concert (2pm & 6pm)
- 16th Festive Fun Run
- 17th KS1 Christmas Party (pm)
- 18th Y3/4 Christmas Party (am)
Y5/6 Christmas Party (pm)
- 19th Christmas Family Sing-a-long (9.10am)
School closes for Christmas holiday

All dates are subject to change.



New Website

www://

We are currently moving our school website over to a new one, which will still be found at <https://www.finchale.durham.sch.uk/>. We have been warned that the first time people visit the site following updates, it may appear strange due to 'browser caching' as the website changes over. We hope that this will not cause too much disruption, but please contact our school office if you experience any problems.

Y4/5 Bikeability

In the week beginning 8th September, we invited some cycling instructors from Bikeability into school to support our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils to develop their cycling proficiency. We were really proud of the determination and resilience they all showed in learning a new and very practical skill. All children who took part were awarded with cycling proficiency certificates to demonstrate their level of safety when riding on the roads.



Colour Run!

Children from across the whole school took part in our annual Colour Run on the morning of Thursday, 11th October. Everyone had lots of fun on our running track, showing off how colourful and creative we all are!



Monster Phonics Day

On Friday 12th September, Reception and Years 1 and 2 launched their *Monster Phonics* sessions in style. Children and staff dressed up in the colours of a monster/their sound and listened to the story of each monster. They then learned to do the actions for each of the monsters and their sounds correctly. Everyone looked amazing and had great fun doing some *Monster Phonics* activities and showing off their skills!



Jeans for Genes

Thank you to everyone who supported Jeans for Genes on 19th September, with online donations and by donning your denim for a great cause!



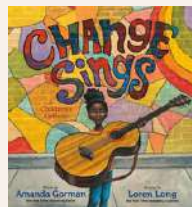
Spotlight on Safeguarding - Road Safety

We all use the roads in one way or another, whether as drivers, passengers or pedestrians, and so road safety is always a key part of our curriculum, assemblies and safeguarding messages here at Finchale. We encourage our families to walk and cycle to school and so preparing our children to become independent travellers is important. With this in mind, we have attached 'Teaching Road Safety: A Parents' Guide' to this month's Finchale Flyer for your information. This guidance from ROSPA suggests age-appropriate approaches to discussing road safety with your child.

Recommended Reads

Age 4-7

Change Sings
Author: Amanda Gorman



Age 7+

The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries: Drama & Danger

Author: JT Williams



European Day of Languages

We all had a wonderful day on Friday, 26th September celebrating European Day of Languages. We learned some key vocabulary from our focus countries (including Spain, Italy, Sweden and France) and dressed up in the colours of the flags, as well as tasting some culinary delights, including some donated by parents which were delicious - thank you! Year 6 visited Durham High School where they could use their French skills to buy items at the market. Félicitations à tous ceux qui ont participé...



Finchale Art Week



In our second week of the Autumn Term, every child across the school contributed to a community piece of art inspired by artist Stephen Wiltshire. Stephen is a British artist who is famous for drawing detailed cityscapes and our children were inspired to make their own using lots of different mediums - from printing to sewing! Thank you to those of you who popped in to see the collaborative artwork on display. We also read some inspiring books about art, including *Colours, Colours Everywhere* by Julia Donaldson and took part in our annual Colour Run.

Year 1 and 4 Winter Gardens Visit



On Tuesday, 16th September, Years 1 and 4 enjoyed a trip to Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens. Year 4 carried out learning linked to the Water Cycle with a brilliant workshop where some children dressed as clouds and rain drops to show how the Water Cycle works.

Year 1 children went to experience a day at the seaside, Victorian style! They have been learning about this in their History topic and enjoyed bringing their learning to life with the museum artefacts. Children also enjoyed exploring the museum and Winter Gardens, complete with dinosaurs and an animal exhibition. They even had some quiet mindfulness time creating their own art in the Art Gallery.



September Attendance

Reception	96.52%
Year 1	99.14%
Year 2	96.91%
Year 3	99.4%
Year 4	98.6%
Year 5	98.84%
Year 6	93.15%
Whole School	97.51%

Musician of the Month

In September, we have been listening to the wonderful **Kate Bush**. Kate's unique blend of art pop and progressive rock has made her a highly influential figure in the music industry.



Many thanks, as always, for your support.
Miss Ward.