

# FINCHALE FLYER

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

ISSUE 161  
MARCH 2025

## Key Spring Dates:

### APRIL

- 8th Y4 Brass Concert (2pm)
- 11th Easter Egg Competition (Parents can view entries at 1.45pm)
- 11th Y1 Class Assembly at 2.30pm
- 11th School Closes for Easter Holiday
- 14th Easter Arts and Crafts Event (9-12)
- 28th School re-opens for Summer 1

### MAY

- 1st PD Day - School Closed for Elections
- 5th Bank Holiday Monday (School Closed)
- 7th Adam Bushnell in Y1 and Y2
- 12th - 15th Y6 Statutory Assessments (SATs)
- 21st New Starter Information Evening (5pm)
- 23rd Y3 Class Assembly (9.10am)
- 23rd School Closes for Half Term Holiday

### JUNE

- 2nd School re-opens for Summer 2
- 2nd-4th Y4 Multiplication Check
- 9th-12th Phonics Screening for some Y1/2 children
- 13th Finchale Celebration of Reading Day
- 16th-20th Assessment Week for Y1-5
- 17th Alice in Wonderland Production
- 20th Adam Bushnell in Reception (am)
- 20th PTA Summer Fair
- 23rd-27th DT Week: Focus on Food
- 24th Sports Day (1.30pm)
- 30th June Finchale Music Festival (TBC)

**All dates are subject to change.**



## World Book Day

We thoroughly enjoyed reading our books in our own (cosy) way on World Book Day - thank you to the School Council for your idea to wear pyjamas! Year 3 took part in a 'book tasting' activity, where they got to try out and read lots of new and different books and children from across the school met with their buddies from other classes to read their books to each other in the sun. Thank you to everyone who donated to our 'book drive' - the Children's Book Project were extremely grateful for your donations.



## Y5/6 Easter in a Box Church Visit

Some of our Y5 and Y6 children enjoyed a morning at All Saints Church taking part in a learning carousel and acting out the Easter story, complete with props! Thank you very much to the church volunteers for running this activity.



## Eid Mubarak!



We would like to wish a blessed Eid to all of our families who are currently celebrating Eid al-Fitr at the end of Ramadan. We wish you peace, joy and prosperity.

## Comic Relief

We had lots of fun telling jokes this month to raise awareness and fund-raise for Comic Relief (you can still watch our 'Jolly Jokes' videos on the website at <https://www.finchale.durham.sch.uk/miss-wards-assemblies/>) We also wore our odd socks with pride to celebrate World Down Syndrome Awareness Day and learned all about how our brains work in lots of different ways as we talked about Neurodivergency Celebration Week. We loved showcasing how we are all special and unique!

## World Down Syndrome Day



## Spotlight on Attendance

As we draw near to warmer weather and the holiday season, we would like to remind you that changes to regulations made at the beginning of this academic year mean that we cannot grant leave of absence for children during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Holidays or leave for the purpose of leisure or recreation are not normally considered exceptional and Penalty Notices can be issued in circumstances where 10 unauthorised absence sessions (the equivalent of 5 days) have been recorded in any 10 school week period. More information can be found at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2208/Holidays-during-term-time>

### Recommended Reads



Age 4-7

The Friendship Bench  
Author: Wendy Meddour  
Illustrator: Daniel Egneus

Age 7+



A Year Full of Celebrations and Festivals

Author: Claire Grace  
Illustrator: Christopher Corr



### High Borrans Residential

The children who went to High Borrans on this year's residential visit had an amazing time, supported by some sensational weather! From canoeing to caving and high ropes to high hills, every day was jam-packed with fun activities. Thank you to Mrs Marley, Mrs Nower and Mr. Addinall for ensuring that lots of happy memories were made.



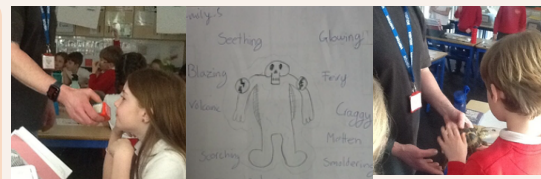
### Reception P.E. Festival

Our Reception children had a fantastic time at their P.E. festival, this month. There was music, bubbles, parachutes, lots of laughter and some wonderful support from our Year 5 Sports Leaders.



### Author Adam in Y3 and Y4

On Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, Adam Bushnell worked with Y3 and Y4 to inspire their writing about Ancient Egypt (Y3) and volcanoes (Y4). Y4 created their own lava monsters and learned all about Mount Vesuvius destroying Pompeii, before writing diary entries using the descriptive phrases they had come up with. Thank you for visiting and working with us, Adam!



Adam can be found in Waterstones on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May between 11am and 2pm, where he will be signing his new book, 'Folk Tales for Health & Wellbeing' (for adults) and showcasing some of his children's books. Please pop along to say, 'hello'!

### Musician of the Month

March's musician was the amazing Freddie Mercury, whose powerful voice and courageous spirit have left a permanent mark on the world of rock and roll. Freddie taught us to embrace our individuality and face challenges with resilience.



### March Attendance

Reception	99.02%
Year 1	96.22%
Year 2	98.62%
Year 3	97.48%
Year 4	98.7%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	96.57%
Whole School	97.62%



If you'd like to share your thoughts about our wonderful school, please visit <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>

Many thanks for your support.

Miss Ward.