FINCHALE FLYER

ISSUE 178
OCTOBER 2026

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

Key Autumn Dates:

NOVEMBER

2nd 8.55am - School opens for Autumn 2
9th Y4 Bikeability Sessions
10th-13th Y5 Bikeability Sessions
11th Remembrance Day (Y6 assembly at 10.30am)
12th Author Visit with Adam Bushnell (Y6 and **Y4**)
13th World Kindness Day
16th Anti-bullying Week
17th Finchale Futures (RSHE) Information Evening for Parents / Carers (5pm)
20th Children in Need
WB. 23rd UK Parliament Week
27th PTA Christmas Fair

DECEMBER

8th Y4 Brass Concert (1.45pm)
Y5/6 Brass Musicians Concert (2.30pm)
11th Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Lunch
Festive Fun Run
14th KS1 Christmas Concert (2pm & **5pm**)
15th Christmas Family Sing-a-long (9.15am)
KS2 Christmas Concert (2pm & **5pm**)
16th Rec & KS1 Christmas Party (pm)
17th Y3/4 Christmas Party (am)
Y5/6 Christmas Party (pm)
18th End of term - school closed until 5th Jan.
School closes for Christmas holiday
(please note changes in bold)

JANUARY

4th School closed for Inset Day
5th School re-opens for pupils (8.55am)
Y2 Dance Performance at the Gala Theatre
22nd Y2 Dance Performance in school (9.10am)
26th Y6 SATs Information Sessions for Parents/Carers (4.30pm)

All dates are subject to change.

Black History Month

Throughout October, we have been celebrating Black History Month in assemblies and lessons. The theme for this year was 'Honouring our Communities' with a focus on recognising the everyday contributions of Black people across Britain.

Finchale Family Jiggly Jog!

The Finchale Family spirit was alive and well on our running track on Friday, 10th October! Thank you to all of the family members who joined our children to complete five laps each and earn their Jiggly Jog certificates. This was my first Jiggly Jog as Headteacher and it was a pleasure to see the school community working together to achieve a goal.



Jacqueline Wilson Author Visit

Our librarians were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go and hear the fabulous Jacqueline Wilson speak on 6th October. She told us all about her childhood and how the books she has read have inspired her own writing. She even introduced us to her newest character, Esme Pepper.







Year 4: Nature Trip & Netball

This half term, Year 4 enjoyed a netball festival alongside other schools. They also went to the Nature Reserve to use their enquiry skills. This was part of their Science objective to 'observe over time' by looking at changes across the seasons.

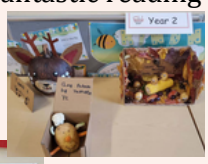




Harvest Competition & Assembly

Well done to everyone who participated in this year's Harvest Competition - your entries were truly spectacular and very creative! A huge WELL DONE also to Year 3, whose Harvest Assembly was most certainly a performance to be proud of, with some fantastic reading from a lovely picturebook and some super seasonal singing!















TRUST RESPECT RESILIENCE INCLUSIVITY COMMUNITY KINDNESS

Spotlight on Safeguarding – 'ICE CATS'



This month, we welcomed Jo from 'ICE CATS' into school. Jo taught us some techniques to use if we are ever in an emergency situation, such as being 'superheroes', 'hedgehogs' and forming 'trains' so that we can help each other move quickly and safely together. We learned to use hand signals to show others when we need help and to direct people.

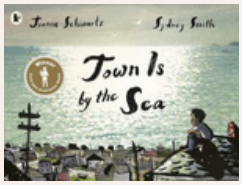
Recommended Reads

Age 4-7



Rajiv's Starry Feelings
Authors: Nanette Regan & Niall Moorjani

Age 7+



Town is by the Sea
Author: Joanne Schwartz & Sydney Smith

Sporting Superstars

We were very proud of our cross country team who represented our school beautifully at the recent KS2 cross country event. Two of our children made it through to the finals to represent Durham - well done Seth and George! (Seth came 16th out of 80 and George came 14th with Durham finishing second overall.)

We have also had both Y5/6 football and basketball teams representing our school, this half term, showing great resilience and learning valuable teamwork skills along the way - well done to all of our sporting stars!

Waste Aware Assembly & Eco-Team Litter Pick



This month, we have made a huge effort in school to reduce and recycle our waste - it has even been one of our 'Magic Habits'. On 2nd October, our Eco-Team took our recycling to the local waste recycling bin and carried out a litter pick along the way. We are extremely proud of them for looking after our local area. On 19th October, we also took part in an assembly with the 'Waste Aware' team, who told us that in Co. Durham, we produce 252,000 tonnes of waste every year!

PTA Spooky Disco!

A huge THANK YOU goes out to our Friends of Finchale Parent-Teacher Association for organising a spook-tastic disco for Halloween, complete with fiendish food and terrifying tunes! The costumes were amazing and the dancing even more so.





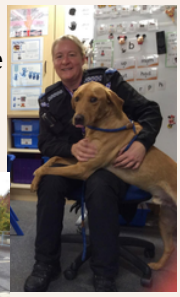
Finchale Futures in Reception



Our Reception children have been telling us all about the kind of people they wish to be in the future, with the added fun of dressing up! On 13th October, they came into school wearing something to represent their future aspirations, from dentists to firefighters and pop stars to animal rescue workers. It will be lovely to reflect on their goals as they grow.



Reception were also lucky enough to have some special visitors in class, to tell them all about what it's like to work for the police - both as an officer and as a police dog! Office Claire brought her uniform, emergency vehicle and dog, Murphy, into school and we learned lots of new information!





Starting the Year Survey

As we come to the end of the first half term of this academic year, we would like to gather some information about how you feel your child's start to the year has been. Please follow this link to complete the survey by 4th November: [Starting the Year School Community Survey]

October Attendance

Reception	95%
Year 1	96.32%
Year 2	98.58%
Year 3	96.61%
Year 4	97.25%
Year 5	95.78%
Year 6	98.22%
Whole School	96.85%

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

Musician of the Month



This month, we have been listening to Jimi Hendrix, an American rock guitarist, singer, and songwriter. His innovative playing style, mesmerising stage presence, and ground-breaking songs made him one of the most influential musicians in the history of rock music.