



FEARNHILL
SCHOOL



Growing Excellence Every Day

A Guide for New Year 7 Parents/Carers 2023-2024

Our School
Our Future

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Welcome to Year 7

We are delighted that you have chosen Fearnhill for your child's secondary education.

We recognise that the transition from primary to secondary school is a vital step in a child's education. It can be a challenging time for students and parents/carers. We do our utmost to ensure that the experience is an enjoyable one.

The Year 7 team has liaised with all of the primary feeder schools and spoken with the Year 6 students collectively. We have enjoyed getting to know about you through these visits and the transition forms that were completed online.

We hope that students enjoyed meeting myself and Mrs Sobotie during our school visits, more key staff will be introduced before they start in September. We strongly encourage you to get in touch if you have any concerns or questions whatsoever during this last transition stage.

We achieve greater success and make better progress when students, staff and parents/carers work together in close partnership.

We hope you will always feel welcome at Fearnhill School and I look forward to working with you throughout the years ahead.

Mr Turner
Head of Key Stage 3

Attendance

It is a legal requirement for students to be in full time education. Pupils are expected to attend both sessions, every day, within term time. Absence leads to lost learning and therefore causes additional struggles for students both in the short and long term. To put this into context:

Over 5 years:

95% attendance – student misses 1/2 year of learning

90% attendance – student misses 1/4 year of learning

80% attendance – student misses 1 year of learning

Fearnhill School expects students to attend school every day and for the full day.

If a child is absent for any reason, the parent must inform the school prior to morning registration. Where absence notifications are not received, the school will contact parents on the same day to a) inform them that we are aware their child is not in school and b) ask for them to contact the school to provide reason for absence. This is also an important safeguarding measure. Medical appointments should, where possible be made outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, a written request for leave of absence should be made well in advance and not on the day of the actual appointment, except in cases of emergency.

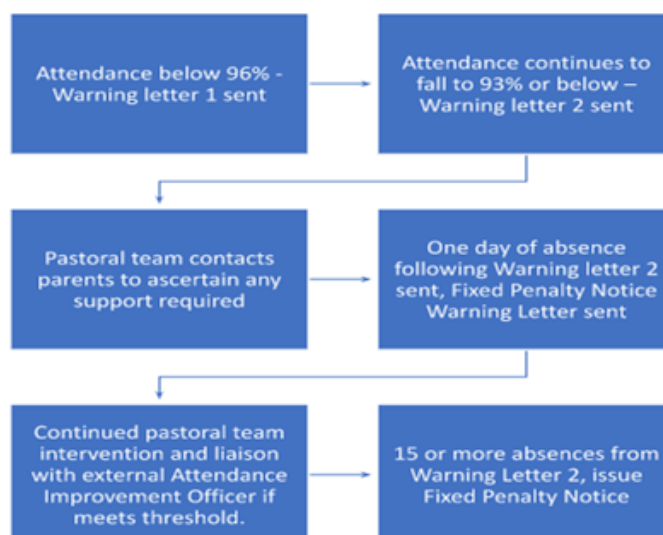
As per DfE regulations, it is the school and not the parents or carers who can authorise an absence. Notification does not, of itself, oblige the school to accept the reasons provided as a valid reason for absence. The school follow the DfE's guidance on what constitutes an authorised absence.

Absence can be unauthorised if there is no explanation or the school is dissatisfied with the explanation.

Permission for leave of absence during term time, for holidays or similar activities will not be granted. Permission for leave will only be considered for wholly exceptional or unavoidable circumstance.

Attendance at Fearnhill is monitored and analysed closely and regularly by our Attendance Team. If attendance falls below 96% parents and carers should be aware that the following process will be followed:

Attendance Monitoring Flow Chart



School Uniform Years 7-11

Uniform is worn throughout Years 7 to 11. We are aware of the high cost of uniform and have attempted to make the requirements as simple and practical as possible. We ask parents to ensure students take pride in their personal appearance.

Fearnhill blazer*

Fearnhill jumper* (optional)

White button neck shirt (long or short sleeved)

Fearnhill tie (green)*

Fearnhill skirt* or black trousers

Socks - black or grey with trousers, white socks may be worn with a skirt

Tights - black or natural

Black leather / leather look shoes

We work closely with the uniform providers - The Uniform Monkeys



- * These items must only be purchased from the above uniform provider
- * Trousers must be a polyester/polyester mix, they must NOT be denim, cotton or wool. Trousers must NOT be skin tight, skinny fit or have a split in the trouser leg. No additions to the trousers such as decorated belts, buckles, lacing or labels are allowed.
- * Shoes must be leather/leather look and you must be able to polish them. NO trainers, canvas shoes, plimsolls or boots are allowed.
- * Uniform can be ordered via www.theuniformmonkeys.co.uk
- * The Uniform Monkeys have a shop located in Letchworth town centre and also offer online ordering with free delivery and a personal local service for fittings and exchanges.

Uniform Standards

- * No haircuts shorter than a Grade 2.
- * No tramlines, designs, or extreme hairstyles.
- * No unusual colouring, dyeing or highlighting of hair.
- * Hair should be tidy, of sensible length and safe for school type activities.
- * Make-up should be minimal and discreet.
- * Ear piercing - one stud earring per ear.
- * No facial piercings will be permitted.
- * No body piercings are permitted.
- * No tattoos, temporary or permanent are permitted.
- * No ear expanders will be permitted.
- * No jewellery other than that of religious significance is permitted. This must be removed for PE lessons on safety grounds.
- * Skirts must be regulation length to the knee.
- * All items of clothing MUST be clearly marked with the student name, so that lost property can be quickly returned to owners.

PE Kit Years 7-11

Items	Compulsory	Additional Optional
Fearnhill polo shirt ¹ (fitted or unisex) and/or Fearnhill reversible outdoor top ²	✓	
Fearnhill PE shorts ² or plain black tracksuit bottoms	✓	
Fearnhill hooded sweatshirt ¹ (may need to remove for contact sport)		✓
Long black Fearnhill PE socks ² *	✓	
Outdoor trainers/Astro trainers*	✓	
Football boots (studded, moulded only)	✓	
Gum shield	✓	
Shin pads	✓	
Black base Layer		✓

- * ¹These items carry the Fearnhill logo and must be bought from The Uniform Monkeys
- * ²These items are in the Fearnhill colours and must be bought from The Uniform Monkeys
- * It is recommended that girls have Astro Trainers as outdoor footwear if not purchasing football boots
- * Black socks are compulsory for Year 7, all other year groups may continue to wear green socks until they need to be replaced, when black socks should be purchased.

ALL KIT MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED

It is recommended that kit is embroidered with initials

School Gateway - Payments Online

School Gateway is used for paying for school lunches, trips etc.

To use this payment method you will need to take the following steps:

1. Please ensure the school has an accurate record of your email address and mobile phone number. School Gateway will use these details to create your account. You will receive notification from the school when you can register for a School Gateway account.
2. Once you have received this notification, search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store / Google Play or on your phone go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android). If you are asked, say yes to "Allow Push Notifications".
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school. You will then be sent a PIN code.
4. Enter your PIN code and the app will be activated for you. As soon as you have got the system set up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you will receive notifications/alerts as normal.

To make payments:-

5. Log into the School Gateway App using your pin (can be reset if number forgotten) and a list of accounts will appear, select the child for whom you wish to make a payment and follow the on screen instructions. Payments can be made by either debit/credit card or direct debits can be set up.

You will also be able to pay for trips online and when you receive emails about planned trips, the details for making payments online will be included in the information. If when you log into your account, you do not see the activity you wish to pay for, please contact the finance office.

Please do not hesitate to contact the finance office if you require any further information.

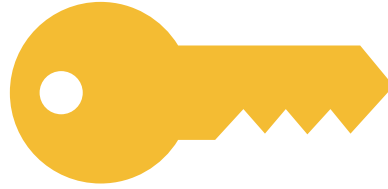
Lockers

In September, you will be able to hire a locker
Payment (at start of term):

Online via Schoolgateway payment system

£5 key deposit

£5 hire (access to the locker for 5 years)



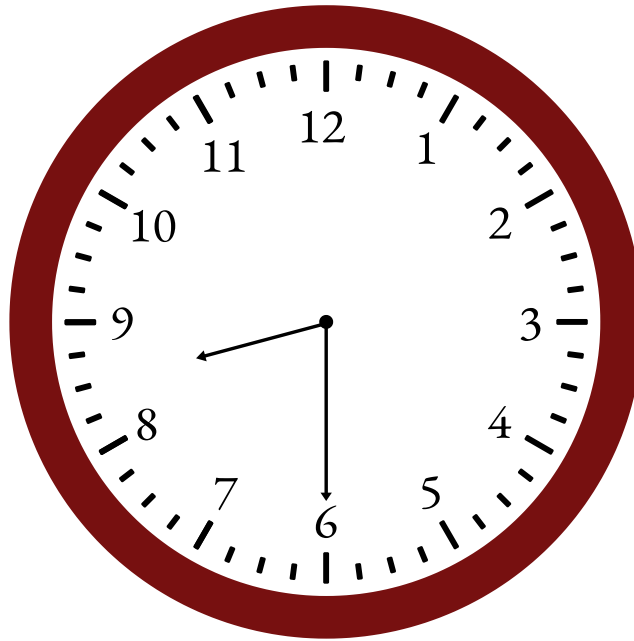
Keys will be issued within the first 3 weeks of term



Term Dates

Autumn Term 2023	Inset Days	Friday, 1st and Monday 4th September 2023
	Autumn Term starts Ready to Learn Day	Tuesday 5th September 2023
	School opens for all Year groups	Wednesday 6th September 2023
	Half Term	Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023
	Return to school	Monday 30th October 2023
	Inset Day (disaggregated) Occasional Day	Friday 24th November 2023 Monday 27th November 2023
	End of Term (early closure)	Wednesday 20th December 2023
Spring Term 2024	Inset day for staff	Thursday 4th January 2024
	Spring Term begins	Friday 5th January 2024
	Half Term	Monday 19th-Friday 23rd February 2024
	Return to school	Monday 26th February 2024
	End of Term (early close)	Thursday 28th March 2024
Summer Term 2024	Summer Term begins	Monday 15th April 2024
	May Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2024
	Half Term	Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024
	Return to school	Monday 3rd June 2024
	Inset Day	Monday 1st July 2024
	End of Term	Friday 23rd July 2024

Timings of the School Day



Monday - Friday	
8:30 - 8:55	Registration
8:55 - 9:55	Period 1
9:55 - 10:55	Period 2
10:55 - 11:15	BREAK
11:15 - 12:15	Period 3
12:15 - 1:15	Period 4
1:15 - 2:00	LUNCH
2:00 - 3:00	Period 5

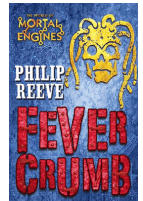
Summer Reading Challenge

All new Year 7 students should now have their copy of 'Fever Crumb' by Phillip Reeve.

We hope that everyone will enjoy reading the book over the Summer holiday ready to do the quiz when they start school September. The first two chapters were read to the students on transition day and if you have 5 minutes spare, you could do some 'echo reading' with your son or daughter to encourage them to read it.

If students would prefer to be read to, then they can head over to our dedicated Google Site where each chapter is read aloud by a different member of staff - they can read along, or just listen , if they prefer.

You can access the Fever Crumb recordings by clicking on the book cover:

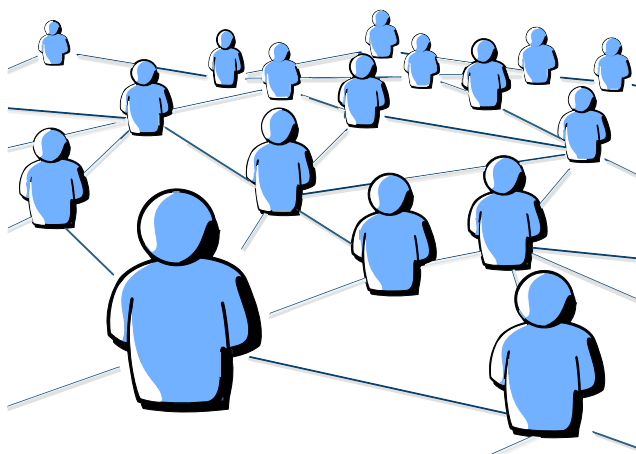


A large yellow rectangular graphic with a white border. Inside, a teal square contains the text 'YEAR 6 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE' in white. Below this, it says 'Over the summer holidays read your copy of Fever Crumb, then in September collect a question sheet from the Library, you could win a prize!'. To the left of the teal square is a small image of the 'Fever Crumb' book cover. At the bottom of the yellow graphic are two cartoon red crabs and a small green logo of an open book with the letters 'EJC'.

School Communication

We try to ensure that communication between the school and parents/carers is as prompt and effective as possible. The school uses an email service allowing us to send letters and messages direct to parents/carers by email using Schoolcomms. Over the summer holiday, we will register all parents/carers using the email addresses provided on the data collection sheet. If you do not have access to the internet or email, please be assured that we will continue to communicate with you by paper or other appropriate means.

Other means of communications that we use are the school website and our fortnightly newsletters 'Fearfile' & 'Careerfile'.



Contact Details

Fearnhill School
Icknield Way
Letchworth Garden City
Herts
SG6 4BA

Tel No: 01462 621200

email: admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

website: www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Facebook: follow us @fearnhillschool

Twitter: follow us @fearnhillschool

School Office opening times

8:00am - 4:30pm Monday to Thursday

8:00am - 4:00pm Friday

(except in holiday periods)

An answerphone service is available at all other times