



FEARNHILL
SCHOOL



Growing Excellence Every Day

A Guide for New Year 7 Parents/Carers 2025-2026

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 Miss Brown 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

School is the best environment for the vast majority of students to learn in. Being surrounded by teachers and friends in school helps keep children safe and supports them to reach their potential. Being in school is important to a child's academic achievement, wellbeing and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes. Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which contributes to better mental health and wellbeing.

Attendance and good punctuality at school is crucial to prepare young people for successful transition to adulthood and support their longer term economic and social participation in society. There is also evidence that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A level results. For example, in 2019 among students with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of students who were persistently absent.

To put this into perspective:

	Max days off per half term	Equivalent %
Acceptable attendance	1	100% - 97%
At risk of persistent absenteeism	3	90% - 96%
Persistently absent	3.5	Less than 89%
Please note there are 190 school days in an academic year.		

In short, if a child is missing lessons this can be devastating for their development and future.

A few key points:

- If your child is struggling to attend school, please contact the school as soon as possible and our pastoral team will work with you to resolve the issues.
- We expect students to attend school every day and for the full day.
- If a child is absent for any reason, please inform the school before 8:30am.
- 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. Students should attend school either side of an appointment.
- As per DfE (Department of Education) regulations, it is the school and not the parents/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.
- Permission for leave of absence during term time, for holidays or similar activities will not be granted. This will only be considered for wholly exceptional or unavoidable circumstances.
- Attendance is monitored and analysed closely and regularly by our Attendance Team. If this falls below 96% parents/carers should be aware that the school will follow the attendance procedures as directed by the local authority. Please see our attendance policy for details.

The school aims to work with you to ensure excellent attendance and punctuality for the short term and long term benefit of your child(ren).

Reporting Absence see [here](#)

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. All uniform must be clearly named.

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



* 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.

Summer Uniform

- Plain white polo shirt (optional) – no school logo is required
- Black shorts with Fearnhill logo (optional)
- Ties not compulsory during the summer term
- Blazers not required in June and July only

Uniform Standards

- **Fearnhill Skirt** – The tartan skirt is compulsory for all students that choose to wear a skirt. Skirts must be regulation length to the knee. Students may of course wear appropriate school trousers if they wish to do so.
- **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.
- **Shoes** must be leather/leather look and you must be able to polish them. NO trainers, canvas shoes, plimsolls or boots.
- **Hair** should be tidy, of sensible length and safe for school type activities. No haircuts shorter than a Grade 2. No unusual colouring, dyeing or highlighting. No tramlines, designs, or extreme hairstyles.
- **Make-up and nails** – Make up should be minimal and discreet. No false eyelashes or acrylic nails.
- **Jewellery** – No jewellery is permitted other than one stud earring per ear, or that of religious significance. All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons on safety grounds.
- **Tattoos and piercings** – We do not permit facial or body piercings, ear expanders or tattoos of any kind (this includes temporary and permanent tattoos).
- **Labelling** – All items of clothing MUST be clearly marked with the student name, so that lost property can be quickly returned to owners.

Second-hand uniform can be obtained from the Letchworth Uniform Bank, who hold various events throughout the year.

PE Kit Years 7-11

Items	Compulsory	Additional Optional
Fearnhill polo shirt1 (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)		✓
Outdoor trainers	✓	
Football boots (studded, moulded only)	✓	
Gum shield	✓	
Shin pads	✓	
Black base Layer		✓
Black PE Socks	✓	

* 1 These items carry the Fearnhill logo and must be bought from The Uniform Monkeys

* 2 These items are in the Fearnhill colours and must be bought from The Uniform Monkeys

ALL KIT MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED

It is recommended that kit is embroidered with initials

Arbor - Payments Online

All school online payments are to be made via Arbor.

Instructions for all payment related queries can be found via the links below:

[Top up accounts and viewing payments in the Arbor Parent App](#)

[Top up accounts and viewing payments in the Parent Portal](#)

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 school if you require further information: admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Lockers

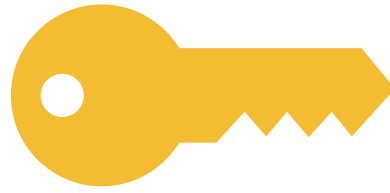
In September, you will be able to hire a locker.

Payment (at start of term):

Online via Arbor payment system

£5 key deposit

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



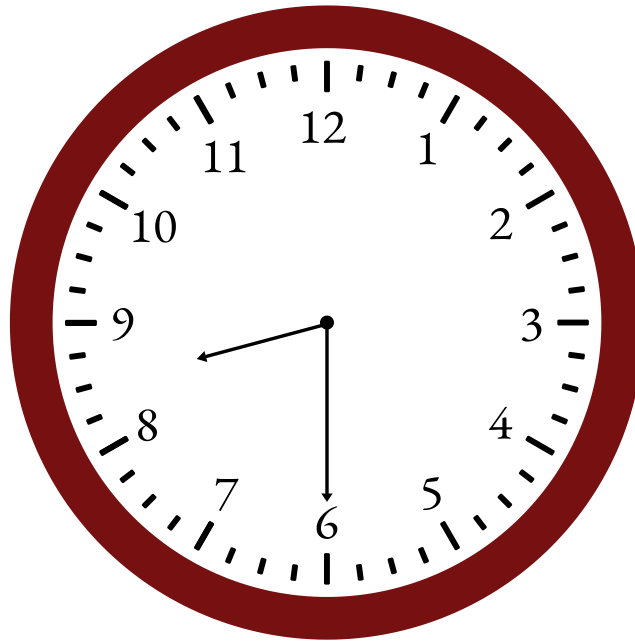
Keys will be issued within the first 3 weeks of term.



Term Dates - 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025	Inset Days	Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th September 2025
	Autumn Term starts Yrs 7 & 12 only	Friday 5th September 2025
	School opens for all year groups	Monday 8th September 2025
	Half Term	Monday 27th - Friday 31st October 2025
	Return to school	Monday 3rd November 2025
	Occasional Day Inset Day (disaggregated)	Friday 28th November 2025 Monday 1st December 2025
	End of Term	Friday 19th December 2025
Spring Term 2026	Inset day	Monday 5th January 2026
	Spring Term begins	Tuesday 6th January 2026
	Half Term	Monday 16th-Friday 20th February 2026
	Return to school	Monday 23rd February 2026
	End of Term	Friday 27th March 2026
Summer Term 2026	Summer Term begins	Tuesday 13th April 2026
	May Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
	Half Term	Monday 25th - Friday 29th May 2026
	Return to school	Monday 1st June 2026
	Inset Day	Monday 6th July 2026
	End of Term	Thursday 23rd July 2026

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

This summer we are challenging our students to read every day of the summer holidays.

Students can read a book of their choosing and complete the log to say how many pages they read, and what they read. Bring completed logs to the library in September and those who have successfully read everyday will be entered into a draw with a prize for each form!

LIBRARY SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



			24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

1
page
read

2-5
pages
read

5-10
pages
read

11-25
pages
read

25+
pages
read

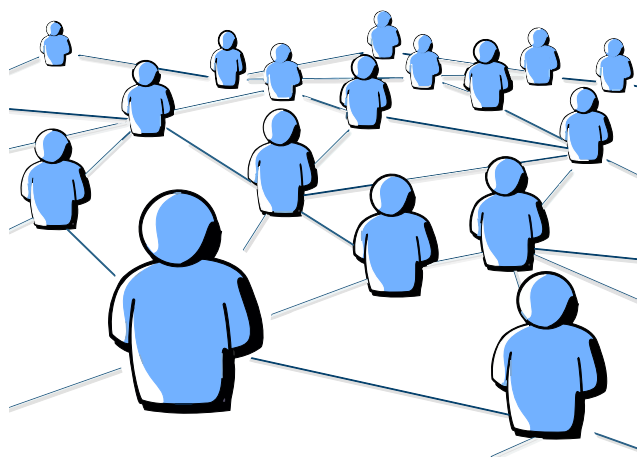
Read everyday of the holidays and colour in the number of pages you read each day.



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 'Fearnfile' & '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 [@fearnhillsch](https://www.facebook.com/fearnhillsch)

Instagram: follow us [@fearnhill_school](https://www.instagram.com/fearnhill_school)

Twitter: follow us [@fearnhillschool](https://twitter.com/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