



Fairlands Middle School

We Collaborate, Achieve & Belong

Information for New Parents



Welcome from Rebecca Bennett

I am delighted to be joining Fairlands Middle School in September as Headteacher, at a great time in the development of the school. I am joining Fairlands from a Somerset Primary School, and I have worked with children and young people from 0-16 for my whole career so far.

My background is in theatre, drama and singing and I love to cook and go for walks on the Somerset levels! I moved to Somerset from London 15 years ago to pursue my teaching career and bring up our young family. I have been lucky enough in my career so far to have taught babies right through to GCSE, and I have enjoyed every minute!

I believe the middle school offers a unique chance for your child to access specialist teaching and resources within a nurturing environment, and my whole team are committed to giving each child the opportunities they need to succeed in a changing world.

Along with my colleagues, we are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you to achieve the very best for your child whilst they are with us.

In the term ahead, I will be visiting all of the children joining us in September and working hard on our plans for the year. As ever, if you have any queries at all, please do contact the school office.

Thank you for choosing Fairlands for your child, and I very much look forward to meeting you shortly.

Rebecca Bennett



The Year 5 Team



Greg Passingham
Pastoral Leader
Year 5 and Year 6



Lucy Heard Year 5 Teacher



Danielle Durston Year 5 Tutor



Megan Newbury Year 5 Teacher

Welcome to Year 5

We invite all the new Year 5s to join us for our transition day on Wednesday 3rd July. On this day, the children meet their new tutor, together with other members of staff and have the opportunity to sample a meal from our school canteen. Each pupil will also be assigned a buddy, who will be there to support and guide them on transition day and also when they join Fairlands. The children will receive a letter from their buddy introducing who they are.

On the evening of 3 July, parents/carers can come to school and meet the school leadership and Year 5 teams. There is also an opportunity to have a tour of the school and see the tutor rooms where the children will be situated when they start with us.

The pastoral system is based on the tutor knowing your child better than anyone else in the school and is the first point of contact for both pupils and parents. Tutors in Year 5 know their pupils extremely well, as they also teach them the majority of their lessons.

Hello from Paul Stephens

I am Deputy Headteacher at Fairlands Middle with specific responsibility for pupil behaviour, attitudes, wellbeing and attendance. I am also the schools Designated Safeguarding Lead and work closely with our safeguarding team to ensure the safety and welfare of all our pupils and staff. Phil Maddock is the Safeguarding Governor.



I started at Fairlands in September 2023 and have been in the teaching profession for 28 years, working in a number of large secondary schools throughout the South West. I trained as a physical education teacher and have a passion and enthusiasm for sport and exercise, as well as the vast benefits participation in physical activities can have for young people.

Attendance

High attendance is essential for all pupils to ensure they get the very most out of their school experience. Our attendance target for all pupils is 97%. Strong attendance is directly linked to attainment, wellbeing, social happiness and positive wider life chances.

From September 2024 we will be following Government and Somerset County Education Engagement Team guidance in regard to term time holidays. Pupils should not be taken out of school for holidays, as unfortunately the school will issue Fixed Penalty Notices to families.

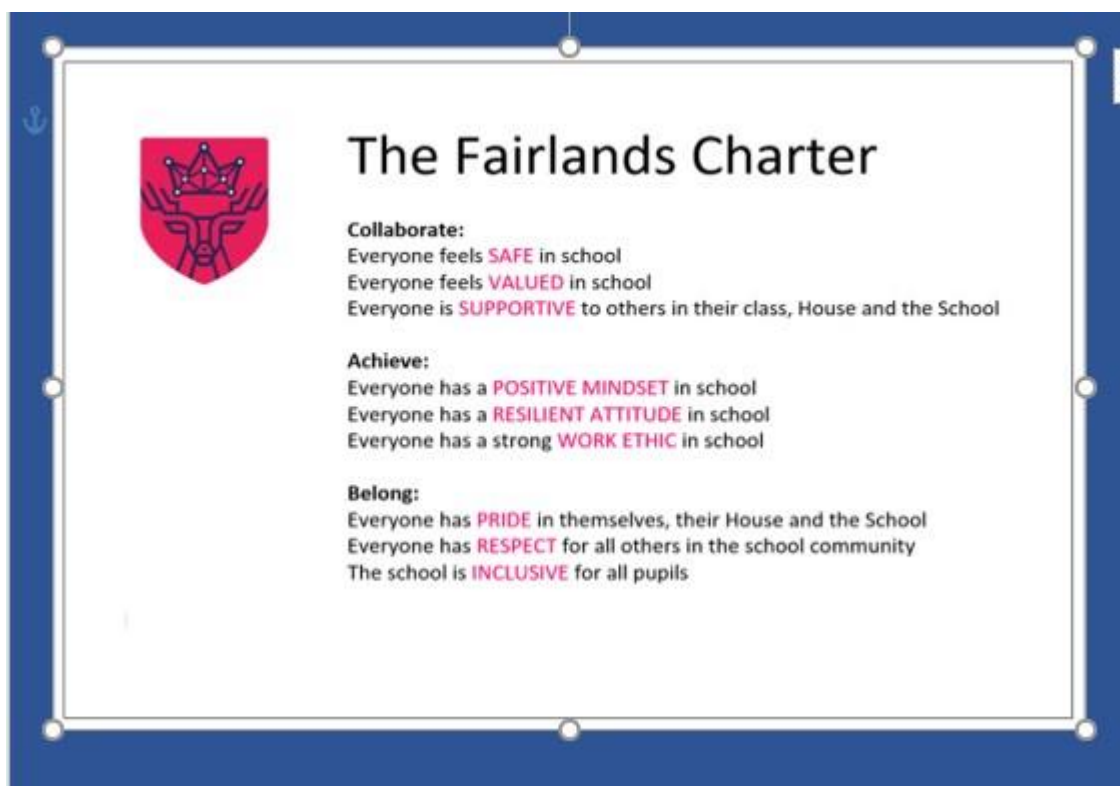
Behaviour & Attitudes

At Fairlands, we work with pupils and families to ensure standards of behaviour are high throughout the school. Positive behaviour will be celebrated and rewarded throughout the year. We aim to have a school where every child feels safe, valued and respected.

Fairlands also has a very clear and consistent behaviour system where any behaviour concerns can be dealt with promptly and effectively by tutors in communication with parents and carers.

The Fairlands Charter

We at Fairlands Middle School believe that we should 'Collaborate, Achieve and Belong'. To support this, the School Council have created the 'Fairlands Charter' which identifies the values the school, staff and pupils all work to uphold.



Meet Martin Davis

Welcome! My name is Martin Davis, Assistant Headteacher for teaching and learning. I am thrilled you are joining this wonderful community. With over 15 years of experience working with children, I have developed a deep passion for teaching and learning. My journey in education has been incredibly rewarding, and I am excited to be back in the school that inspired me to become a teacher in the first place.



My background is rooted in a love of science and the science of learning. I believe that understanding how we learn is as fascinating as the subjects themselves. Additionally, I am an avid sports enthusiast, particularly in football, which I find is a fantastic way to build teamwork and resilience.

I am committed to driving positive change across the school to create an environment where every pupil can thrive. Together, we will foster a supportive and dynamic educational experience that encourages curiosity, growth and success.

I am especially excited to meet our new intake of Year 5 pupils and embark on this journey together. I look forward to helping each pupil grow into well-rounded individuals, ready to take on the challenges and joys of learning. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Personal Development

At the heart of our approach is a deep commitment to nurturing every pupil's personal growth and development. We have a thoughtfully designed core curriculum that empowers pupils to flourish as individuals, preparing them for both academic success and meaningful contributions to society.

Our careers programme is the cornerstone of the curriculum, offering pupils insights into various professions and helping them discover their passions and potential careers paths. Through engaging workshops, guest speakers, and practical experiences, we aim to inspire our pupils and equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to pursue their dreams.

Tutor time 'values in action' sessions are another vital element of our personal development framework. These sessions focus on instilling core values such as respect, responsibility, and resilience. By exploring real-life scenarios and encouraging reflective discussions, we help pupils develop a strong moral compass and the confidence to navigate life's challenges.

Our extra-curricular provision is rich and varied, from sport clubs to ukulele club. These activities provide pupils with the chance to explore their interests, develop new skills, and form lasting friendships. We continually look to enhance our provision and look forward to this growing in the short term. Details can be found on the school website.

Citizenship and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education) are integral parts of our curriculum, ensuring that pupils develop a well-rounded understanding of the world around them. Through these programmes, pupils learn about their rights and responsibilities, how to stay healthy and safe and the importance of active citizenship and social justice. We will write to you to keep you updated on the topics throughout the year.

We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and success for all our pupils.

Hello from Rob Dickins

Hello, I am SENDCo and Assistant Headteacher for inclusion.

At Fairlands Middle School, our ethos is to respect and value each child as an individual, with their own unique needs. We recognise that at different times during their school life a child or young person may have a special need or disability. Whilst many factors contribute to the range of difficulties experienced by some children, we believe that much can be done to overcome them by parents, teachers and pupils working together.



In young people, early identification of SEN is really important to us. All of our staff follow our school's graduated response to ensure that we are continually looking at how we can remove barriers, so all of our pupils have full access to the curriculum and their education.

The progress of every child is monitored termly. Where children are identified as not making progress in spite of High-Quality Adaptive Teaching and universal provision, an Assess, Plan, Do Review (APDR) pupil information form is completed and then monitored.

If a parent/carer feels their child has special educational needs, or is experiencing barriers to their learning, they should contact their child's tutor who will hold initial discussions to see if they are achieving expected levels of progress and if there is any support required.

How We Care

Illness and Accidents

If your child is ill, please email absence@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk or telephone 01934 743186 before 09:00.

If a child is unwell or injured in school, we will contact parents/carers via the number(s) provided to us. In an emergency the school will contact the hospital or doctor, although usually parents do this. If your child needs to take medicine at school full details need to be provided in writing and the medicine handed in to reception. The necessary letter can be obtained from the school office.

Communication

It is essential that home and school work closely together. If, as a parent/carer you have any concerns or queries then please contact the school on 01934 743186 or email office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk. Similarly, there may be times when the school will need to contact you. We shall, therefore, ask you for contact numbers for emergency use.

We use a system called Class Charts to communicate with parents/carers and will give you the details in September to sign up to the system.

A bulletin is shared with parents/carers every week, which gives important information and news stories about our pupils. The school calendar is published during the summer term, shared via the bulletin and uploaded to the school website.

The School Day

School Times

Pupils are expected to be in school at 08.50 for a 08:55 start. The end of the school day is at 15:35. Lunchtime is 12:35 – 13:30.

Pupils remain in school for the lunch period, either using the school cafeteria system or bringing a packed lunch. Parents who wish their children to go home for lunch must provide a written request.

The current lesson times are:



Session	Times
Tutor time	08:55 - 09:20
Lesson 1	09:20 - 10:20
Lesson 2	10:20 - 11:20
Break	11:20 - 11:35
Lesson 3	11:35 - 12:35
Lunch	12:35 - 13:30
Tutor time	13:30 - 13:35
Lesson 4	13:35 - 14:35
Lesson 5	14:35 - 15:35

School Transport

For those pupils wishing to use the Shipham and Draycott/Rodney Stoke transport, details can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/apply-for-school-transport/>

School Meals

A very good cafeteria system operates at the school, allowing pupils to select from a variety of hot meals, salads or sandwiches. We are a **nut free** and cashless school and use a biometric system to pay for food and drink. This can be monitored and funds added through ParentPay. The accounts for Year 5 are set up in early September and we will provide you with details at that time.

We encourage children to bring a water bottle to school and a healthy snack for morning break. The expectation is that pupils do not bring sweets to school. Chewing gum is not permitted.

Equipment

Every pupil is expected to bring the following basic items to school:

- 3 x black handwriting pens
- red pen
- pencil
- pencil eraser
- pencil sharpener
- whiteboard pen
- ruler
- safety scissors with blunt tips
- glue stick

Lockers

We provide every child with a locker key at the start of each school year. We recommend the use of a lanyard to keep the locker key safe. Bags and coats should be kept in the locker.

Valuables

We discourage the pupils from bringing expensive items or cash into school. We are cashless; therefore, cash should not be brought into school.

Mobile phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones can be stored securely in the pupil's locker. They must not be used during the school day (including break and lunch times) and will be confiscated if found. If a mobile phone is confiscated, this will only be returned to a parent/carer who will need to collect it from reception. Electronic devices to aid learning can only be brought into school with prior permission. The school cannot take responsibility for phones that get lost or damaged. It is not an expectation that children have a phone.

Houses

All pupils will be allocated one of our four Houses – Avalon, Camelot, Lyonesse or Tintagel. During the year, pupils will have the opportunity to participate in various House competitions. They also work towards gaining House Reward Badges and Certificates through the allocation of House Points in recognition of positive behaviour, work, attitude and effort.

Homework

Homework is set weekly and the allocation is 2.5 hours per week. The suggested time allocation is as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reading Times Tables	Reading SPAG Spellings	Reading Time Tables	Reading Spellings	Reading Times Tables

What to Wear



Uniform

School Uniform:

- grey skirt to the knee, trousers or shorts
- white shirt with striped clip-on school House tie
- classic navy sweatshirt or sweatshirt cardigan with logo
- dark/white socks or plain dark tights
- black shoes with flat heels (no boots)

PE Clothing:

- navy blue/sky blue reversible rugby shirt
- plain white polo shirt
- navy blue football socks for winter
- white ankle sports socks for the summer term
- navy shorts or navy skirt
- football boots and trainers
- shin pads

We recommend that all pupils wear a mouth guard for hockey and rugby.

Optional Items - PE – tracksuit bottoms and base layer (Note: these do not replace normal kit.)

Pupils are expected to bring their PE kit to all lessons, even if they are not actively participating. Trainers should only be worn for PE

Please could you ensure that all clothing and personal belongings are **clearly marked with the child's name**.

Uniform items can be purchased from Deane & Sons, Bath Street, Cheddar, as well as some items from local stockists. As a result of the school re-branding, the uniform for Year 5 September has changed. **The sweatshirt, sweatshirt cardigan and ties will be available from Deane and Sons from mid-July 2024. For further details, on sizing, pricing and stock availability please go to <https://www.deaneandsons.co.uk/c/21/Fairlands>**

Second hand uniform and PE kit items are sometimes available in school depending on supply. Please email office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk if you are interested in obtaining items.

Hair

Extreme hair styles (including spiked or shaved heads) and dyed hair are not permitted. We request that pupils tie their hair back when handling food, working with machinery and/or when involved in practical lessons, e.g.PE.

Jewellery

The wearing of jewellery in school is restricted to:

- One small stud earring in each earlobe. No other ear or facial piercing is allowed
- Watches are permitted, although smart watches are not to be paired/synced to any mobile devices when in school
- No other jewellery is permitted in school (rings, necklaces, chains, etc.)
- Pupils will be asked to remove any unacceptable jewellery even if the piercing is new. To avoid potential conflict new piercings should be arranged for the start of holiday times so that the wearing of studs will not be required during school time.

Makeup

- If worn, makeup must be applied discreetly for a natural look.
- Nail varnish, including artificial nails/acrylics, are not allowed.
- False eyelashes are not to be worn under any circumstances.
- Makeup items should not be brought into school.

The decision as to what qualifies as discreet rests with the Headteacher, School Leadership Team and Pastoral Leads.

Parents evening and reports

During the course of the school year, there are parents' evenings and reports as follows:

Term One and Term Two

- Tutor-based parents evening for parents to meet their child's tutor on **Thursday 26 September 2024**.
- Open evening on **Thursday 10 October 2024**. This evening is primarily for Year 3 and Year 4 pupils and parents. It also gives the Year 5 pupils the opportunity to share their new school and experiences with the younger pupils and their parents.
- Autumn progress and attendance reports will be provided during this period.
- Subject-based parents' evening for Year 5 on **Thursday 7 November 2024**.

Term Three and Term Four

- Subject-based parents' evenings for Year 8 on **Thursday 30 January**, Year 6 on **Thursday 27 March** and Year 7 on **Thursday 3 April 2025**.
- Spring progress and attendance reports for all pupils.

Term Five and Term Six

- Annual reports for all pupils, including end of year attainment in all curriculum areas.
- Year 6 pupils will also receive National Curriculum test results in mathematics and English as well as teacher assessments in mathematics, English and science.

Other Useful Information

Music Lessons

Parents/carers may wish their child to receive music lessons whilst at Fairlands. The peripatetic music teachers at Fairlands provide lessons on a range of instruments. A letter has been shared with Year 4 parents/carers electronically via the Frist Schools requesting information for transition day, together with music tuition preferences.

Richard Wassall will oversee the peripatetic music lesson provision. If you would like further information, please email office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk

Friends & Parent/Teachers Association (FPTA)

This is an association to which all parents/carers automatically belong. The first meeting of each academic year is held soon after the beginning of term and all parents will receive an invitation to attend. The school is very grateful for the support of the FPTA in many ways, but particularly the financial support. Over the past years, proceeds from fund-raising have been spent on school needs for pupils, such as lockers and equipment identified by the School Council, including fresh water supplies and a new drama stage. Many parents have opted to give an annual donation to the FPTA.

Wrap Around Care

From September 2024, parents/carers can access care for their child before and after school arranged by Sports Masters Coaching. Bookings can be made via their website at <https://www.sportsmasterscoaching.com>

Wessex Learning Trust Somerset School Terms and Holidays 2024/2025



Wessex Learning Trust Somerset School Terms and Holidays 2024/2025 Academic Year

September 2024						October 2024						November 2024								
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28		M			4	11	18	25
Tu		3	10	17	24		Tu	1	8	15	22	29		Tu			5	12	19	26
W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30		W			6	13	20	27
Th		5	12	19	26		Th	3	10	17	24	31		Th			7	14	21	28
F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25			F		1	8	15	22	29
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa	5	12	19	26			Sa		2	9	16	23	30
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	6	13	20	27			Su		3	10	17	24	
December 2024						January 2025						February 2025								
M		2	9	16	23	30	M			6	13	20	27	M			3	10	17	24
Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			4	11	18	25
W		4	11	18	25		W		1	8	15	22	29	W			5	12	19	26
Th		5	12	19	26		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th			6	13	20	27
F		6	13	20	27		F		3	10	17	24	31	F			7	14	21	28
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa		1	8	15	22	
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su		5	12	19	26		Su		2	9	16	23	
March 2025						April 2025						May 2025								
M		3	10	17	24	31	M			7	14	21	28	M			5	12	19	26
Tu		4	11	18	25		Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27
W		5	12	19	26		W		2	9	16	23	30	W			7	14	21	28
Th		6	13	20	27		Th		3	10	17	24		Th		1	8	15	22	29
F		7	14	21	28		F		4	11	18	25		F		2	9	16	23	30
Sa	1	8	15	22	29		Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		3	10	17	24	31
Su	2	9	16	23	30		Su		6	13	20	27		Su		4	11	18	25	
June 2025						July 2025						August 2025								
M		2	9	16	23	30	M			7	14	21	28	M			4	11	18	25
Tu		3	10	17	24		Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			5	12	19	26
W		4	11	18	25		W		2	9	16	23	30	W			6	13	20	27
Th		5	12	19	26		Th		3	10	17	24	31	Th			7	14	21	28
F		6	13	20	27		F		4	11	18	25		F		1	8	15	22	29
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		2	9	16	23	30
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su		6	13	20	27		Su		3	10	17	24	31

Key:	
	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:
Term 1: 05 September – 24 October 2024
Term 2: 04 November – 20 December 2024
Term 3: 07 January – 14 February 2025
Term 4: 24 February – 4 April 2025
Term 5: 22 April – 23 May 2025
Term 6: 02 June – 22 July 2025

Bank and public holidays 2024/25			
Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2024	Easter Monday	21 April 2025
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26 December 2024	May Day Bank Holiday	05 May 2025
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2024	Spring Bank Holiday	26 May 2025
Good Friday	18 April 2025	Summer Bank Holiday	25 August 2025