



Newsletter: Tuesday 15th September 2026

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year. We are already into week 3 and well into the term. I have continued to be impressed by the children, the supportive, friendly parent community, and the hard-working staff at Sir Henry Fermor.

Apologies for the lack of newsletters to date; I hope that this period of newsletter “cold turkey” has not been too traumatic. Going forwards, the plan is to switch to bi-weekly newsletters.

From experience I know that different schools have very different newsletter readership levels, and I have no idea yet whether Sir Henry Fermor is a “newsletter believer” or “newsletter sceptic” school. With that in mind, let’s keep things brief to start with – not quite a list of bullet points and nouns, but a collection of vital facts to keep you informed and one step ahead.

Absence during term time

The guidance for schools changed last year with regards to authorising absences during term time. A penalty notice must now be considered by all schools in England after 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years. The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days (reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days).

More information, including any subsequent steps the school may take, can be found on the www.gov.uk website. The decision about whether to issue a Penalty Notice will be made by our school following due consideration of the circumstances of the absence. Please note that a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation is not considered by the DfE to be an exceptional circumstance, and therefore cannot be authorised by the school. This is also the case if parents argue a tenuous learning connection (such as finding out more about ancient Greece while visiting a resort in Rhodes).

Parking around the school

Health and safety has rightly become a national obsession, with the one massive blind spot (from 99% of the population) being the 130,000 (or so) people who are killed or injured each year due to people driving cars, vans and lorries. A disproportionate number of these victims are children. The school runs are the riskiest times of the day for many.

Please consider whether driving to school is necessary – most parents live within easy walking distance. If you do drive the church carpark is available for you to use – please do not use the pub carpark or block local residents by parking in their roads or across their driveways. I am already having to spend time responding to local residents who are concerned about inconsiderate parking and this is time far better spent on your children’s education.

Friends of Fermor School

Welcome back! We hope the children have enjoyed their first full week in their new classes, and that you have enjoyed some peace! FoFS have hit the ground running, with preparations for our autumn term events already underway, but first a couple of thank yous to people who have been working hard over the summer too!



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Sir Henry Fermor C of E Primary School

Inspire, Believe, Achieve



Firstly to Mr James, for coordinating the summer works which saw water and electricity supplies being provided to the school field. This will make a big difference to how the space can be used, particularly in the warm summer months, so we were delighted to be able to fund this work for the school.



Secondly, to Katie Oram for ensuring that all our new starters had a Henry bear to begin their school journey with them. We hope they are well loved (ours has recently been promoted to 'uniform monitor' here 4 years after coming home!)



Some dates for your diary:

- 23rd October - Pyjama Dress Down Day
- 6th November - Dress Down Day - wear something bright for bonfire night!
- 21st November - Christmas Fair
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We will also be hosting Father Christmas again at our popular grotto and running our much-loved Secret Shopping Room for children to buy gifts for family - dates TBC. Look out for lots more info to come in the coming weeks and months, and make sure you are following our Facebook Page!



If you would like to get involved with planning events, or volunteering at them, please get in touch at friends@fermorschool.org.uk. Our next committee meeting is on Wednesday 7th October at 7.30pm, and we would love to welcome some new faces!

Important Dates

Please keep an eye out for the list of key and important dates once they are finalised.

Kindest regards,
John Tutt