

April 2025

Dear Farlingaye Families,

I wanted to take a slightly different approach with my monthly email this April.

Rather than celebrating a few individual stories, I wanted to shine a light on something truly powerful in our school community: the impact sport has on our young people's lives. We offer so much sport here at school, but I'm acutely aware of just how much participation there is by our students outside of the school day.

An interesting Survey

Out of sheer interest (and having spent another Saturday watching from the touchline as a parent myself), I conducted a survey asking students how many took part in organised sport over the past weekend. The response was overwhelming – an incredible 522 students from a total of 1908 took part in some form of organised sport, representing 39 different sports!

From football to athletics, swimming to gymnastics, rugby to rowing, the diversity of sports and activities our students engage in is truly remarkable. Whether it's a competitive event or a recreational activity, it's clear that sport plays a vital role in shaping the lives of our students, fostering teamwork, resilience, and a healthy lifestyle.

The Bigger Picture

Participation in sport is not just about developing physical fitness; it's about so much more. It teaches the values of perseverance, discipline, and dedication. It helps build resilience in the face of challenges and fosters a sense of belonging and community. Through sport, students learn to push themselves outside their comfort zones, working with others to achieve common goals and celebrating both individual and team successes.

We are immensely proud of all our students who take part in these activities, whether they're representing the school or pursuing their passion outside of school hours. Their dedication to their physical and mental well-being is something that should be celebrated, and it's wonderful to see such a wide range of sports being enjoyed by so many.

You Make the Difference

I'm well aware that as parents, you too play an essential role in this. Whether it's driving your child to various locations, cheering them on at events, or even coaching and managing, your involvement makes all the difference. I know how much time, effort, and commitment it takes, and I want to express my heartfelt thanks for everything you do to support our students in their sporting journeys.

The school is proud to be part of a community where so many students are so actively engaged in sport. Whether competing at a high level or simply enjoying the activity for fun, sport provides numerous benefits – from building friendships to improving physical fitness and boosting mental health. We have plenty of sport to celebrate this term with a range of teams involved in cup finals and also our Sports Day on 24th June.



Have a think...

So, if your kids are into sport then encourage them to keep it up!

And if they're not, maybe have a think about other ways they could get involved – whether as a referee, a helper, a scorer or whatever role they can find.

The point is that being part of a team (any team and in any sport) is a wonderful way to build confidence, friendships and a sense of belonging.

And if you don't know where to start, please ask. We have so many links with teams, individuals and organisations – our PE team would be more than happy to signpost a good place to start.

That's it for this month.

It looks like it might chilly again this weekend, so I better go and dig out my football scarf.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Smith

Headteacher and parent stood on the touchline