



FEARNHILL
SCHOOL



Growing Excellence Every Day

A Guide for New Year 7 Parents/Carers 2026-2027

Our School
Our Future

Contents Page

Title	Page Number
Welcome	3
Attendance	4
School Uniform	5
PE Kit	6
Arbor	7
Lockers	8
Term Dates	9
Timings of the School Day	10
Summer Reading Challenge	11
School Communication	12
Contact Details	12

Welcome to Year 7

We are delighted that you have chosen Fearnhill School for your child's secondary education - welcome to the Fearnhill Family!

We know that the transition from primary to secondary school is an important milestone, bringing both excitement and, at times, a few worries. We do our utmost to ensure that this experience is an enjoyable one.

Our Year 7 team has enjoyed visiting our primary feeder schools, and it has been wonderful getting to know the Year 6 students joining us in September. We hope that students enjoyed meeting myself, Miss Brown and Mr Turner during these school visits. They will meet more key staff before they start their Fearnhill journey.

If you have any questions or concerns during the transition, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We believe that when students, families and staff work together, we can have the best outcomes.

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

Miss Mills
Head of Year 7

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* OR Fearnhill jumper*

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 pair of stud earrings and one small nose stud or that of religious significance. All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons on safety grounds.
- **Tattoos and piercings** – We do not permit other 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 shirt 1 (fitted or unisex)*	✓	
Black Football Shorts or Fearnhill Unisex PE Shorts OR Fearnhill Skort 2*	✓	
Plain Black Tracksuit Bottoms or Plain Black Leggings		✓
Black Crew Neck Sweatshirt		✓
Light Rain Jacket		✓
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

Lockers

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

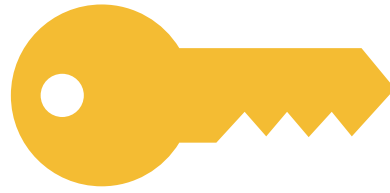
Payment (at start of term):

Online via Arbor payment system

£5 key deposit

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

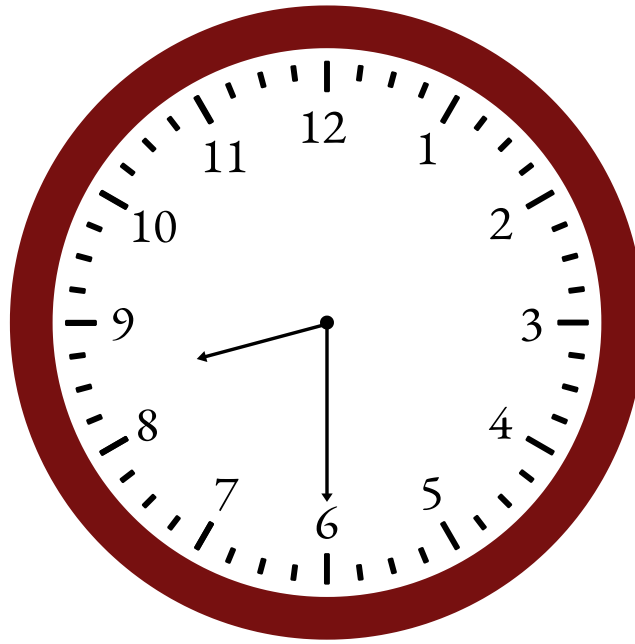
Keys will be issued within the first 3 weeks of term.



Term Dates - 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026	Inset Day	Tuesday 1st September 2026
	Yr 7 Induction Day	Wednesday 2nd September 2026
	Yrs 7, 12 & 13 in school	Thursday 3rd September 2026
	Autumn Term starts for all year groups	Friday 4th September 2026
	Half Term	Monday 19th – Friday 30th October 2026
	Return to school	Monday 2nd November 2026
	Autumn term ends	Friday 18th December 2026
Spring Term 2027	Spring Term begins	Monday 4th January 2027
	Half Term	Monday 15th–Friday 19th February 2027
	Return to school	Monday 22nd February 2027
	End of Spring Term	Friday 25th March 2027
Summer Term 2027	Summer Term begins	Tuesday 12th April 2027
	May Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2027
	Half Term	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027
	Return to school	Monday 7th June 2027
	Inset Day	Friday 2nd July 2027
	End of Summer Term	Friday 23rd July 2027

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

Reading a little everyday is an easy way for students to maintain their current levels ready to start secondary school in the autumn.

To encourage this students are challenged to complete five quick challenges and then set their own goal as to how many books they will read, completing a log to say how many of the books they read.

Bring completed logs to the library in September and those who have successfully completed will win a prize!

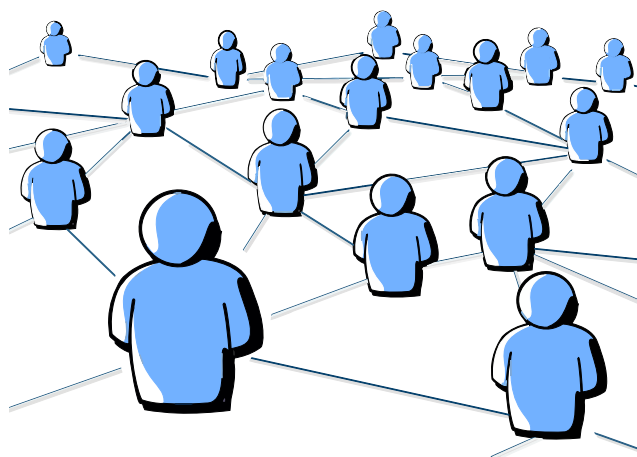
Students will be given a challenge sheet in the library on transition day.



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