

FALKNER HOUSE: LOGISTICS AND PRACTICAL DETAILS



ATTENDANCE

Parents will appreciate that attendance at school is mandatory. If a child needs to be absent for an unavoidable reason, parents should seek permission in writing in advance from the headteacher. Additional days off for holidays or music exams etc. will generally be noted as unauthorised absences. It is of major importance for all children to be at school on the FIRST day of each and every term as study plans and procedures are discussed with them and courses of study are started.

Absence for medical reasons should be kept to a minimum with doctors' or dentists' appointments being made, if at all possible, for outside school hours. If an appointment is, unavoidably, during the school day then the child should be in school either before and/or afterwards.

BEDTIME

The earlier the better! Experience shows that the children who have the most sleep are the most ready to learn and are the most cheerful.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

The school website is a key means of communication with parents. The calendar, news, notices and accounts of recent events are updated onto the website on at least a weekly basis. Every attempt is made to notify parents, generally via the "Friday email", of important additions or changes.

CONTACT DETAILS

The school always needs to have a comprehensive list of contact numbers (at least one of which is always answered by a real human being!). When parents are away the school must have details of whom to contact in London in an emergency. The school should be kept informed of any change in address, telephone numbers or email addresses. If you also have a regular nanny who is responsible for your child then it is extremely helpful to have their name and telephone number.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Teachers are encouraged to arrange visits to sites which support the curriculum. Form staff prepare a schedule of annual visits in co-operation with subject teachers. Children in Years 5 and 6 may have short residential visits to Mrs Griggs' house in Itchenor, West Sussex or to an activity centre. When on trips (particularly when in school uniform), members of the public frequently wish to take photographs of the children. It is school policy for staff to discourage this, however, taking such a photograph in a public place is not illegal, nor is posting the photo/video on social media. Parents may have success in taking down any such posting but unfortunately the school has no status in this situation.



EQUIPMENT TO BE KEPT IN SCHOOL - Year 6 girls only

A very basic set of stationery in a pencil case including: ruler marked to 15 cm / 6 inch, pencils, sharpener, eraser, a small set of coloured pencils and felt tip pens and a roller ball / friction pen

All other year groups, from Reception to Year 6 (boys) will be provided with the necessary equipment in school.

EQUIPMENT TO BE KEPT AT HOME

A ruler marked to 30cm/pencils/rubbers/pencil sharpener/glue sticks/coloured pencils/felt tip pens

FOOD

Children eat in the dining room or in their classrooms on a rota system with a selection of hot, cold and vegetarian food available. Staff monitor discreetly to ensure that children choose a balanced diet of a sensible quantity and that good manners prevail. Water is always available throughout the school and throughout the day. Children must bring a labelled water bottle to school. At Penywern Road, the boys have 'school' water bottles that can be bought from the school office. Children have a mid-morning snack of fruit or a biscuit with water. These are also available post school with sandwiches as well for those staying to do clubs or Late Birds.



GIFTS

Parents may at times be kind enough to give presents to the staff. Sometimes one parent may collect on behalf of the whole class. Giving – or not - is a totally personal choice and it goes without saying that a homemade gift will give great pleasure to the recipient as will a thoughtful letter or a donation to charity.

HEALTH

If your child is unwell, please telephone or email the school office by 9.00 am. Children should only be at school if they are well enough to participate in all usual activities including PE, swimming and outside breaks in the playground. In the past we have always taken a robust approach and if in doubt, would have rather they came into school than not. Now, however, in view of Covid-19, we do ask that you follow the latest government guidance as regards symptoms and/or required isolation.



Medicines (including cough sweets, etc.) should not be brought into school, instead parents may come in to administer a prescribed medicine that needs to be taken during the school day. At the school's discretion and upon receipt of a signed indemnity form, the headteacher may be able to administer a prescribed medicine and/or to accommodate children who, whilst well, for reasons such as a broken limb, are unable to do all normal school activities.

If your child has a medical condition that requires an individual medical protocol, parents will be asked to provide annual supporting relevant medical information from the child's doctor or doctors.

If your child becomes unwell during the day and needs to return home we will get in contact with parents. In the case of a minor injury being sustained whilst at school, first aid will be applied, and the child will go home with an completed incident form. In the case of a major injury we would call 999 immediately. Please see the school Health and Safety Policy on the website. Sunscreen should be applied before school in hot weather and the school baseball cap kept in school for break times.

HOUSES

Children are placed into one of four houses: Owls/Osprey (red), Finches/Kestrel (blue), Larks/Hawk (green) and Swifts/Merlin (yellow) each with its own House Captain. Siblings are generally in the same house. There are a number of inter-house competitions e.g. Sports Day and the Swimming Gala as well as the General Knowledge Quiz. Children are awarded house points for particularly good work, effort or behaviour and a House Cup is awarded at the end of each term.

KIT

If kit is forgotten, younger pupils (Reception - Year 4) may be allowed to telephone home to ask for it to be brought in. Depending on circumstances, in the absence of kit, the pupil may be given a substitute task to do rather than go to PE. Right from the start we are trying to encourage the children to take personal responsibility for having the right kit in school on the right day and we ask parents to support us in this. Finding strategies for children themselves to remember what they need for a given day (such as checking off a list before leaving the house) can be extremely helpful.

OFFICE

Miss Boyd and Mr Larvin (bursar) at Brechin Place and Mrs Wood, Mrs Colec and Mrs Stephenson at Penywern Road staff the school's office. They play a vital part in the smooth running of the school and take messages for staff and pupils. Any email contact with staff is via the school office. Parents visiting the school are asked to sign in and out.

PARENTAL QUERIES

If you have any concerns, irritations or queries about life at Falkner House please do not hesitate to get in touch. We want life to be smooth for you and your child and thus we need to know of any issues so that they can be quickly explained and hopefully resolved.

PARTIES

Children may wish to bring in birthday treats. Please can these be nut-free and as easy as possible to distribute. Small cupcakes are better than large! Other options are doughnuts, popcorn etc. Please be thoughtful if you are hosting a smaller party and not inviting the whole class.



PHOTOGRAPHS

We always very much welcome and encourage parental support at school events and inevitably this will include parents taking photographs and videos. Nonetheless, we would like to remind parents that if they take photographs which include a child /children other than their own, that these should not be uploaded/circulated on social media. We would also ask that parents not tag or link any social media posts to Falkner House so as to avoid an inadvertent generation of a Falkner House page by hashtags or links to the school from other people's posts.

PRAYERS / ASSEMBLIES/ RE

The school holds an assembly daily with a Christian hymn, the Lord's Prayer and a further prayer read by an older child. Participation is voluntary. A moral matter may be discussed, news is exchanged, a child may play an instrument and announcements are made. At 9.00 am all pupils return to their classes. At times, the hymn, prayers and religious message are geared to the younger children and during this time the older children have PHSEE in their classrooms. There is also a weekly hymn practice. All faiths (and none) are accepted and welcomed and there is much emphasis on the similarities of the main faiths. RE lessons are informative rather than doctrinal; no religious instruction is given in the school. Remembrance Day and Carol Services are held annually for children, their families and friends.

PRE AND POST SCHOOL CARE

The pre and post school care is referred to within the school as Early/Late Birds and is organised through the office. Children in Reception - Year 6 can be in school care from **7.45 am** until **5.00 pm** (except on Fridays when there is no Late Birds). Children in the main school who finish earlier than their Falkner House sibling's academic day are known as "Waiting Siblings" and there is generally no charge for this. Waiting brothers or sisters will not be charged if children need to be dropped early or collected late at either Brechin Place or Penywern Road to accommodate a drop off/ pick up at the other site. A record is kept of times of attendance and a charge (per 15 mins.) is made. If a child is on the premises before or after school, it is essential that they are registered so we know where they are in the building.



Arrival at school 8.30-8.40 am

Children enter through the playground on Old Brompton Road or through the front door at Penywern Road. The Headteacher is always at the gate/front door and children are encouraged to come in on their own. After the gate is shut on the Old Brompton Road, please bring your daughter to the front door on Brechin Place.

Arrival at Early Birds

Children may be dropped off at the school between 7.45 am and 8.25 am at the front door for Brechin Place or Penywern Road.

Arrival at Morning Music or Academic Groups

Parents drop their children at school at the front door where they buzz the main buzzer. Punctuality is essential for all early morning groups. Children make their way to the Big Room or other room as directed to be registered. If your child arrives before the group starts he/ she should go direct to Early Birds to be registered.

Considerate parking

It is vital that parents are considerate of residents – please do not double park in Brechin Place or the Old Brompton Road or Penywern Road.

Walking shuttle between Brechin Place and Penywern Road

If there is demand, we operate a walking shuttle by which a member of staff escorts boys from Brechin Place to Penywern Road. The shuttle leaves Brechin Place at 8.10 am.

Clubs / squads/ ensembles

These are voluntary with swimming and games squads and strings and wind ensembles by invitation (from PE / Music staff). Clubs aim to provide opportunities to develop skills and to promote and find individual strengths and to develop hobbies and interests. The club programme is administered by the school office. Most children participate in at least one club and the club programme can be interwoven with Early/Late Birds. Clubs and ensembles are chargeable and parents will be billed retrospectively. Club costs can be found on the website under Parent Information.

Collection from Clubs

Club children are dismissed by the Club leader (to the known adult waiting in the playground at Brechin Place or the front door at Penywern Road). After school ballet children are dismissed from the front door of 19 Brechin Place. If a parent fails to pick their child up from a club after 10 minutes of the end of the club session and cannot be contacted the child will be taken to Late Birds by the club leader and officially handed over to the Late Birds Coordinator.



Collection from Late Birds

Late Birds finishes at 5pm. When an adult arrives to collect a child from Late Birds they buzz the Early/Late Birds buzzer on the front door (Brechtin Place) or the lower ground floor door (Penywern Road) The Co-ordinator will then hand over the child to the known adult at the door. If a child is not collected by the end of the Late Birds session and the parents cannot be contacted, the Headteacher becomes involved.

PRIZES

At the end of each term, we give a number of cups/prizes to recognise outstanding efforts and achievement of particular children.



PUPIL RESPONSIBILITIES AND REWARDS

- One child from each year group (Reception to Year 5) is appointed “badge girl” or “badge boy” for the week. This is announced in the Monday Assembly. They assist the teacher, are first in line, run errands, and lead when moving around the school e.g. going down to lunch or to PE.
- Eco-monitors, who form part of the school Eco-committee, are appointed half-termly.
- Year 6 children are appointed to be Head Girl/Boy, Deputy Head Girl/Boy and Prefect/House Captains for half a term. They have various duties e.g. reading a prayer in Assembly.
- The Headteacher awards “Good Work” stickers on advice from teachers.
- House points are also available for good or improved work and behaviour.

Careful note is taken of those selected so that all the children have these opportunities.



SCHOOL EVENTS INVOLVING PARENTS (whole school unless noted)

September / October	Harvest festival charity cake bake
October	Reception parent lunch to sample school food
October (Friday before half term)	Open morning R – Y3 (before school)
November	Remembrance Day service
December	Reception nativity play
December	Years 3-6 inter-house netball / football matches
December	Joint lower school inter house games event
December	Carol services
February	Years 3 – 6 inter-house swimming gala
February/ March	Year 5 meeting re. secondary school examinations
March	School cross country
March	Reception Mother's day event
May (Friday before half term)	Opening morning for Reception – Year 3 (8am – 9.30 am)
June	Year 1 Father's day breakfast
June	7+ meeting for parents of boys
June / July	Sports day
June / July	Pet day
July	Year 6 play and leavers dinner (evening before end of term)
Periodic	Mini, informal or formal concerts
Periodic	Class drama productions
Periodic	Games matches / swimming galas
Occasional	Whole school drama production

There are various in-house events during the year: Quiz, Poetry and Public Speaking General Knowledge etc.

SCHOOL DOGS

The school dogs are Juno, owned by Mrs Dixon, Frankie owned by Mrs Woodward, Desmond owned by Mrs A and Rudi owned by Mrs Gardner.



TECHNOLOGY

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones or other electronic devices to school other than their school iPad which is not allowed to be used for anything other than school prescribed educational purposes. Children's use of the iPads outside of school is monitored by school staff (for further information please see the Falkner House Tech Handbook as well as the Internet and Behaviour Policies). Use of the internet at school is strictly controlled and monitored.

TIMETABLE

The timetable for the academic year will be available on the school website at the start of the Autumn Term.

UNIFORM

All pupils wear the school uniform supplied by Perry Uniform. Perrys have an efficient (generally!) online ordering and orders can always be delivered/ collected from Falkner House. Please label everything, including socks, shoes and underwear in obvious places. There are termly second-hand uniform sales organised by parents with funds raised being given to the charity of the term. Lost property is collected and is distributed regularly.

Further information including the uniform list and kit days can be found on the uniform page of the website within the Parent Information section. We would ask that children come in to school wearing PE kit on the specified days.

Girls: <https://www.falknerhouse.co.uk/brechin-place/parent-information/uniform/>

Boys: <https://www.falknerhouse.co.uk/penywern-road/parent-information-2/uniform/>

VISITING

Falkner House is exceptionally 'open' and welcomes parents and visitors in to the school building at any point.

WEEKLY ROUTINE

FALKNER HOUSER GIRLS

	Starts a.m.	Monday – Thursday Finishes p.m.	Friday Finish p.m.
Reception - Year 1	8.30/8.40	3.00	3.00
Years 2-6	8.30/8.40	3.30	3.00

FALKNER HOUSE BOYS

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Starts a.m.	Finishes p.m.				
Reception	8.30-8.40	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Year 1	8.30-8.40	3.00	3.30	3.00	3.30	3.00
Years 2-6	8.30-8.40	3.30	4.00	3.30	4.00	3.00

Children will not be 'late' until after 8.45 am, however, we like to use every minute and it is undeniably helpful for them to be in promptly by 8.30 am if at all possible.

Morning breaks vary according to the year group. After lunch there is a break in the playground.

Girls are collected from the playground or front door on Brechin Place and boys from the front door or lower ground floor of Penywern Road. If someone other than the parent e.g. a nanny regularly collects a child, parents are asked to introduce them to their child's form teacher. If children are to be collected by anyone other than their usual "minder" the form teacher must be given a note or the office emailed or telephoned. Also, if your child is going to be on a 'school run' the form teacher must be given a collection rota with a list of the children involved.

The walking shuttle in the morning from Brechin Place to Penywern Road will be back up and running if the demand resumes!

End of term collection times may vary. Please see the website for timings.

