

Headteachers message to families - Autumn 1 / Friday 4th September
Belong, Engage, Enjoy!

It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils back to school and see so many smiling faces around Fountaindale. We hope everyone has had a happy and restful summer break.

The new school year is already off to a fantastic start, and we have lots to look forward to in the months ahead, including exciting learning opportunities, trips, celebrations and special events. We are looking forward to working together to help every child have a successful and enjoyable year.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a great year ahead!

New staff:

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to Fountaindale this year. Rachel joins us as the Woodpeckers Class Teacher, Jess as the Butterflies Class Teacher, and Jonathan as our new Site Manager (an introduction to him can be seen below). We have also welcomed a number of new PCAs, who have started with us this week.

We are very pleased to have them as part of the Fountaindale team and hope they enjoy their time working with us. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome!

Updated Website:

Over the summer, we have spent time reviewing and updating our website to ensure that key information is up to date and that pages are organised in a way that makes them easier to navigate.

We would particularly like to draw your attention to two pages:

- **Curriculum Topics 2026/27 -** <https://www.fountaindaleschool.org/page/?title=Curriculum+Topics+26%2F27&pid=114>
- **Key Dates -** <https://www.fountaindaleschool.org/page/?title=Key+Dates&pid=113>

Please do take a look around our website when you have the opportunity. We will continue to add new content and make further improvements over the coming weeks.

- **Visit our website:** <https://www.fountaindaleschool.org/>

School Culture:

On our INSET day, staff spent time reflecting on what we want to see, hear and feel at Fountaindale. Through discussion and collaboration, we explored the values, behaviours and experiences that make our school such a special place to learn and work.

Together, we created a shared vision of the culture we want to continue building. From the way we communicate and work together, to how we celebrate success and support one another, we recognised that every interaction helps shape the culture of our school.

Our key message was simple: a strong and positive culture leads to successful outcomes for young people. By creating an environment where everyone feels valued, safe, respected and inspired, we give our pupils the very best opportunity to thrive.

Fountaindale - Our School Culture:		
Culture isn't something we have. Culture is something we create together.		
1. Artefacts: What we see, hear and feel	2. Values What we say is important	3. Underlying assumptions: What we genuinely believe
- BEE Values: Belong, Engage, Enjoy lived every day. - Successes and small steps celebrated regularly. - Rights Respecting and pupil-centred practice. - Calm, welcoming and purposeful learning environments. - Vibrant displays that celebrate learning and achievement. - Consistent routines that help pupils feel safe and secure. - Communication-Friendly Environment throughout the school. - Positive, respectful and restorative relationships. - Independence and life skills promoted across the curriculum. - Embedded therapy provision and multi-professional teamwork. - Caring, talented staff who go above and beyond. - Open-door, approachable and supportive culture. - Smiles, greetings and warm welcomes every day. - Strong collaboration between staff, families and professionals. - Visitors consistently comment on the school's positive atmosphere.	- BEE Values: Belong, Engage, Enjoy at the heart of everything we do. - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and safety is never compromised. - Pupil voice is valued and shapes decisions. - Respect, inclusion and dignity for all. - High expectations alongside the right support. - Kindness and genuine positive regard. - Child-centred approaches that put wellbeing first. - Strong relationships with families and partners. - Professional, timely and respectful communication. - Everyone can contribute and achieve success. - Continuous learning and improvement for pupils and staff. - Pathways that support positive next steps and future aspirations. - Adaptive teaching that meets individual needs. - Every milestone and achievement is recognised and celebrated. - Opportunities, new experiences, fun and excitement beyond the classroom. - Clear roles, strong teamwork and high-quality training for staff. - Creating a calm, nurturing and welcoming school community.	- Every child and adult deserves to be known, safe, valued and respected. - Every pupil can achieve. - High expectations and high support go hand in hand. - Everyone has strengths and something valuable to contribute. - Every voice matters and deserves to be heard. - We are stronger when we work together. - Positive relationships drive success. - Diversity and individuality are strengths. - Mistakes are opportunities to learn and grow. - Every day is a fresh start. - Resilience, perseverance and continuous improvement matter. - We value the expertise, perspectives and contributions of others. - Open, honest and two-way communication builds trust. - We challenge, reflect and improve. - We assume positive intent and seek to understand before judging. - Everyone shares a common purpose: achieving the very best for our pupils. - Staff feel they make a difference and are proud to be part of the Fountaindale family. - Fountaindale is a great place to work, learn and belong.

"Education is the business of changing lives for the better"

Reminder: Nut-Free School Environment

A gentle reminder that we ask parents and carers not to send any nut products into school as part of packed lunches, snacks or other food items.

This is because we have pupils in school with severe nut allergies, and avoiding nuts helps us to reduce the risk of accidental exposure and keep everyone safe.

Term Dates 2026/27:

Please see below our term dates for the 2026/27 academic year.

Autumn Term:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026 - INSET DAY
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - INSET DAY

- Thursday 3rd September 2026 - Pupils Return to School
Half term: Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October 2026
- Friday 18th December 2026 - End of Term

Spring Term:

- Monday 4th January 2027 - Pupils Return to School
Half term: Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2027
- Monday 22nd February 2027 - INSET DAY
- Thursday 25th March 2027 - End of Term

Summer Term:

- Monday 12th April 2027 - Pupils Return to School
Half term: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027
- Friday 2nd July 2027 - INSET DAY
- Wednesday 28th July 2027 - INSET DAY

INSET Dates:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026 - INSET DAY
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - INSET DAY
- Monday 22nd February 2027 - INSET DAY
- Friday 2nd July 2027 - INSET DAY
- Wednesday 28th July 2027 - INSET DAY

Dystonia Awareness Month:

September is Dystonia Awareness Month. While we will not be running any specific activities in school, we would like to help raise awareness of this neurological movement disorder and share some useful information for families who may wish to find out more.

Useful links:

- Dystonia UK (the UK's leading dystonia charity): <https://www.dystonia.org.uk/>
- Dystonia Awareness Month: <https://www.dystonia.org.uk/pages/category/dystonia-awareness-month>
- NHS Information on Dystonia: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/dystonia/>

These resources provide information about what dystonia is, how it can affect individuals, and the support available for those living with the condition.

Weekly Safeguarding Update: Reminder of Key People and Processes at Fountaindale

At Fountaindale, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and the safety and wellbeing of our pupils remains our highest priority. We want to remind families that if you ever have a safeguarding concern about a child, please contact the school so that we can provide support and take appropriate action.

During school hours: 01623 792671

Out of hours or during school holidays: 07512 301996

Our safeguarding team is:

- **Rob Mulvey** - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
RMulvey1@nexusmat.org | 01623 792671
- **Gayle Bowmer** - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
gbowmer@nexusmat.org | 01623 792671

You can also contact our safeguarding team via: fountaindale.safe@nexusmat.org

For further information, including our safeguarding policies and procedures, please visit our website: [Fountaindale School - Safeguarding](#)

We have a range of safeguarding information and support links available for families, including Nottinghamshire MASH, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding, and the NSPCC.

If you are worried about a child's safety or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Working together helps us ensure all children remain safe, supported and able to thrive.

Have a lovely weekend!

B Norman

Headteacher

bnorman@nexusmat.org

Fountaindale School: **Getting to know our new site manager...**



Name: Jonathan Wooff
Joined Fountaindale: September 2026



Who is your favourite superhero (or fictional character) and why?

- Captain America, as he never gives in and always does the right thing.

What is your favourite film or TV show, and what makes it stand out for you?

- Big marvel fan and have watched all the films. Avengers End game is probably my favourite so far and was the accumulation of a massive story line over many films.

What was your favourite subject at school when you were a pupil?

- History, always liked finding out about the past. I still watch a lot of history programmes on TV.

If you could have any job for a day (not teaching), what would you choose?

- I've wanted to be a Site Manager for a long time, so I'm doing my dream job.

What's your go-to comfort food or treat after a long day?

- A big bar of Cadbury's chocolate then a bag of walker's cheese and onion crisps are my favourite.

What's your favourite way to spend a weekend?

- Watching marvel films as a family and spending time with my grandchildren.

Belong, Engage, Enjoy!