

FORT ROYAL FLYER

27/03/2026

Message from Mr Francis

Today is a sad day for the school, as it is Vanessa's final day with us before she leaves to take up her new role as Headteacher of Blackmarston Special School in Hereford.

Vanessa has given so much to Fort Royal over many years and will be greatly missed by us all. However, we are incredibly proud of her and wish her every success in her new role. We know that the children in Herefordshire will be very well supported by such a dynamic and inspiring leader.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers of pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 at our Easter service at St Peter's Church yesterday. It was a short but joyful service, with poems, signing and a lovely Easter bonnet parade.

The Easter Bunny also visited school this week, and the children had great fun searching for carrots and Easter eggs!

I would like to thank the Friends for organising this event and for their continued and much-appreciated support.

Last week, Red Nose Day was a great success. We raised £227 and enjoyed a fantastic day with a wide range of activities on offer.

We have also celebrated Eid this week, recognising and celebrating the diversity within our school community through a range of activities and a special assembly.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 13th April.

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Dates for your Diary

13/04/2026

Back to School

04/05/2026

Bank Holiday

18/05/2026

Arts Week

25/05/2026

Half Term

01/06/2026

Back to School

OFSTED



Attendance Matters!

Our Target attendance is 94%

Last weeks attendance was 91%

Hydrotherapy Pool hoist Update

We would like to apologise again for the inconvenience caused by the current limitations in the use of our hydrotherapy pool, and we thank you for your patience and understanding.

At present, the pool remains open; however, it is still not accessible to pupils who require the hoist for entry and exit.

We have now received an update from our supplier. The new tracks for the pool hoist have been manufactured and are with the company. They are currently fabricating specialist fixing brackets in preparation for installation, which is scheduled to take place on 8th and 9th April.

Following installation, our insurance provider will need to carry out a safety inspection before the hoist can be brought back into use.

We are working closely with them to ensure this is completed as quickly as possible after installation.

We will continue to keep you updated and will confirm as soon as the hoist is fully operational again.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Vanessa's farewell interview by the School Council

Some members from School Council decided to meet with Vanessa before she leaves, we had a lovely time asking her questions and chatting about her time at Fort Royal.

Have you enjoyed your time at Fort Royal?

I've really enjoyed my time, I have been here since 2007, it has been amazing!

How big was the school when you first started?

There were 140 children, there are now over 200. There were no portacabins, no swings and roundabouts, no paddock and lots of rooms have changed, it is much bigger now.

What has been your biggest achievement?

I started as a teacher, then became an Advanced Skills Teacher, then Assistant Headteacher, then Deputy Headteacher and will now become a Headteacher. I have had lots of roles and enjoyed helping different teachers at other schools and watching people grow.

Will you come back and visit us?

Will you have me? It would be great for people to come and visit me and maybe our school councils could do stuff together.

What are you going to miss about Fort Royal?

So many things, the children, friends I work with, the parents....and Nicks school dinners!

Vanessa's farewell interview by the School Council

What is your favourite school dinner at Fort Royal?

That is very tricky, my favourites are a roast, macaroni cheese, homemade sausage rolls and the salad bar.

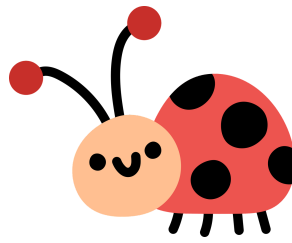
Do you have a favourite memory at Fort Royal?

I particularly like going to church, Kings Fun Day and singing in assembly.

Thank you for your support with School Council

**Vanessa, we will miss you but wish you lots of success
at your new school.**





Build a Bug Hotel at Home!



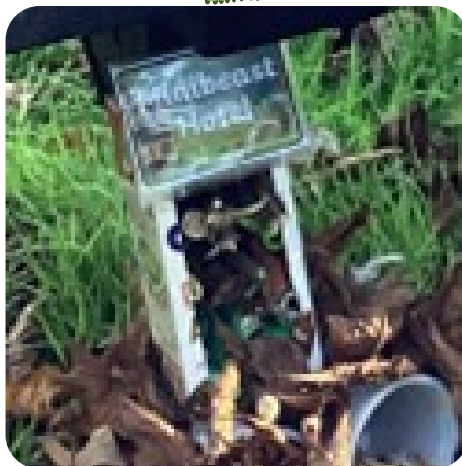
Have you ever thought about creating a bug hotel for your garden or outdoor space?

Insects are incredible little helpers – they pollinate plants, break down organic matter, provide food for other wildlife, and help keep our ecosystems healthy!

The good news? Making a bug hotel is simple and fun!

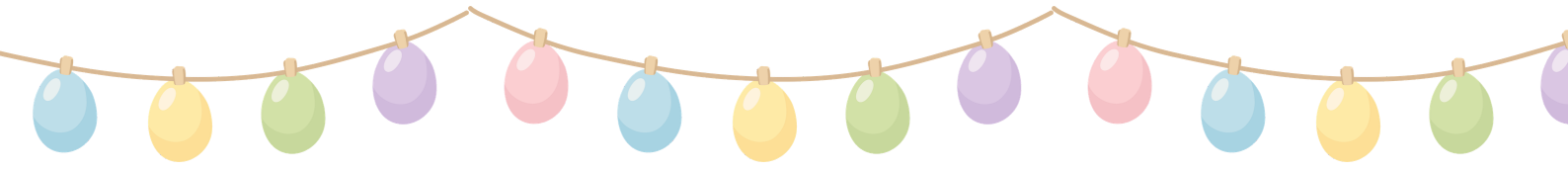
Use recycled materials such as empty milk or juice cartons and fill them with rolled-up cardboard or paper to create cosy spaces for insects to hide. Place your bug hotel in a shady, quiet spot and wait to see which creatures decide to move in!

Class 25 loved having a go at building their very own Bug Hotel.
Maybe you can try one at home too!



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Friends of Fort Royal



Exciting Updates & Egg-cellent Fun at School!

We've got some fantastic news to share! Thanks to a generous grant from Public Health England via WCC, the Friends have purchased three brand-new buggies for the children. These will be a huge help in supporting smooth transitions throughout the school day and providing comfort and regulation when needed. We're so pleased to see them already making a positive difference!

Easter Adventures!

The children had an amazing time during our recent carrot hunt, exploring, discovering, and enjoying every moment. And the highlight? A very special visit from the Easter Bunny himself! There were smiles, laughter, and plenty of springtime excitement all around.

A Big Thank You!

We'd also like to say a HUGE thank you to all our wonderful parents and carers for your incredibly generous donations of Easter eggs. The children absolutely loved them—and there were so many that our hardworking staff got to enjoy a little treat too!

We are truly egg-stremely grateful for your continued support. It's what makes these special moments possible and helps our school community thrive.

Wishing everyone a joyful and relaxing Easter!



We ran a little competition for staff to name our new additions

Thank you to those that suggested names.

Welcome to **Fort Royal**

Our new mobile kitchens

Phil the Grill

Bob the Hob

Congratulations to
Vanessa S and Julia S

who both win a
Costa Coffee
and treat on us!





Building life skills through cooking

One of our biggest achievements this year has been securing funding for two portable teaching kitchens. We were extremely grateful to MFG charitable foundation who funded one of the kitchens.

These kitchens allow pupils to learn practical life skills such as preparing food, following instructions and working independently. The kitchens have quickly become a favourite part of the school and have been affectionately named:

Phil the Grill

Bob the Hob

For many pupils at Fort Royal, learning everyday life skills such as cooking is an important step towards independence in adulthood.



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EYFS & KS1

Class 01

Class 1 have been learning about different animals and their favourite story was The Lion Hunt. The children enjoyed using the grass, lake, swamp and cave sensory props to bring the story to life.

In Maths, they practised numbers with Monkeys Jumping on the Bed and explored big and small using safari animals and boxes.

They got creative making animal collages, painting with animals, and worked on communication skills by following instructions, responding to gestures, and listening to animal sounds.



FORT ROYAL FLYER

KS2

Class 21

In maths, we have been learning how to measure and convert units. We can now confidently change centimetres (cm) into metres (m) and metres into kilometres (km).

Our literacy lessons have taken us on a journey to Africa! We read the story Hunter and used our imagination to write our very own newspaper articles based on the story. Future journalists in the making!

We have been exploring the fascinating continent of Africa. We learned about traditional mud huts and even got creative by making our own African clay pots. Everyone showed fantastic creativity!

