



The Featherstone Academy

NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2 2026



Message from Julia McCluskey, Principal

As we come to the end of another lovely and successful term at The Featherstone Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

I hope that you and your families enjoy a safe, happy and restful summer break.

A reminder that **students return to the academy on Tuesday 25 August 2026.**

As we prepare for the new academic year, I would also like to remind all families of our uniform expectations. Please ensure that all uniform items purchased comply with the academy's uniform policy.

We ask parents and carers to pay particular attention to:

- Approved academy uniform items only – **jersey and nylon materials are not permitted.**
- Appropriate footwear as outlined in the policy.
- Jewellery, make-up and other appearance expectations.
- PE kit requirements.

The full uniform policy is attached, and we encourage all families to review this before purchasing items for September.

Thank you once again for your support, we look forward to welcoming our students back for another successful academic year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17 JULY 2026

SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR SUMMER

20 AUGUST 2026

GCSE RESULTS DAY

24 AUGUST 2026

INSET – SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS

25 AUGUST 2026

SCHOOL OPENS TO ALL STUDENTS

3 SEPTEMBER 2026

OPEN EVENING

11 SEPTEMBER 2026

WHOLE SCHOOL PORTRAIT PHOTOS

16 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Y7 RESILIENCE CAMP

8 OCTOBER 2026

Y7 FORM TUTOR PARENTS EVENING

16 OCTOBER 2026

SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR HALF TERM

YEAR 11 LEAVERS CELEBRATIONS



UNIFORM REMINDER

We have a new approved uniform supplier – Better & Bright Schoolwear.

May we remind you that all uniform purchased must meet our expectations as shown – note that blazers are compulsory for all Year 7 and Year 8.



White shirt **OR** blouse with a top button
(short or long sleeved permitted)



Academy tie



Navy blue crested jumper
Years 9, 10 and 11 only



Navy blue crested blazer
COMPULSORY FOR YEAR 7 AND 8
Optional for Years 9, 10 and 11
instead of the jumper



Charcoal Grey school trousers* **OR** skirt** (knee length and
(straight-legged and tailored, tailored, not stretchy material)
not stretchy material)



Plain black leather belt
Optional



School Bag

* Girls may wear trousers, but they must be straight leg tailored trousers, not 'fashion' or fitted/legging-type trousers

** Skirts must be knee length and tailored material not stretchy, jersey-type material

**PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL
ITEMS ARE CLEARLY MARKED
WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME
SO THEY CAN EASILY BE
RETURNED TO THEM**



Black shoes (Boys)



Black shoes (Girls)

(These images are only representative examples of appropriate school shoes)



info@featherstone.academy

PE KIT REMINDER

Compulsory uniform items for all students



Academy Crested PE Top



Navy PE Shorts



Navy Football Socks



Trainers
(must be non-marking soles)



Football Boots
(no metal studs allowed)



Shin Pads

Optional uniform items for all students

PE takes place indoors and outdoors all year round, therefore we advise that students keep warm by wearing extra layers underneath their PE kit.



- Plain navy or black skins/ base layers / leggings - no logos or motifs
- Plain navy or black sweatshirt - no logos or motifs
- Plain navy or black tracksuit bottoms - no logos or motifs
- Plain navy or black hat and gloves (no gloves allowed for rugby lessons)
- **For safety reasons, hoodies are not permitted at any time**



EQUIPMENT REMINDER

Equipment checks take place during form time **every** day – make sure you're **fully equipped** and **ready to learn!** Students must have:

Pencil case	Black ballpoint pen	Purple ballpoint pen	Pencil
Eraser	Pencil sharpener	Compass	Protractor
30cm ruler	Glue stick	Scientific calculator	Dictionary
Whiteboard pen	Highlighter	Headphones or earphones	
Reading book	Refillable water bottle	(not Bluetooth/wireless)	



COMMUNICATIONS HAVE CHANGED!

As previously communicated, we are no longer using Edulink One to send communications to you - **we now use the Arbor Parent App & Portal**. This will enable you to see messages in the app or via your emails as well as information about how your child is doing in school including their attendance, stamps for great work, behaviour points and detentions. You will also be able to **update contact details and consents, book parents' evening appointments and more** as we roll out the various functions through the year.

To receive communications, you will need to login to your Arbor account on the portal and set up the app as soon as possible.

Please ensure we have the correct email address for you!



What you will need

- **Arbor Parent App** or access to the portal
- Access to the **ParentPay** website to top up accounts and provide consent for trips & visits



What you won't need

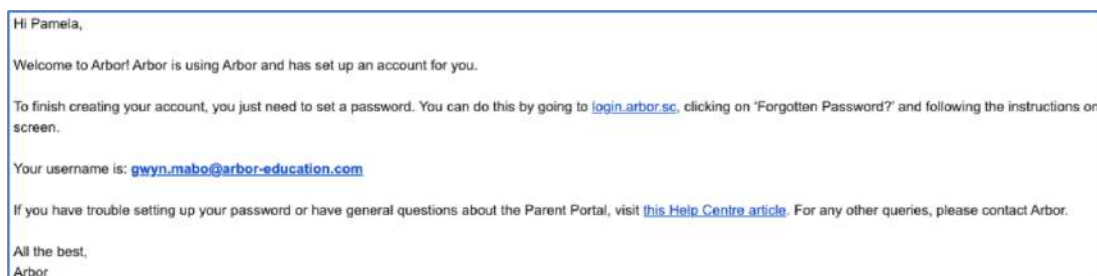
- Edulink One



A. First-Time Login (Setting Your Password)

If this is your first time logging in, you'll need to set your password. Your school will send you a **welcome email** with a link to do this.

1. Find the Welcome Email: Look for an email from Arbor in your inbox.



COMMUNICATIONS HAVE CHANGED!

- **Tip:** If you can't find it, check your junk or spam folder!
- 2. **Click the Login Link:** Inside the email, click on the unique login link provided. This link will take you to a secure page to set up your account.
- 3. **Set Your Password:**
 - Enter your chosen password into the **Password** field.
 - Enter it again into the **Confirm Password** field.
 - Make sure your password meets the criteria (e.g., length, characters) shown on the screen.
 - Click the **Set Password** button.
- 4. **Log In:** You'll then be redirected to the login page. Enter your **email address** (the one your school has for you) and your newly **set password**, then click **Log In**.

Logging in on the Parent App

Save your password and fill it in automatically using your phone's built-in Face ID, fingerprint scan or pin entry.

Top Tip: You will need to download the latest version from the app store to use biometric login:

- The version number for iOS for biometric login is 24.1
- The version number for Android is 35 (24)

Logging in for the first time

When you open the app for the first time, you'll be prompted to add in your email address and password.

The **Remember my password** box will be ticked by default but you can untick it if needed. This allows Arbor to remember your password the next time you log in.



The image shows the Arbor app login screen. It has a green logo at the top. Below it, it says 'Welcome to Arbor' and 'Let's find your school'. There are two input fields: 'Enter your email address' with the example 'gb@arbor-mail.com' and 'Enter your password'. Below these is a checkbox labeled 'Remember my password' which is checked. There is a green 'Log in' button. At the bottom, there is a link 'Forgot your password?' and a section 'Having issues logging in?' with a link to 'PLEASE CLICK HERE to see our troubleshooting article.' and 'Version number: 0.9.151'.



info@featherstone.academy

INFORMATION

COULD YOUR CHILD GET FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

From September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will qualify for income-related free school meals. There will be no income limit.

Apply from

3 July 2026



Families can apply quickly and easily.

Scan the QR code or visit www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/free-school-meals/



If you already receive income-related Free School Meals - here's what's changing:

- Transitional Protection is ending
- Annual eligibility checks will begin from 1 June 2026
- You will receive confirmation after each check



FOR HELP OR QUESTIONS:

Contact the Free School Meals Team
FSM@wakefield.gov.uk

wakefieldcouncil



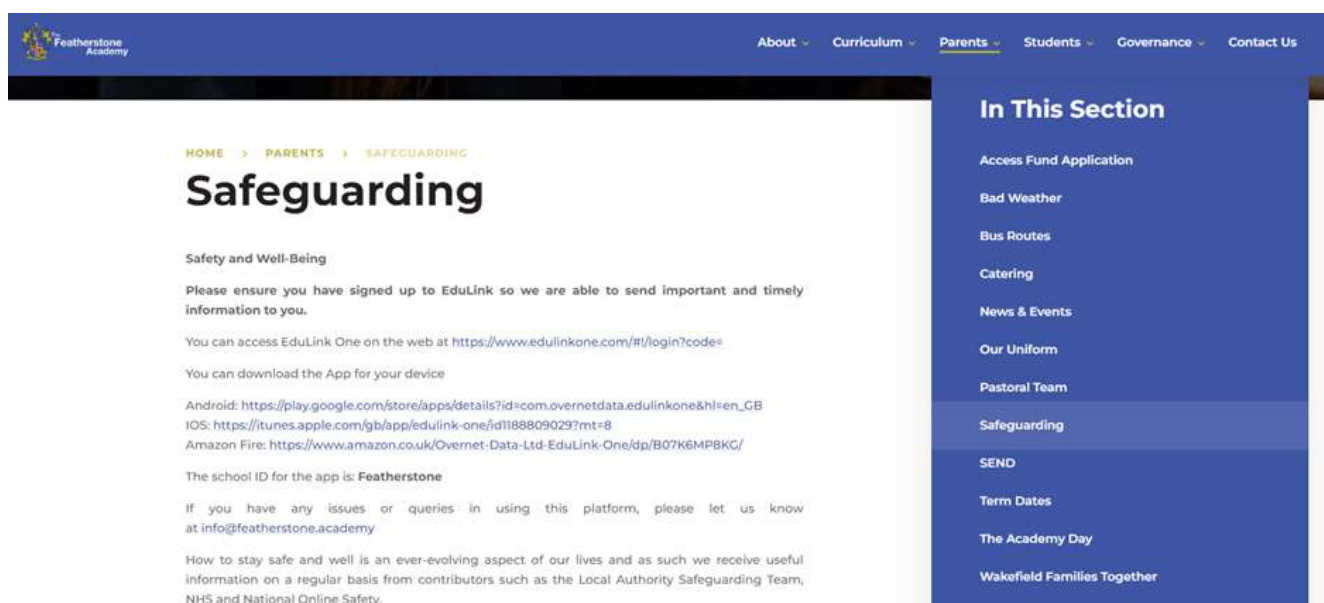
info@featherstone.academy

SAFEGUARDING

Although the school building is not staffed over the summer holidays, parents and carers can still contact **Wakefield Social Care directly on 0345 850 3503** with any concerns. Social Care will then contact the academy's Safeguarding Team directly during the holiday period. Additionally, if you are looking for some general help and advice there are numerous links available directly on the academy website – please use the link below.



CLICK HERE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION



The screenshot shows the Featherstone Academy website. The top navigation bar includes links for About, Curriculum, Parents, Students, Governance, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled 'Safeguarding' under the 'PARENTS' section. It includes a 'Safety and Well-Being' heading, a paragraph about signing up to EduLink, and links to access EduLink One on the web and download the app for Android, iOS, and Amazon Fire. A sidebar on the right titled 'In This Section' lists various links such as Access Fund Application, Bad Weather, Bus Routes, Catering, News & Events, Our Uniform, Pastoral Team, Safeguarding, SEND, Term Dates, The Academy Day, and Wakefield Families Together.



SAFEGUARDING

WATER SAFETY

Water claims the lives of more than 50 children a year in the UK. Drowning is among the leading causes of accidental death. Under-estimating the dangers of water can have tragic consequences. You may be able to swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean you will be able to swim in cold water. **The key to staying safe is making the right choices to avoid getting into difficulty in the first place.**

BE AWARE!

Low water temperatures can cause the body to go into **Cold Water Shock** and can claim your life in minutes, even if you are a strong swimmer!

Learn the Water Safety Code

Stop & Think
Stay Together
Call 999
Float

Drowning is the **THIRD** most common cause of death in young people.

The risk increases significantly from age 15



HIDDEN dangers

There is no way of knowing what lies **beneath** the water

It's difficult to estimate the **depth** of the water

Reeds and other plant life can get **tangled** around your limbs

Mud makes it difficult to walk even if you can stand up

Litter and waste can **trap** your feet as well as cause injury

There may be **underwater machinery** for example sluices

Swimming in open water can expose you to serious **diseases**

There may be **hidden currents**, especially in locks



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