

School Newsletter

21 October 2022



Dear Parents & Carers

Firstly we would like to say a huge well done to the children for their first half term completed for this year. They have all been working so hard in school and should be very proud of the work they have produced. The second part of the autumn term is always a busy one for children both in school and out of school so a well-deserved rest is definitely in order over half term. This week Mrs Hamilton (Primary Strategic Lead for The Wensum Trust) was in school looking at English and she was impressed with the standard of work in the children's books. Well done everyone!

This term, Mr Coe has made the decision to leave his teaching post at Firsides. Mr Coe has been a teacher at Firsides for twenty years. He attended Firsides as a child himself, sent his own children to school here so he is Firsides through and through. He will be sorely missed by the staffing team here who think of him not only as an experienced and well-respected colleague but also as a friend. Mr Coe has championed sport within our school, not only at the top levels but also by ensuring that children of all levels of ability are able to participate in and enjoy PE lessons, competitions and festivals. He has also lead teams of teachers in both Year 5 and 6 as a class teacher and Head of Year. He has inspired children with his passion for education and we know that many children look back on their time with Mr Coe with great fondness, especially his love of puns and jokes. Year 6 children and their parents have already been informed of the news and we are currently in the process of recruiting a new member of our teaching staff to start after the Christmas break. In the meantime, Mr David Acaster will be teaching the children in 6C up until Christmas.

On Thursday, Mr Keer and Mrs Harris attended the funeral service of Mr Holmes, a former Head Teacher of Firsides. Mr Holmes was the Head Teacher from 1978 to when he retired in 2000. Mr Holmes will be remembered as an inspirational leader. He was a giant, rugby loving Welshman, with the handshake of a bear but a heart of gold. He loved Firsides and devoted 22 years to the school and local community alongside his wife, who was the Head Teacher at Heather Avenue. Mr Holmes will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him. Our deepest sympathies go out to all his family.



Mr Holmes, Mr Cunningham (former Deputy Head Teacher) and Mr Coe (former governor) on Mr Holmes' last visit to Firsides in 2021.

We hope everyone has a lovely half term and look forward to seeing you on Monday 31 October.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Robinson, Mr Keer and Mrs Seagrave

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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Dates for Your Diary

31 Oct	Start of term	
w.c. 31 Oct	Parents evenings this week – bookings made via Scopay up until Sunday 30 October	
Fri 11 Nov	Flu immunisations (details to follow soon)	
Fri 18 Nov	Children in Need – see information below	
Mon 21 & Tues 22 Nov	Scholastic book fair in school	
Fri 25 Nov	Christmas hamper gift non-uniform day – see information below	
Sat 10 Dec	Friends of Firside Christmas Fayre	
Tues 13 Dec	AM Year 5 Christmas performance	PM Year 3 Christmas performance
Wed 14 Dec	AM Year 6 Christmas performance	PM Year 4 Christmas performance
Fri 16 Dec	Last day of term – free non- uniform day with optional Christmas jumpers	

Raising concerns

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the procedures that need to be followed if you have a concern that you need to raise with the school. In the first instance, it should be raised with the class teacher. If you feel that it has not been resolved then you should contact the Head of Year. After this point, the next point of contact is Mr Keer or Mrs Seagrave and then Mrs Robinson.

Scholastic book fair

On Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 November we will be holding a Scholastic book fair. This is an opportunity for children and parents to buy books from a huge list of titles. The more money raised from the book sales, the more the school can earn back in books. So buying books for your family and friends helps to buy more books for the school!

We are holding the book sales from 2:45pm in the school hall with the view that parents can attend before the end of the school day – an ideal opportunity for some Christmas present buying! Children and their parents will be able to attend after school.



Please note that all payments will be electronic through scanning a QR code.

If you are unable to attend the sale, we will also provide a book list and ordering link prior to the sale. This way, you can purchase books from home and then we will give the children the books purchased.

We will also be having a design competition after half term where children can win book tokens to use at the sale.

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Children in Need Friday 18 November





BBC
**Children
in Need**



Friday 18 November

Non-uniform day and *optional* crazy hair day
Children can wear spots, Pudsey accessories or just general non-uniform.
£1 on the day to go to the charity.

**We will also be having a cake sale on Thursday 17 November after school.
We would really appreciate any donations of cakes / biscuits.
Please bring them to the office on the morning of the sale.
Ensure that you include a list of ingredients.
All products must be nut free.
We would really appreciate any cakes / biscuits made with
consideration for those with allergies, e.g. gluten free, dairy free too.
Cakes will be priced 20p – 50p. Please bring small change.**



Parents' Evening meetings week commencing 31 October 2022

We look forward to welcoming parents into school for meetings with the class teachers. If you have not yet booked your appointment, this should be made using Scopay. If you are unable to book using Scopay, please get in touch with the School Office who will be able to book on your behalf. If you are unable to make a face-to-face appointment, please contact your child's class teacher via email and they will be able to make an alternative arrangement with you. Please note that the Scopay booking system will close on Sunday 30 October.

On the night of Parents' Evening, classrooms will be open for parents to view their children's books. We recommend that you arrive 10-15 minutes before your appointment time to do so. Appointments with teachers will be held in the school hall. Children are welcome to attend their appointment with their parents.

Christmas hamper gifts non-uniform day Friday 25 November



On Friday 25 November, we are holding a non-uniform to collect donations of items for our Christmas hamper raffle. So that we receive a range of items, we are asking that children bring the following items in return for a non-uniform day:

Year 3 and 4 – smellies, small gift sets or candles

Year 5 and 6 – chocolates, sweets or biscuits.

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FOF Christmas Fayre Saturday 10 December

We look forward to welcoming you to our first Christmas Fayre since 2019! More details to follow from FOF who have many exciting plans up their sleeves for this event.

Nut-free and fish-free lunches

A reminder to all families that we aim to be a nut free school. This is due to severe allergies of some children in our school. Please help us to keep them safe by refraining from including nut products in your child's lunchbox. This includes whole nuts, nuts in cereal bars, peanut butter and Nutella. We have noticed a few chocolate bars coming in to school which contain nuts (for example, Kinder Bueno bars). Please ensure that these are not in lunchboxes.



There should also be **no fish** in packed lunches, this is due to severe allergies of children in our school. This includes, but is not limited to: tuna, salmon, fish paste, fish pate, fish sticks and prawns. We do not serve fish as a hot dinner or jacket potato filling option.



We ask that all parents follow this guidance, as food allergies can be very serious.

Dogs on school site

A reminder that there should be no dogs on the school site at all. We have a number of children with extreme fears or phobias of dogs and having them on site is causing them great distress. Also, from a health and safety point of view, dogs must be kept off site due to the risk of them fouling on the school site.

Run Norwich this weekend

Good luck to Mr Laskey and Miss Bussey who are running Run Norwich this weekend. If any of you are going to watch, please look out for them and cheer them on. Mr Laskey has a Just Giving page if you would like to help him fundraise for the charity Keeping Abreast. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/james-laskey>

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