

School Newsletter

10 February 2023



Dear Parents & Carers,

February half term is here and this marks the halfway point in the school year. The children have worked incredibly hard in lessons this term and we look forward to seeing what they achieve next half term.

At Firside, our key ethos is: **“Become the best you can be: for learning, for life, for future success”**. As part of this, we have developed five key values, which underpin this ethos and are important in ensuring that this is achieved. At Firside, we **DREAM**.

We show:

Determination Resilience Enthusiasm Ambition Motivation

As a staff team, we feel that these values are important in all aspects of school life and learning. We have started using these terms regularly with the children and after half term, we are reinventing our Star of the Week awards to be the **DREAM** Awards. We will be awarding these for children showing these key values. **DREAM** will also underpin our weekly whole school, year group and class assemblies.

As parents, you can ask your children regularly how they have achieved **DREAM** each day.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Robinson, Mr Keer and Mrs Seagrave

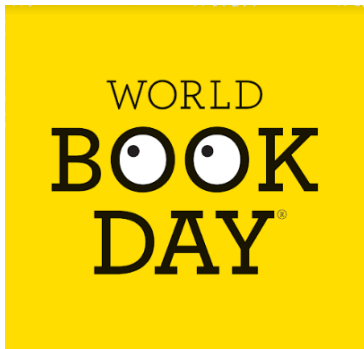
Dates for Your Diary

Mon 20 Feb	First day back
Wed 22 Feb	Year 6 Parents Evening meetings – appointments should be booked on Scopay
Tues 28 Feb	Year 6 Parents Evening meetings (rearranged from Tues 21 Feb)
Fri 3 Mar	Relax and read day – wear relaxed clothing
Wed 8 Mar	Year 6 meeting about SATS and residential. 3:15pm and 5:30pm
1 Apr – 17 Apr	Easter holidays
18 Apr	First day of term
w.c. 24 Apr	Parents Evening meetings for Year 3, 4 and 5 – information to follow soon

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World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day in the week commencing Monday 27 February. There will be various activities going on during the day but we wanted to let you know in advance that on Friday 3 March we will be having a 'Relax n Read' day. On this day, children can come to school in relaxed clothing (e.g. pyjamas, onesies or loungewear) for the day as part of our World Book Day celebrations. Please note the date, as we will not be doing this on the actual World Book Day due to it being games lessons that day. The relaxed clothing needs to be suitable for school and we ask that children do not wear slippers. Also look out for a special

event on our Facebook page on World Book Day and information about a special World Book Day themed lunch coming soon!

Cookery Club

Thank you to the parents who showed an interest in the potential cookery club. We had around 20 children show an interest in the club so Mrs Seagrave will now go back to the company to discuss how this could work at Firside. We will be in touch with those who are interested when we have more details.

Mother's Day messages Norwich Evening News

Following their successful campaign over the last few years, the **Norwich Evening News** will be celebrating Mother's Day again in 2023 by publishing a special supplement full of children's messages. This unique feature will offer pupils the opportunity to use their creative writing skills to compose a short message to their Mum, Guardian, Grandma, etc. which will then be **published in the Norwich Evening News on Saturday 18 March 2023**. All messages will be published free of charge. This is a great activity for children of any age to be involved in and makes a great keepsake for parents.



If you would like your child to participate, please complete this [Google Form](#). **Please note that messages must follow the format below:**

Surname, First name of message recipient – child's message (max 25 words) – who the message is from

E.g. Smith, Alison – Mummy I love you. You are the greatest ever! Love from Samantha xx

If the parent / carer does not wish to have their name in the paper, you can simply write the message but leave the name off or simply put Mummy, Aunty, Granny etc.

Messages can be in upper or lower case but emoji's cannot be used, as these will not be included.

Children can submit more than one message if required. Siblings may submit their own message – simply complete more than one Google Form.

Messages must be submitted by 3:15pm on Wednesday 1 March at the very latest. Messages received after this time will not be able to be included as the newspaper have a strict deadline for us to submit the messages.

Any problems, please contact Mrs Seagrave lseagrave9nrz@nsix.org.uk who is organising this.

We are part of...



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. Please remember that some allergies can be triggered simply by breathing in the allergen and does not need to be eaten to trigger a reaction.

Year group updates

Read below for a summary of all of what has been going on in school this term. In just a short term, there have been plenty of opportunities for **wider personal development**: school trips, sporting activities, charity fundraising and more. Look out for our Parent Curriculum letters coming out at the start of each term to help you understand what your child is learning about each term. Do not forget to follow us on Facebook to gain a better understanding of all that we do in school.

Year 3

Year 3 have managed to fit such a lot into such a small half term! In English, we have worked super hard to write our very own persuasive leaflets with the aim of protecting woodland areas from damage. The children were able to include expanded noun phrases and prepositions. In science, we have been investigating properties of rocks, as well as how they are formed. We have also really enjoyed working with stop-frame animation on the iPads during our computing lessons.



We had great fun starting our new Geography unit all about maps. We have explored OS maps, grid references and even learnt about the seas and rivers. We will be using our new knowledge as we continue to look at maps, whilst focusing on answering the question 'What's in like in Wells?' When we return after the break. We are looking forward on our trip to Wells-next-the-Sea to support our learning in this. Thank you to those who have already paid for the trip, and to parents/carers who have volunteered to come with us. We have let volunteers know if they are coming wish us, and have kept a record of others who were willing to help for our next trip. More information will follow after half term.

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Year 4



This term we have been as busy as ever, continuing to improve our rapid recall of times tables facts and learning new methods for doing multiplication and division in Maths. Children are now quite comfortable using counters, models and grids to help them master new concepts and these have been a great help in our lessons.

In English, our learning has been based around the classic picture book, *Weslandia* by Paul Fleischmann. Children enjoyed the story of Wesley, a boy who does not quite fit in, but uses his intelligence and ingenuity to create his own civilization, win friends and influence people. They designed a new shelter for Wesley and described it, then went on to retell his story in their own words. Before the end of term, children will write an information text about Wesley's world and turn this into a brochure.

In Science, we have been learning about sound and how it travels, and have deepened our understanding with several practical investigations. The opportunity to make ear defenders was especially good fun.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the term so far has been our visit to Norwich Castle Museum however. Children and adults took part in their Ancient Civilizations workshop, enriching their learning from the previous term about Ancient Greece and adding to it with a new understanding of other ancient cultures. We loved learning about the way ancient people around the world farmed, built buildings, developed law and democracy and wrote down their history. We have now moved on from this topic and are learning all about Europe. This will lead us eventually to a study of Italy and the Romans.

Year 5

In Year 5 this term, the children have been working hard and covering lots of fascinating topic areas. In English, they have studied the book "The Ancient Kingdom of Benin". The children researched lots of information about the kingdom and produced a non-chronological report. In maths, we finished off our work on fractions before looking at multiplication and division. The children picked up some new methods for division really well and these will be developed over the next term. This week, we finished the term on a statistics block.



In science, the children further explored their topic on life cycles, producing a poster of an animal and explaining its life cycle. In geography, we looked at the reasons why people choose to live in London and this will be developed in the next half term with a comparison of an American city. The children have also enjoyed this half term's art focus on sculpture where they have focused on how movement is represented in art. They have looked at the artist Giacometti as part of this. In music, the children really enjoyed starting to learn to play the Ukulele. This, for many, has been a new experience and one, which they have enjoyed immensely. They have been learning three chords, which will help them to be able to play a simple version of *Three Little Birds* by Bob Marley.

Next half term we are looking forward to welcoming Mr Mather back. He will be returning gradually to teaching his class. We know the children in his class are excited to see him. Parents of children in 5M have been sent a separate email regarding Mr Mather's return.

Please remember that swimming for Year 5 has now finished.

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Year 6

We have worked hard in Year 6 this half term! We are proud of the progress our pupils are making; we know they will keep this up next half term too!

In English, we have focused on improving our descriptive writing. We have some great texts such as *Lost Happy Endings* and *The Journey* to create some lovely character and setting descriptions, incorporating speech and figurative language into our writing. We look forward to using this in our narrative writing next half term.

In maths, we have finished looking at fractions, measurement, ratio and proportion and are beginning to tackle algebra! Although everyone was initially really worried about beginning this unit, we are really enjoying it and cannot wait to do so more after half term!

The children have also really enjoyed learning about biomes in geography and studying light in science.

Keep up the hard work Year 6!



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