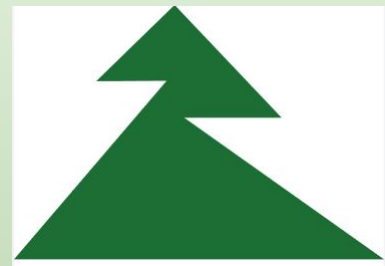


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learning, for life, for future success.*



Firside Newsletter

Friday 6 October 2023

Head Teacher's message

We can't believe how quickly the term is going by - only 2 weeks until half term! Thank you to everyone who visited our Norfolk Open Studios Art exhibition this week. This was a huge effort by the children and staff to pull this together in just a few weeks - the process only started at the beginning of this term so it is an amazing achievement by everyone. For anyone who missed it, there is a video on Facebook.

We are adding dates all the time, so please check the diary dates carefully. We know how quickly the rest of the term will go so we want to make sure you are aware of everything going on. We apologise in advance for lots of Christmas messages in this newsletter but we want to keep you up to date with upcoming events.

After half term, we will be marking Remembrance Day with the children and will be selling poppies. Look out for more information about this in the coming weeks. We will also be holding a fundraising day for Children in Need. Further information can be found in this newsletter. On the last day of this half term, we are having a non-uniform day to support our Friends of Firside (FOF) and their hamper raffle. More information can be found in this newsletter.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Robinson (Head Teacher), Mr Keer (Deputy Head Teacher) and Mrs Seagrave (Senior Teacher)

Dates for your diary

Tues 10 Oct	Open Evening for Year 2 children
Wed 18 Oct	Final Christmas card designs due (optional at home activity - see info below)
Fri 20 Oct	Last day of half term and Christmas hamper non-uniform day (see info below)
Mon 30 Oct	First day of term
Mon 30 Oct	Parents Evening appointments (separate email about this)
Wed 1 Nov	Parents Evening appointments (separate email about this)
Mon 6 Nov	Year 3 trip to Time and Tide Museum
Tues 7 Nov	Year 3 trip to Time and Tide Museum
Fri 17 Nov	Children in Need 2023

Dates continued on next page...

Dates for your diary continued...

Tues 21 Nov	Flu immunisations (all year groups) - separate email about this	
Tues 12 Dec	Christmas dinner Year 3 and 4 (can be booked on Scopay)	
	9:15am Rocksteady performance to parents of those children involved	
Wed 13 Dec	Christmas dinner Year 5 and 6 (can be booked on Scopay)	
Mon 18 Dec	AM Year 3 Christmas performance	PM Year 4 Christmas performance
Tues 19 Dec	AM Year 5 Christmas performance	PM Year 6 Christmas performance
Wed 20 Dec	Last day of term - free non-uniform day for all. Optional Christmas jumper day.	

Arrival time

We would like to remind all parents that children should not be dropped off at school earlier than 8:30am. This is the time when adults are on duty from on the playground. If children are arriving at school (without an adult staying with them) before this time, they should be booked into Breakfast Club.

Over the last few weeks, we have found a number of pupils (particularly Year 6) arriving as early as 8am.

We need to ensure that everyone is kept safe therefore if anyone is arriving as early as this, we will need to start bringing them into Breakfast Club and parents will be charged via Scopay.



Non-uniform day for FOF Christmas hampers

On Friday 20 October (last day of this half term), we are holding a non-uniform day to collect donations of items for our Friends of Firside 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.

More information will follow about how you can then buy raffle tickets to win the gifts.



Here's a photo from last year's hamper raffle.

Uniform

All children wearing shirts should now be wearing their school ties. **ALL** ties and jumpers must be named as we have over 350 almost identical items in school every day.

Summer dresses can continue to be worn up until October half term.

School jumpers / cardigans should either be the logo version available from Birds or a dark green jumper / cardigan.

A reminder that leggings are **not** part of our school uniform and should only be worn as part of PE kit.

Please make sure that children have a named coat in school every day for play times and lunchtimes.



Christmas cards



We are once again working alongside APFS (Art Projects For Schools) whereby you can order your child's artwork as Christmas cards to send out to family and friends. By ordering your child's designs, you also help school fundraising as we receive a percentage of all the designs ordered.

This year we are offering this as an optional activity for children to do at home. When they have completed their design, they can bring it into school and we will arrange for it to be sent to the company. You will then be able to purchase Christmas cards and other products with your child's design.

If you would like your child to participate and create their own Christmas card design, they need to follow these important guidelines: Artwork should be created on white or coloured paper / card and must be in A4 in size (avoid using black paper or any with a glossy / shiny finish. Thicker paper or card works better as the label that will be stuck on the back when it is sent off to APFS can show through when scanned if the paper is very thin. Designs can be portrait or landscape – fill the whole page for the best effect when printed but keep any writing away from the edges. To ensure the entirety of the artwork is printed, please leave approximately a 2-3mm edge around the paper, that way no masterpiece will be cut off when scanned. Pencil drawings do not reproduce well and are often not visible when printed so please do not create drawings using pencils. Please also avoid using black backgrounds. Bold colours and collage (maximum depth 5mm) work really well. They do not accept artwork that includes glitter as the glitter contaminates other artwork and damages the machinery used in the printing process. Reflective materials do not reproduce well. If you would like to use pastel colours, they will need to be sprayed with a fixative spray (or hairspray) before being sent in.

All artwork must be given in to the office for the attention of Mrs Seagrave by Wednesday 18 October at the very latest. Any artwork handed in after this date will not be able to be included as we have to send them off to be scanned. **Please make sure their name is clearly on the back.** The designs will then be sent off to the company over half term. Once they have been scanned by APFS, parents will then be given until 9 November to order their designs. We hope that having cards designed by your own child will be lovely for them because they can see their own work in print, it makes a lovely personalised card and it will also provide lasting memories for family and friends in years to come whilst supporting your school.

Fish and nut free

A reminder to all families that we aim to be a fish and nut free school. This is due to severe allergies in some children in our school. Please help us to keep them safe by refraining from including fish or nut products in your child's lunchbox. Nut products might include: whole nuts, nuts in cereal bars, peanut butter and Nutella. Fish products might include, but is not limited to: tuna, salmon, fish paste, 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. Thank you.



Shoe box collections

Two of our Year 6 pupils are once again going to be making Christmas hampers and shoeboxes in their spare time for men, women and children who are being supported by Leeway.

Last year, they filled an amazing 111 shoe boxes and gift bags and they're aiming to beat that amount this year. This year they will also be making food hampers too.

Things they are collecting include:

Toiletries / personal hygiene items - no razors or medicines

Homeware - candles, small photo frames, mugs

Clothing (adults and children) - hat, gloves, scarf, fluffy socks, baby bibs

Toys and gifts - cuddly toys, games and puzzles, dolls, craft sets - no violent or dangerous toys

We will have a collection box in the office for any donations towards this.

Thank you in advance.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee morning by baking / buying cakes, donating money and attending the morning.

We raised an amazing £121 for the charity!



Children in Need 2023

We will be supporting BBC Children in Need this year on Friday 17 November.

Children are invited to be 'spot-tacular' and wear their spots in support of the charity.

If they don't want to be spotty then normal non-uniform is fine.

Pudsey ears etc are also welcome!

Please bring a donation of £1 (cash) to put in our collection buckets.



Uniform for sale

We are now keeping our uniform sale permanently in the School Office where we have a range of second-hand and new uniform for sale.

If you need any pieces, please do pop by the office to see what we have.

We are always looking for donations of second-hand uniform in good condition. Particularly jumpers, cardigans, ties and PE fleeces. All the money raised from our uniform sales go back into buying things for the school. Last year we bought a new badminton net for children to use at lunchtimes.

It has also been suggested to us about selling second-hand coats. If you have any winter coats in a good condition, we would also welcome these.

Thank you.

Last day of term 20 December



Picture of our winners from 2022

Yes it's a long way off but we want to let you know now that on the last day of term before Christmas we always have a free non-uniform day to celebrate the end of term.

We also hold a little ***optional*** competition for the best home-designed Christmas jumper. So if you and your children are feeling creative, get thinking now ready for the last day of term. There will be a small prize for the winner in each year group.

If children don't want to design their own, they can wear a normal Christmas jumper or just non-uniform.

Christmas dates for your diary

Christmas performances will be on the following dates. Please note that last year, we started the morning performances around 9:30am and the afternoon performances around 1:30pm and we anticipate that this year will be similar timings. Performances usually last 45mins to 1 hour. We will let you know of exact timings closer to the time but hopefully this helps you to plan time off work if needed.

Monday 18 December AM Year 3

Monday 18 December PM Year 4

Tuesday 19 December AM Year 5

Tuesday 19 December PM Year 6

