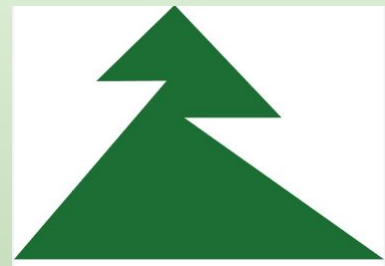


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learning, for life, for future success.*



Firside Newsletter

Friday 20 October 2023

Head Teacher's message

A whole half term completed! We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to the children for all of their hard work this term. They have worked incredibly hard and should be proud of all that they have achieved so far. A special well done to the Year 3 children and other new starters across the school for the way they have settled so quickly into life at Firside.

Thank you to everyone for your donations for the Friends of Firside (FOF) Christmas hampers for the non-uniform day today. Look out for raffle tickets soon!

We look forward to welcoming parents into school for Parents' Evening after the half term holidays. On the day of your appointment, we suggest arriving 10-15 minutes before your appointment time to go to your child's classroom to look at their books. All appointments with teachers will be held in the school hall. Mrs Robinson, Mr Keer, Mrs Seagrave and Mrs Harris will also be available for drop in appointments if needed.

We hope everyone has a lovely half term week and will return refreshed and ready for ultimately a very busy, but very exciting term with lots going on in the lead up to Christmas.

Kindest regards,

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

Dates for your diary

Mon 30 Oct First day of term

W.c. Mon 30 Oct Parents' Evening appointments this week

Fri 3 Nov Bonfire lunch (book on Scopay)

Mon 6 Nov Year 3 trip to Time and Tide Museum (3L and half of 3B)

Tues 7 Nov Year 3 trip to Time and Tide Museum (3W and half of 3B)

Thurs 16 Nov Book fair in hall after school

Fri 17 Nov Children in Need 2023

Tues 21 Nov Flu immunisations (all year groups) - separate email about this

Book fair in hall after school

Dates continued on next page...

Dates for your diary continued...

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.	
Thurs 4 Jan	First day of term for pupils	

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.



Mental Health Support Team

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) will be available for drop in appointments at our Parents' Evening on Monday 30 October between 4pm and 6pm.

Even if you do not have an appointment on that day, you are welcome to drop in to talk to them.

They will have a table in the school hall.



Remembrance

At Firside, we always support the Royal British Legion by selling poppies. These will be on sale after half term. School Councillors from Year 6 will come round to sell them after lunch each day in the lead up to Remembrance Sunday.

If your child would like to buy a poppy, they need to bring their money (suggested donation of 50p) into school in a named purse or envelope. They must give this to the class teacher for safekeeping until they are able to buy a poppy.

We also have some other items for sale including Royal British Legion slap bands, plastic bracelets and poppy reflector key rings. These will be on sale on the playground after school on **Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays** in the two weeks after half term. These are priced individually (slap bands £1, plastic bracelets £1 and poppy reflectors 50p).

Please bring the correct money as it goes straight into a collection pot and we cannot give change.

Thank you for your support.



Travelling book fair

Next half term, we will be welcoming back the Travelling Book Fair.

This is a great opportunity for you to buy books for your children - perhaps even do a bit of early Christmas shopping.

The other fantastic thing is that the more books that we sell, the more money we get to spend on books for our school. Last year, we raised enough to be able to spend £465 on books!

The fair will be held on Thursday 16 and Tuesday 21 November after school in the hall. Card payments only.



Driving onto school site

Please remember that we do not allow cars to drive round to the playground after 8:15 am or before 3:30 pm.

If you arrive after 8:15am for Breakfast Club, please park offsite and walk over.

If you are coming to watch a home football match or picking up from After School Club, please either park on nearby roads or wait until after 3:30pm to drive onto the playground to park.

Please help us to keep children and families safe whilst entering and exiting school.

Thank you.

Lanyards

We have noticed an increase in lanyards which some children are using to keep their locker key safe. Whilst we think that these are very useful to try to prevent lost keys, some lanyards are becoming so full with key rings and other trinkets that they are a bit of a safety hazard and are also becoming a distraction in class with some children.

If children wish to have their key on a lanyard, we will be asking that they only have their key attached to it and nothing else. If lanyards become too full with key rings etc, children will be asked to keep them in their trays.

If children are wearing lanyards, we also ask that parents ensure they are ones with the quick release clasps as a safety measure.

Padlocks on lockers are not essential but we know that some children like to have them. If your child has a padlock, please ensure that the code or a spare key is given to the class teacher in case the code is forgotten or key lost.

Thank you for your support with this.



Play equipment and bikes / scooters



The play equipment (trim trail) should not be used before school by children (this includes younger siblings).

We would also like to remind everyone that scooters and bikes **must not** be ridden on the school site to keep everyone safe. This includes younger / older siblings and parents.

Thank you

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 50p (cash) to put in our collection buckets.



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.



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.

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

