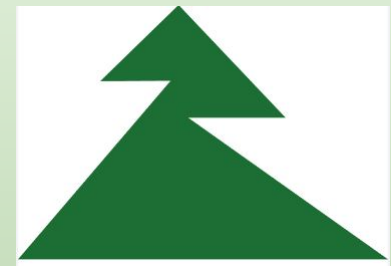


*Become the best that you can be: for
learning, for life, for future success.*



Firside Newsletter

Friday 1 December 2023



Head Teacher's message



December is upon us and is always quite a busy month in schools with lots of events and goings on. Please make sure you read the diary dates carefully and follow us on Facebook for weekly updates on upcoming events. If you haven't already done so, please also [download our school app](#) as we also share updates on there too.

With our Christmas performances coming up, the children are busy preparing for these. The school is a hive of activity with rehearsals of singing and acting whilst also still continuing with important lessons and learning. It is really important that even as we head towards the end of term, that children continue to attend school every day. Unattended days mean lost learning and can mount up over the year.

We would like to thank everyone on behalf of our Friends of Firside for the overwhelming response to the raffle ticket sales. At the last count, they have already raised over £500 which is incredible and there are 63 prizes including 5 luxury hampers.

Kindest regards,

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

Dates for your diary

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Sun 3 Dec | Hellesdon Community Carol concert (for selected Year 3 and 4 children) | |
| Wed 6 Dec | Selected children singing at the Norfolk and Norwich University hospital | |
| Tues 12 Dec | Christmas dinner Year 3 and 4 (must be booked on Scopay) | |
| | 9:15am Rocksteady performance to parents of those children involved | |
| Wed 13 Dec | Christmas dinner Year 5 and 6 (must be booked on Scopay) | |
| Thurs 14 Dec | School disco - see separate email about this. | |
| Mon 18 Dec | 9:30am Year 3 Christmas performance | 1:30pm Year 4 Christmas performance |
| Tues 19 Dec | 9:30am Year 5 Christmas performance | 1:30pm Year 6 Christmas performance |
| Wed 20 Dec | Last day of term - free non-uniform day for all. Optional Christmas jumper day (winner in each year group for the best home designed Christmas jumper) | |
| Thurs 4 Jan | First day of term for pupils | |

Diary dates for the rest of the school year

| January 2024 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| February 2024 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |

| March 2024 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| April 2024 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

| May 2024 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

| June 2024 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| July 2024 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| August 2024 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

Key: - Schools open to pupils - bank holiday
 - pupil holiday - Inset Day



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.



Parking on local roads

Unfortunately, we have had further complaints from residents about parking, particularly around Bush Road and Dennis Road. We have had complaints about wheelie bins being moved and the manner in which residents are being spoken to.

Please consider the people who live locally and do not block driveways. Please park further away and walk down to ease the parking situation.

Thank you

Punctuality



We have noticed an increased number of children are turning up to school later in the morning. We would like to remind everyone that the school day starts at 8:45am. This means that pupils need to be on the school site **before** 8:45am ready to come into school for their registers. Registers are started from 8:45am.

Punctuality is important to ensure that children are registered as present but also provides the children with a settled start to the morning and means that they are not missing important learning at the start of lessons. Lots of children also find it difficult to come into class when they know the rest of their class are settled and working. Children are learning in class from 8:45am- make sure your child is not missing out.

If you are struggling with punctuality and need further support, please contact Mr Keer, our attendance lead.

Pupil Premium Scheme

Did you know your child could be entitled to extra funding through Pupil Premium? This money is specifically allocated to help students from less lower income families achieve their full potential. By applying for Pupil Premium, you can ensure your child gets the support they need to thrive at Firside.

Here's how Pupil Premium can benefit your child:

- Access to additional support in their studies
- Funding for educational trips and extracurricular activities
- Specialised equipment or resources to aid their learning

Applying for Pupil Premium is quick and easy – and it could make a huge difference to your child's education. Simply fill in [this form](#) to see if your family qualifies. Your application could help unlock valuable resources and opportunities for your child's academic success.

Let's work together to maximise your child's potential with Pupil Premium funding!

Trim trail

The trim trail continues to be out of action for the time being. Please ensure that children are not using the trim trail at any time. This includes younger and older siblings.

Thank you.

Christmas dinner

Don't forget to order your child a Christmas dinner. These must be pre-booked via Scopay and **cannot** be ordered on the day.

Year 3 and 4 will have their Christmas dinner on 12th Dec

Year 5 and 6 will have their Christmas dinner on 13th Dec



We will **not** have any other hot options on either day. Children must have a packed lunch if they are not having the hot meal on their Christmas dinner day and on the other quad's Christmas dinner day. If your child is entitled to free school meals we can order them a school packed lunch.

Christmas performances

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to our Christmas performances at the end of term. Year 3 and 4 will present '*A Tale of Two Birthdays*' and Year 5 and 6 will present '*It's Chriiiiistmas!*'

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mon 18 Dec | 9:30am Year 3 | 1:30pm Year 4 |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tues 19 Dec | 9:30am Year 5 | 1:30pm Year 6 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|

Access to the performances will be via the school office using the Middletons Lane gates. Due to space in the hall, we allow 1 or 2 people per child. We will let parents in 10 minutes before the performance time. If you need to bring babies / toddler siblings, we do ask that you are considerate to our young performers and exit the hall if they become too unsettled during the performance.

At this time of year, we always collect bags of sugar for the Buckingham Sugar Appeal. They collect bags of sugar for shelters around Norfolk. Last year we collected almost 200 bags of sugar which went to support homeless and vulnerable people in shelters at Christmas time. We ask that as your 'ticket' to the Christmas performances, you bring a bag of sugar for our collection..

Thank you for your support.

Travelling book fair

Thank you to everyone who came to the first of our two evenings of the Book Fair.

We were able to spend just under £300 on books for the school. We have purchased a new class reader for each class and the rest of the new books will be going into our library. Thank you to everyone who supported the book fair.

We will be speaking with the company to see if there is a quicker and easier way for us to take payments ready for the next sale that we have.



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. All items are just £1.

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.

We do have a few second-hand coats available too.

Thank you.

Firside Junior School Christmas Postal Service



Send Christmas cards to pupils and staff.

Friday 1st December to Monday 18th December

Find the post box in the silent corridor.

Make sure that you write the child's name **AND** class
on the envelope!

Our postal service will return to Firside
this Christmas.

If children wish to send Christmas cards to
their friends and staff, they need to ensure
that they write the name and class of the
recipient on the front of the envelope and
post them into the postbox near the
school office.

Children in Year 6 will then sort and
deliver the post each lunchtime.
The postal service will start from Friday.

Last day of term: non-uniform and Christmas jumpers

On the last day of term we always have a free non-uniform and optional Christmas jumper day.

We always have a little competition for anyone who wishes to design their own Christmas jumper and there will be a small prize for the winner in each year group for the best home-designed jumper.

