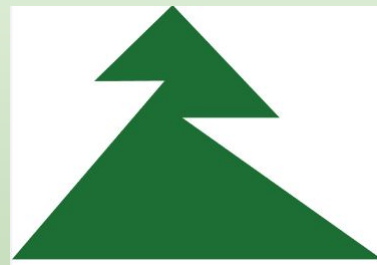


*Become the best that you can be: for
learning, for life, for future success.*



Firside Newsletter

Friday 12 January 2024

Head Teacher's message

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all! It has been wonderful seeing the children back in school over the last two weeks. Although getting back into the swing of being in school can be challenging, we have been really impressed with how the children have settled back into school life. The Christmas holidays can be great fun but it's sometimes quite nice to back in the routines of normal life, including with school.

We have been experiencing some very chilly days since we have returned so please ensure that your child has a warm winter coat to wear to and from school and at break and lunchtime. Where possible, we will always get the children outside for playtimes as we know how beneficial being outside in the fresh air can be.

Yesterday, we welcomed M&M Productions who performed their pantomime, Sleeping Beauty, to all year groups (oh yes they did!) We have welcomed this visiting pantomime over the last few years and is a wonderful way for the children to experience live theatre in school. The pantomimes are always fun and jam-packed with sing alongs, laughter and staff dance-offs! We hope that your child enjoyed the experience.

Kindest regards,

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

Welcome!

This term, we are having a few changes to our staffing team. Last term, we had Mr Hobbs working with us part time (two days a week) covering Mrs Daintree's maternity leave however, we have had a little switch around and he will now be full time at Kinsale and Mrs Etchels, who was job sharing with him at Kinsale, will now be working with us two days a week doing Mrs Daintree's maternity leave cover.

We have also welcomed Mrs Philpot who has joined us as our new Pastoral Support Manager and Designated Safeguarding Lead. There is more information about her role in this newsletter.

This term we will also be welcoming two new teaching assistants to our teaching team: Miss Cooper and Miss Brady. We look forward to welcoming them when they start.

We would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate

Mrs Daintree and her husband on the birth of their new baby girl (Edith) who was born just before Christmas.



New Pastoral Manager and DSL

Hello Firside parents!

My name is Mrs Philpot and I am delighted to say I have joined Firside Junior School as the Pastoral Manager and a Designated Safeguarding Lead. I have worked within schools for over 20 years and have experience within both primary and secondary settings as well as working for Children's Services.

Over the next few weeks I will be getting to know children at Firside and offering support or signposting to those that need it. As a parent, if you feel you would like to make contact with me with any worries you may have, I would encourage you to complete [this Google form](#) with as much information as you can. Please be aware I only work part of the week but will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Mrs Philpot



NSPCC Number Day Friday 2 February 2024



We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 2 February 2024**.

Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards it.

- We will be taking part in *Dress up for Digits*. Pupils are asked to wear clothing relating to numbers, or maths in general (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!) They might get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers theme. The best-dressed entrants per year group will receive a prize.
- We will be running a day of fun-filled maths activities, including Times Tables Rock Stars' "NSPCC Rocks" competition, which will be open for scoring from 7:30am to 7:30pm on Friday 2 February. Each member of our school can contribute to their class's overall score by completing up to an hour's activity on Times Tables Rock Stars. The winning class will receive a prize for their classroom.
- Other activities on the day will include a maths challenge in each class during the day, as well as Mr. Townsend's 'Lunchtime Maths Challenge' where children can pit themselves against problems set by Mr. Townsend.

While we will not be asking for any donations for the day, if you do wish to donate, you can do so directly to NSPCC [using this link](#).

We're really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support. All the money we raise will make an enormous difference to children today and help the NSPCC be there for children tomorrow.

Dates for your diary

Thurs 18 Jan	Space explorers promotional lunch
Fri 2 Feb	NSPCC Number Day (more information in this newsletter)
W.c. 12 Feb	Parents' Evening meetings Year 3,4 and 5 (more information to follow)
Fri 16 Feb	Last day of Spring 1
Mon 26 Feb	First day of Spring 2
Wed 6 Mar	Mental Health Support Team anxiety presentation and coffee morning (more details to follow)
W.c. 25 Mar	Parents' Evening meeting Year 6 (more information to follow)
Wed 27 Mar	Last day of Spring 2

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
				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

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
					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

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



Attendance

We hope you had a great Christmas holiday. As we go into a new term we all need to make the most of every day in school. Every day at school counts, helping with learning, developing skills, and building friendships.

If you have any attendance questions or concerns, please contact Mr Keer, our attendance lead, via the School Office.



Lego request!

We are looking for donations of any unwanted lego. We are not necessarily looking for complete sets, just any lego pieces that you might be willing to donate. If you have any that you have available, please drop it in at the school office. Thank you!



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.



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!

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.