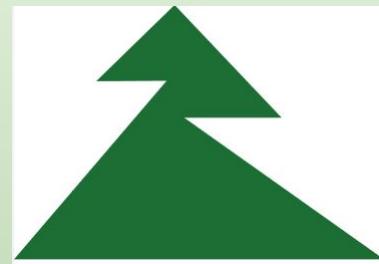


*Become the best that you can be: for  
learning, for life, for future success.*



# Firside Junior School Newsletter

Friday 26 January 2024



# ***Head Teacher's message***

We can't believe we are already half way through the first half of the spring term. January does seem to be digging its heels in a little bit though so the prospect of the spring bringing lighter mornings and evenings is definitely appealing to us all at the moment.

The children continue to work incredibly hard in school. We really enjoy hearing about all their work in our weekly DREAM Award assemblies including how the children are achieving our school values of: determination, resilience, enthusiasm, ambition and motivation (DREAM).

This week, we have sent information out about how to book your next Parents' Evening appointment for your child. This round of Parents' Evenings, in the week commencing 12 February, will be for children in Year 3,4 and 5. We will run Year 6 Parents' Evening later in the spring term. Appointments for the February Parents' Evenings will open on Monday 29 January at 6pm on Scopay. This term, we will also be sending home mid-term reports to keep you informed about how your child is doing. This will also be a useful starting point for your conversations at Parents' Evening.

Kindest regards,

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

# ***Dates for your diary***

<b>Fri 2 Feb</b>	NSPCC Number Day (more information in this newsletter) Number themed dressing up
<b>Mon 29 Jan</b>	Parents' Evening appointments available to book on Scopay from 6pm
<b>w.c. 12 Feb</b>	Parents' Evening meetings Year 3,4 and 5 (see separate email)
<b>Fri 16 Feb</b>	Last day of Spring 1
<b>Mon 26 Feb</b>	First day of Spring 2
<b>Wed 6 Mar</b>	Mental Health Support Team anxiety presentation and coffee morning (more details in this newsletter)
<b>Thurs 7 Mar</b>	World Book Day (more information in this newsletter)
<b>w.c. 25 Mar</b>	Parents' Evening meeting Year 6 (more information to follow)
<b>Wed 27 Mar</b>	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.



# 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.



# ***Goodbye and good luck!***

At the end of next week, one of our Teaching Assistants, Ms Drew, is sadly leaving Firside. Ms Drew has been working with us since 2021 supporting and nurturing children across the school. This was actually the second time she has worked at Firside - she liked us so much that she came back for a second time!

We wish Ms Drew every success in her new job - we know that her new post will help her to pursue a career that she has wanted for a long time for which she is incredibly passionate about. We thank her for all her hard work during her time for Firside.



# World Book Day

On Thursday 7 March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. On this day, we will be celebrating all things books with various book themed activities. Children will also receive their £1 book token which they can spend on buying a book in various shops.

This year, we are not asking the children to come into school in any kind of dress up. Instead, on World Book Day on Thursday 7 March, children may bring in a competition entry of a potato dressed / decorated as a book character. Children can be as creative as they want to be with it. Entries should be brought to the hall on Thursday 7 March. There will be a small prize for the winner in each year group.



There are lots of ideas if you search on Google!



# ***Mental Health Support Team coffee morning***

## **Anxiety:** Helping Your Child With Fears & Worries



**Coffee  
Morning &  
Drop-in**



**With:**



**Date:** 6th of March 2024 **Time:** 8.50<sub>am</sub> - 10<sub>am</sub>

# ***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!

# ***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!



## ***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.