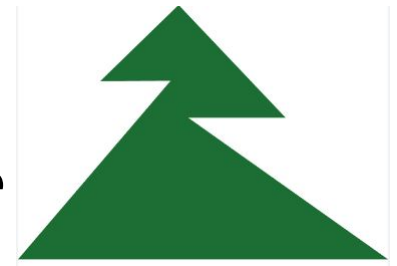


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Firside Junior School Newsletter

Friday 5 September 2025

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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

A message from the Leadership Team

Hello and welcome back! I hope you all had an amazing summer and had a chance to relax with friends and families. For those of you who do not know, I have now begun my role as the new Head of School. Mrs Robinson has moved into the new position of Executive Head of School, and Mrs Seagrave is now the Assistant Head of School. I know that I have huge boots to fill and would like to say that we will all miss Mr Keer very much. He was such an important and valued member of the school community and we wish him a very happy and long retirement.

Since joining Firside three years ago, I have been continually impressed by the children's curiosity, creativity, and the way they look out for one another. I am really looking forward to leading the school into its next chapter, where we will continue to celebrate the children's successes and encourage every single pupil to flourish.

Finally, thank you for the encouragement and support I have received as I step into this role. Together, I know we can continue to make Firside a place where children feel happy, safe, and inspired to achieve their best. *Mr O'Malley*

As a leadership team, we are all really excited for the year ahead. Surrounded by an incredibly hard-working and committed team and, of course, amazing children, we think it will be a brilliant year!

Mrs Robinson (Executive Head Teacher)



Mr O'Malley (Head of School)



Mrs Seagrave (Assistant Head of School)



Dates for your diary

- Tues 23 Sept** Individual school photos - all pupils in school uniform on this day
- Thurs 2 Oct** Flu clinic in school (information will come soon from office)
- Tues 14 Oct** Open classroom event for parents after school (timings to be confirmed)
- Tues 21 Oct** Open Evening for Year 2 parents and children
- Fri 23 Oct** Last day of term
- Mon 3 Nov** First day of new term

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DREAM

At Firside, we want the children to show our values of DREAM in all that they do. We want them to try their best to show:

Determination **R**esilience **E**nthusiasm **A**mbition **M**otivation

We celebrate children's achievements in our weekly DREAM Award assemblies. Look out for regular Facebook posts about these.

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Teams

At Firside, we believe that recognising and celebrating positive behaviour, effort, and values is a powerful way to motivate and inspire our pupils. Our Team House System is built on the foundation of positive reinforcement, helping children feel proud of themselves and one another as they strive to meet our high expectations. Throughout the school day, children can earn **team tokens** from any adult in school. These are awarded for showing our **DREAM values** (Determination, Respect, Enthusiasm, Ambition and Motivation), as well as for demonstrating exemplary school behaviour. Tokens may be given for outstanding classwork, using excellent **Firside Manners**, showing **Firside Listening**, or making consistently good choices in behaviour and attitude around school. Every token helps contribute to the child's team total and encourages a culture of kindness, effort, and pride.

All children belong to one of our four houses: **Air (yellow)**, **Earth (green)**, **Fire (red)**, or **Water (blue)** These teams help build a sense of community, identity, and friendly competition across the school. Each September, Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to put themselves forward to be **House Captains** or **Vice Captains**. These roles are highly respected within our school, and our captains are selected by the whole school community following a short speech and presentation.

Every week, the house with the highest number of tokens is celebrated in our Friday assembly. At the end of each half term, the team with the most overall points earns a special reward. All of this builds throughout the year to the crowning of our **Year House Champions**, who receive the honour of lifting the **Firside House Cup** — a proud moment for the whole team.

The House System at Firside encourages teamwork, promotes positive behaviour, and helps every child feel that their efforts count. Whether you are earning tokens for great work, listening well, or showing DREAM values, every action makes a difference.

In the summer term, all children participate in our annual Sports Day events. During the events, the children earn points for their team and at the end of the events, the team with the most points is awarded the **Coe Sports Day Cup**.

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Earrings

Please can parents ensure that children are only wearing stud style earrings. We do not allow hooped earrings (even small ones) due to health and safety reasons. We would appreciate parental support with this.

Earrings should be removed for PE / swimming lessons. Staff cannot remove them or put them back in. If your child has newly pierced ears and cannot remove them, please provide medical tape for PE days.

Please note that Hellesdon High School do not allow any earrings in the swimming pool .

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Crossing patrol

We have good news! Norfolk Fire and Rescue have informed us that they have been successful in employing somebody for the crossing patrol. They should be starting us in a few weeks. In the meantime, school staff will continue to support families, where possible, out on the crossing until their employment begins.

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Uniform reminders

Thank you to everyone for looking so smart on their return to school. A reminder that we do expect the children to be wearing their school ties now. Summer dresses and shorts can be worn until October half term.

A reminder that PE kit should include black shorts / jogging bottoms, a **white** logo PE polo top or plain **white** polo shirt (old style logo t-shirts are also allowed) and a black jumper / hooded top or green / black logo fleece. A full uniform and kit list is available [on our website](#).

We know that lots of the girls prefer to wear cycling shorts for PE but please can we ask parents to ensure that cycling shorts are not too short.

Please be aware that games lessons are usually outside unless particularly wet. We recommend jogging bottoms and fleeces / hoodies on this day.

As always, with 350 in identical or very similar items of clothing it is vital that all items of clothing are named clearly.

We are nut free

A reminder to all families that we aim to be a 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 nut products in your child's lunchbox or snack. Nut products might include: whole nuts, nuts in cereal bars, peanut butter and Nutella.

We ask that all parents follow this guidance as food allergies can be very serious. Thank you.



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Dogs on site

Please be aware that dogs should not be brought onto the school site (apart from assistance dogs). This includes on the playground and on the field.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

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Second-hand uniform shop

We have a 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 and shoes available too.

Thank you.

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Class Charts



Children who have joined us this year will be receiving log in details for Class Charts next week. We use Class Charts as a way to communicate behaviour to parents regularly. Positive points are awarded for excellent work, going the extra mile with kindness, positive behaviour, making extra effort, handing in homework early, reading regularly at home and much more. Positive points are celebrated in classrooms and points earned contribute to the whole school Team Cup. Children can also earn points for rewards such as our weekly DREAM Awards and Headteacher Awards. We want to reassure you that negative points are given in line with our behaviour policy. Only positive behaviours are displayed to the children in class. The app enables you to see your child's rewards in real time. As time goes on, the app will show you an overall picture of your child's behaviour and rewards. Used well, it is an amazing system and will enable you to praise and reward your child for their success in school. If you have not received your log in details for your child's account, please contact the School Office who can help with this.

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Contacting teachers

If you need to speak with your child's teacher about anything, please do get in touch. Our first open classroom event is coming up soon where you will be able to find out about how your child has settled in the first few weeks. If you need to speak with your child's teacher before this date then you can leave a message with the the school office or email office@firside.norfolk.sch.uk and we can pass these on to the relevant teacher. Often teachers will be able to have a quick chat on the playground however please be aware that in the mornings especially, the teachers are busy preparing for lessons.

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Friends of Firside (FOF)

Well it's the start of another new school year and the start of what we hope to be a busy year for our Friends of Firside Committee. With lots of new children joining Year 3, it's an ideal opportunity for new members to join us too! FOF organise school Discos, Mother & Father's Day shop, annual events, competitions, and much more

Our current fundraising goals are to support the school by paying for a second set of class ipads and supporting parents by subsidising school trips for each year group.

We will be announcing the date of our first meeting and AGM coming up. Please come along to support us. The more volunteers we get, the bigger & better the events are for the children!

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PE / Games lessons

On PE days, we would like the children to wear their PE kit to school.

A reminder of PE / Games / swimming lessons are below:

PE timetable week commencing 8th September

	PE	Games	Swimming
Monday	3M	All Year 5	5T
Tuesday	3B, 3L, 6P and 6B		
Wednesday		All Year 3, 4 and 6	
Thursday	6C, 4T, 4RL		5T
Friday	4L, 5W and 5A		

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Useful extras...

Make sure you follow us on Facebook. We'll be sharing regular updates about what we get up to in school on there. If your child has full photo consent they might feature on our page! You can find our page by [clicking here](#) - make sure you like and follow us!

The Friends of Facebook (FOF) also have a page where they post about their fundraising efforts. You can find their group by [clicking here](#).

There is also a parent group on Facebook which you might find helpful for asking questions. You can find the group by [clicking here](#).

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