

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



Firside Junior School Newsletter

Friday 17 October 2025

We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

A message from the Leadership Team

It has been another busy two weeks here in school. One of the highlights this week was the trip organised by the charity Friend in Deed for a group of our students to visit Saxon Air. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to work alongside older friends from local care homes and, once again, we were so proud of how the children showed such kindness to the residents. On a sporting front, there has been a lot of action with various football matches taking place, with our teams showing great teamwork and spirit. In addition, all year groups have enjoyed taking part in karate taster sessions with Sensei Rhys. This week, our Year 4 students had a truly captivating experience when the Hawk and Owl Trust came to visit, giving them a chance to learn about these magnificent birds which linked to their learning in science at the moment.

This week, we also enjoyed opening up the classrooms for our Open Classroom event. It was so lovely to see so many of you in the classrooms, seeing all of the hard work that your children have been doing. We sincerely hope you enjoyed the event, not only for celebrating their achievements but also for giving you a chance to quickly check in with your child's class teacher if you had any specific questions.

Next week, we are excited to launch our Run Firside event which is coming up after half term. You can find out more information in this newsletter and there will be further details coming next week.

We hope you have a restful weekend. Unbelievably, it's now only one week until the half-term holiday!

Mrs Robinson (Executive Head Teacher)

Mr O'Malley (Head of School)

Mrs Seagrave (Assistant Head of School)

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Dates for your diary

Tues 21 Oct Open Evening for Year 2 parents and children

Wed 22 Oct WNDSSP Cross country event (selected pupils)

Fri 23 Oct Last day of term

Mon 3 Nov First day of new term

Year 3 Time and Tide trip - half of 3B

Tues 4 Nov Year 3 Time and Tide trip - 3L, 3MD and half of 3B

Wed 5 Nov Run Firside event all pupils

Fri 14 Nov Children in Need

Fri 21 Nov FOF Xmas hamper non uniform - more info below

Thurs 27 Nov School discos - more info to follow soon

Fri 5 Dec Year 4 Castle Museum trip

Wed 10 Dec Y5/6 Christmas lunch day

Thurs 11 Dec Y3/4 Christmas lunch day

Mon 15 Dec Y3/4 Dress rehearsals

Tues 16 Dec Y3 Christmas performance 9:30am

Y4 Christmas performance 1:30pm

Wed 17 Dec Y4 Christmas performance 9:30am

Y3 Christmas performance 1:30pm

Fri 19 Dec Last day of term

Free non-uniform day - Xmas jumpers optional

Tues 6 Jan First day of new term

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Friends of Firside Christmas hampers

Friends of Firside are already preparing for their popular Christmas hamper raffle. This is always a great fundraiser for FOF and we appreciate all of their support with this.

On Friday 21st November, children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform. Their payment for this should be an item for the Christmas hampers.

This year, they would like to do a rainbow hamper, therefore the children in each year group should bring an item for the hampers in their year group colour (see below). Items for the hampers could include: smellies, candles, chocolates, biscuits, Christmas snacks and any other suitable gift.

Year 3: red or orange gifts

Year 4: yellow or green gifts

Year 5: green or blue gifts

Year 6: purple or pink gifts



Raffle tickets will be coming home in November - please support FOF by buying lots!

SUMTRUST

Performances

As we did last year, we are excited to offer more of a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year rather than only at Christmas. As we did last year, only Year 3 and 4 will be performing a play at Christmas. Year 5 will be performing at the end of the Spring term, and Year 6 will be focusing on their performance at the end of the Summer term. This is to allow increased rehearsal space for all year groups and provide exposure to alternative genres of performance as part of our music curriculum.

We look forward to welcoming Year 3 and 4 parents, carers and families to our Christmas performances at the end of the autumn term. This year we are excited to be holding two performances for each of the Year 3 and 4 shows. This is not only to provide the opportunity for our pupils to perform to an audience more than once, but also to offer more opportunities for families to attend their children's performances.

Year 3 Performances will be held:

Tuesday 16th December 9:30am

Wednesday 17th December 1:30pm

Year 4 Performances will be held:

Tuesday 16th December 1:30pm

Wednesday 17th December 9:30pm

We will be sending out information closer to the time to parents of Year 3 and 4 regarding timings for the Christmas performances and how to book your space in the audience for one of the performances.

We will keep parents of Year 5 and 6 informed later in the year regarding dates for their performances.

We look forward to you celebrating our pupils' performances throughout the year with us.

TENSUM TRUST

RUN FIRSIDE - WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER

On **Wednesday 5 November**, we are excited to host our very own **Run Firside**. This is being brought to us by the **Community Sports Foundation (CSF)** as part of their **Run Norwich 50/50 fundraiser**.

It will be a fun, school-based running event where the proceeds raised through sponsorship are shared 50/50 between our school and the Foundation. We will be raising sponsorship for not only the Foundation to support their vital work throughout Norfolk, but also to help our Friends of Firside fund a class set of iPads to be used for everyday learning within the school. Students will shortly receive a sponsorship pack to take home, and staff will organise running activities during the day. We will be having an assembly next week from CSF who will introduce Run Firside to the children and more information will be sent out after the assembly.

"We are super excited for Run Firside! It's always fantastic to see the school community come together to support a great cause and celebrate the continuing legacy of Run Norwich." - **Jade Nicholson**
Fundraising and Events Officer.

Look out for the sponsorship pack, and thank you in advance for your support!

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Changes to Class Charts

As you know may know, Class Charts has a direct messaging service as part of its provisions. However, we have identified an issue with the direct messaging service within the app that we need to address to ensure that no important communication from parents is missed. To better support our teaching staff and support with effective communication, we will be removing the direct messaging feature from Class Charts.

The reason for this adjustment is purely technical, due to the fact that messages sent directly to teachers can easily be missed or only seen at the end of a busy school day, which can cause delays and anxiety around urgent queries.

Moving forward, we ask that you use our established channels for contacting teaching staff:.

1. **For brief, informal check-ins:** If your child's teacher is present and available on the playground before or after school, they will always be happy to have a very quick, informal chat about small updates.
2. **For general queries or messages:** Please direct all emails to the main school office email address. Our dedicated office staff will ensure your message is received and passed on directly to the relevant teacher or head of year, as needed..
3. **For detailed discussions or concerns:** If you require further discussion time, please contact the main school office to schedule an appointment with the teacher. This allows us to dedicate the necessary focused time and attention to your specific needs without disrupting the flow of teaching and learning.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we implement this small change to strengthen our commitment to effective communication.

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Name Labels

Named items of clothing are always far more likely to be able to be reunited with their owners. When items are clearly labelled, it makes it so much easier for us to make sure children have all their belongings!

If you buy name labels, please consider using [My Nametags](#) using our school ID: 67290

If you purchase through their website (using our school ID) 24% of your total purchase will go back to the Friends of Firside. This is another way that we can support FOF with their fundraising efforts!

Thank you

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NO MORE LOST ITEMS!

Our nametags are perfect to label all of your child's possessions. From clothing to shoes, stationery, toys - everything is identified!



4.8/5 ON TRUSTPILOT

 STICKERS STAY ON IN THE WASH!

 NO SEWING REQUIRED

 QUEEN'S AWARD WINNER

 UK MARKET LEADER FOR 20 YEARS



School ID: 67290

Coats4Kids

We have been contacted by the Jim Agnew Memorial Charity who are partnering with Coats4Kids again this year to provide a free winter coat for primary age children in Norfolk whose families are struggling to buy one. Your family does not need to be in receipt of Universal Credit or Free school meals to qualify - this is open to anyone who is experiencing financial hardship and would benefit from a voucher for a new school coat.

In order to register your interest in a voucher, please contact the school office. We will then be in contact if we are able to offer you a voucher. If you require more than one voucher, please state this is your email / contact with the school office. The coats on offer are of good quality and made to last meaning that they can be passed down to younger siblings. More information is available on their website <http://www.coats4kids.org.uk/>

Please note that the packaging and coat have no Coats4Kids branding on them therefore there is no indication on the items that they received from the charity.



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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 13th October

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

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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 cover thighs.

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 identical, or very similar items of clothing, it is vital that all items of clothing are named clearly.

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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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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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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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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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