

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



# **Firside Junior School Newsletter**

Friday 6 February 2026

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**WENSUM TRUST**

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

# A message from the Leadership Team

We would like to thank everyone who joined us for parents' evening meetings last week. We hope you found the meetings informative and enjoyed seeing your child's work in their classrooms. Next week, we look forward to welcoming parents in for SEN 7Cs meetings, and, after half term, 4RL parents in to meet with Miss Reasbeck and Mrs Lutchmeah.

At the end of January, Mrs Robinson received an unexpected email from Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education. She has written to the school to thank us after our attainment levels for pupils at Firside were recorded as being amongst the highest in England. Below is a snapshot of the praise received from Ms Phillipson. We are all extremely pleased that the hard work of all of our pupils and staff has been recognised.

***Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Firside Junior School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement. This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.***

We all had great fun marking NSPCC Number day today. It was great to see the children and staff all dressed up as they took part in various math challenges and activities. Children can continue to take part in NSPCC Rocks until 7pm tonight (they can play a total of 60 minutes to contribute towards our position on the national tables).

***Mrs Robinson (Executive Head Teacher of School)***

***Mr O'Malley (Head of School)***

***Mrs Seagrave (Assistant Head***

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# Dates for your diary

**W.c. 9 Feb** SEN 7Cs parent meetings (arranged with office or direct with class teacher)

**Fri 13 Feb** Last day of term

**Mon 23 Feb** First day of term (Scholastic book fair visiting school - more information in this newsletter)

**Wed 25 / Thurs 26 Feb** 4RL parents' evening meetings

**Wed 25 Feb** Aspens Parents event held in hall during book fair - come and meet our caterers and try some food tasters

**Fri 13 Mar** Whole class group photos - please let the office know if you **do not** wish your child to be part of these

**Wed 25 Mar** Y5 pantomime performed to parents (timings and ticket information to follow soon)

**Fri 27 Mar** Last day of term

**Tues 14 Apr** First day of term for pupils

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## **PE / games day changes for next week (w.c. 9th**

Due to some sporting fixtures, our games and PE days have changed slightly for next week (week commencing Monday 9th February).

Please check below for your child's days for PE for next week as lots have been changed.

Monday - Year 5 games, Year 6 games, 3MD PE, 4L swimming

Tuesday - 4L and 4RL games and 3B,3L, 5W, 6P, 6B PE

Wednesday - 3B and 4T games

Thursday - 3L, 3MD games, 4T and 4RL PE, 4L swimming

Friday - 5T, 5A, 6C PE

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# Building work for our new school

As we approach the half-term holiday we are excited to share that the building of our new school will be getting underway very soon. Mrs Robinson, Mr O'Malley and Mr Smith attended the pre-start meeting last week and we now have a clear picture of what will be happening. We have also met our Site Construction Manager and have been working closely with him already in preparation for the beginning of the building phase.

The school site will look a little different when we return from the holiday, as the hoarding will be in place dividing the site in two. The hoarding will run from the back gate, along the edge of the path up to the fence along Middletons Lane. The back gate and path to the playground will still be in use for the duration of the build. A new entrance is also going to be created from Middletons Lane onto the field to allow access for construction vehicles without having to use any part of the school where the children will be.

We are excited to welcome the construction team from Reds10 onto our school site and look forward to working closely with them over the next few years, through the building and demolition programme. Our thanks go to the Department of Education, Mace and the Wensum Trust for supporting the school at all stages of this build programme.

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# Parking

We would like to remind everyone of the importance of parking responsibly in our community when dropping off and collecting children. Please ensure that you:

- \* **Park considerately and safely** - keeping our school community and local residents in mind.
- \* **Avoid blocking pavements** - as this forces pedestrians (especially children) step into the road.
- \* **Refrain from parking on grass verges** - can cause damage and inconvenience for local residents.
- \* **Take extra care near junctions and driveways** - ensure visibility and safe access for all road users.
- \* **Follow all traffic regulations** - help us maintain a safe and respectful environment around the school.

Your cooperation helps keep our community safe and strengthens our relationship with local residents.

Thank you for your continued support.

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# Scholastic book fair

We are looking forward to welcoming back the Scholastic book fair after half term. This is a great opportunity for children and families to buy new books, whilst also fundraising for the school. Last year, through our impressive sales, we were able to spend over £600 buying new books for our school library.

Our book fair will be held after school on the following dates:

- Wednesday 25th February
- Thursday 26th February
- Friday 27th February
- Monday 2nd March
- Tuesday 3rd March

As it is the week before World Book Day, children will be able to use their £1 token at the fair off the price of their book.

**Our sale will be card payments only please.**

**SCHOLASTIC** TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book you buy earns **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

# COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!

Books featured on the poster include:

- DOG MAN: BIG JIM BELIEVES
- DIARY of a Wimpy Kid: PARTYSPOOPER
- Pokemon MEGA EVOLUTION HANDBOOK
- Capylbara Kingdom
- The Scarecrows' Wedding
- TOM GATES PESKY PETS PARTIES

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# Aspens Parent event

On Wednesday 25th February, whilst we are holding our book fair, Aspens, our school caterer, will be in attendance to talk to parents and offer food tasters.

They will be in the hall from 2:30pm (access via school office), or alternatively, you can visit them after school whilst our book fair is on.



**We provide the catering at Firside Primary, and we would like to introduce ourselves to you.**

**25<sup>th</sup> February  
2:30pm to 3:30pm**

We will bring samples of the great food we provide the children at school, and you will have an opportunity to ask the Aspens Catering Team any questions that you may have.

**Look forward to seeing you there!**



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# Book fair competition

Each year we run a competition to build excitement around the fair. This year we are running a photo competition - a 'Be Seen Reading' competition. Children can get creative and have their photo taken reading a book in an unusual place or doing something unusual whilst reading.

There will be a winner chosen by Mrs Robinson for each year group - the winners will each get a £5 book token to spend at the fair.

Photos can either be printed out at home and dropped in at the School Office or emailed into [office@firisde.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@firisde.norfolk.sch.uk)

The deadline for this is Monday 23rd February at 9am.

We look forward to seeing the children's entries.

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## Half term holiday clubs

Premier Education (who recently came into school to run our Kinball workshops), have shared with us information regarding holiday clubs in the local area. The nearest one is at Sparhawk Infant school in Sprowston.

[You can find out more information about their February half term clubs here.](#)

[You can find out more information about their locations for half term clubs here.](#)



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# Plans for unexpected closures

We wanted to share a little about how we would keep learning going for all our pupils in the unlikely event that school has to close unexpectedly. Please know that closing the school is always a very last resort. We understand how important it is for your children to be in school learning with their friends and teachers, and we will only ever make the decision to close if it is absolutely necessary for the safety of everyone—perhaps due to very severe weather, or an unforeseen emergency.

**How will we continue learning?** If the school does need to close, we will move to remote learning so that the children can continue their education from home.

- **Google Classroom:** This will be the main place where your child's teacher will set work, activities, and tasks for the day.
- **Educational Websites:** We will also use the great educational websites your children already use in school. These include:
  - **Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS):** Perfect for practicing those crucial multiplication facts!
  - **Atom Learning:** Specifically used for our **Years 4, 5, and 6** pupils to support their learning in English and Maths.
  - **Accelerated reading:** Used for quizzing on reading books

**A small request to help us prepare** To make sure there is a smooth transition if we ever need to use our remote learning plan, we would be grateful if you could check one thing for us:

- **Log-in Details:** Please take a moment to locate and **keep a copy** of your child's log-in details for Google Classroom and any other key sites (like TTRS or Atom Learning). These are often stuck into reading records or sent home at the start of the year. Having them ready at home will save a lot of time and worry.

**Thank you so much for your support in helping us prepare. We sincerely hope we won't need to use these plans, but it is always best to be ready.**

# Bikes and scooter

Of course, we always want to encourage riding to school, however, we have had a few near misses over the last few days with children almost being hit by children and parents on scooters and bikes on the school grounds. All scooters and bikes should be dismounted once you enter the school site. This applies to children and parents. Thank you.



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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

## 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. A spare pair of socks is also useful.

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](mailto: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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