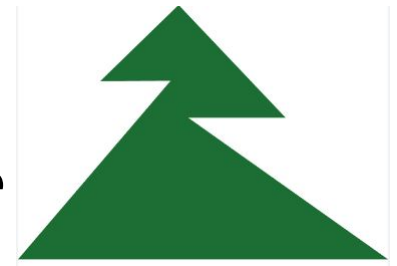


*Become the best that you can
be: for learning, for life, for future
success.*



Firside Junior School Newsletter

Friday 27 February 2026

We are part of...

WENSUM TRUST

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

A message from the Leadership Team

After what seemed a very long January, February seems to have flown by and now we are into March. It is lovely seeing the lighter mornings and evenings, and, of course, some brighter days and even some sunshine - long may this continue!

We have had a busy this week with lots of families coming into school for our Scholastic book fair. It has proved to be very popular and it has been lovely to see so many children using the World Book Day vouchers at the fair. We still have two more evenings so please do come along. All book sales help us to be able to buy new books for our school library, so we really appreciate your support at the fair.

We are really excited about World Book Day this Thursday which is always a highlight on our school calendar. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all things reading and see the wonder in the magic of books and reading. We are especially looking forward to seeing the children's boundless creativity come to life with our 'Dress as a word day' theme this year. There is more information about this further down in this newsletter. Whether they arrive looking 'magnificent', 'mysterious', 'multi-coloured', 'adventurous' or 'yellow', we know their outfits will be brilliant, and it is sure to be an enjoyable day bringing vocabulary and stories to life for everyone.

If your child has PE or swimming on Thursday, we will try our best to work around their costumes for their active lessons!

We have our popular Mother's day shops coming up in a few weeks. Mrs Garrod would appreciate any help to support the children in choosing their gifts. Please contact her at the school office if you are able to help.

Mrs Robinson (Executive Head Teacher)

Mr O'Malley (Head of School)

Mrs Seagrave (Assistant Head of School)

Dates for your diary

Mon 2 Mar Book fair after school

Tues 3 Mar Book fair after school

Thurs 5 Mar World Book day - dress as a word day

Baton workshops 4RL,5A,5T,5W

Fri 6 Mar Baton workshops 4L,4T,3B,3L,3MD

Wed 11 Mar Mother's day shop Y3&4

Thurs 12 Mar Mother's day shop Y5&6

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 - ticket information has been emailed out to parents

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. 2nd

Due to some timetable clashes, there are a few changes for next week

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

PE timetable week commencing 2nd March only

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

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World Book Day

We are excited to let you know that we will be celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday 5 March 2026** as part of the **National Year of Reading**.

World Book Day is designed to help children think about what makes something enjoyable, how reading can be a hobby, and how we can keep reading fun — even when it sometimes feels challenging. The overall aim is to spark “book talk” and build excitement and confidence around reading.

In 2026, the National Year of Reading is all about reconnecting reading with the things that already inspire us — from playlists and football matches to films, food and family time. It’s about reading that fits how we live, not the other way around.

As part of our celebrations, we are inviting children to **dress up as a word** on World Book Day. This could be a word such as *wizard*, *equestrian*, *love*, *adventure*, *kindness*, *rainbow* — or any word that inspires them. It can be linked to their hobby or a word which they love, or could simply be their favourite colour.

We would like to strongly encourage homemade outfits and there is absolutely no expectation to spend money on something new. A word written on a badge, a label, a hat, or a simple prop is more than enough. Creativity, imagination and fun are what matter most.

We hope you will join us in celebrating reading at home too by talking about books, words, stories your child already loves.

Thank you for your continued support. We are really looking forward to a fun, thoughtful and inspiring World Book Day together on **Thursday 5 March**.

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Mr A's Marathon fundraising

Our very own Mr Adams is running the London Marathon and his chosen charity is our Friends of Firside. He is running a competition to design his running vest. Entries cost 50p and need to be submitted by Monday 9 March. See email for more details.

Next term he will be doing some other fundraising in preparation for the marathon.

If you would like to contribute to his fundraising efforts, he has a [Go fund me](#) page.



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Comic relief

On Friday 20 March, we will be fundraising for Comic Relief. We will be having a non-uniform day (red optional) and crazy hair day (again, optional). To take part, children should bring in a 50p cash donation for the charity. Thank you



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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.

The poster is for a Scholastic book fair. At the top left, it says 'SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS'. At the top right, it says 'Every book you buy earns FREE BOOKS for our school!'. The main title is 'COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR' in large white letters on a blue background, with the subtitle 'AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!' below it. On the left, a girl in a floral dress and a blue mask with a red cape is pointing towards the book covers. The book covers shown are: 'DOG MAN: BIG JIM BELIEVES' by Dav Pilkey, 'DIARY of a Wimpy Kid: PARTYSPOOPER' by Jeff Kinney, 'POKÉMON MEGA EVOLUTION HANDBOOK', 'Capylbara Kingdom' by Emma Young, 'The Scarecrows' Wedding' by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, and 'TOM GATES PESKY PETS AND PARTIES' by Liz Pichon. At the bottom, there is a cartoon cat character with a red bow.

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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 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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