Firside Junior School

www.facebook.com/FirsideJunior
www.instagram.com/FirsideJunior
office@firside.norfolk.sch.uk

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 22nd October 2026

Message from the Leadership team

Well done everyone!
Well done to everyone for all of their hard work over the last term. This half term is always tiring as we all get back into the school routine and adjust to new learning challenges in our new classes. We have been so proud of how well the children have settled, especially our new starters in Year 3!

Thank you!
We would like to reiterate our thanks to our whole school community for your support with our evacuation last week. We have received so many kind emails about the way in which we handled the day and we appreciate all of the kind words received. The children were absolutely incredible on the day and behaved in such a calm and mature manner. We all saw it as a big adventure to go up to Hellesdon High School for the day. We are so thankful for our incredible Firside team who kept the children smiling during the day - we could not have done it without them. We are also so grateful to the amazing support from The Wensum Trust and Hellesdon High School throughout.

Open Classroom and Family Learning
Thank you to everyone who came into school for our Open Classroom event this week. We hope you enjoyed seeing your child's work so far from this term. Don't forget, we are looking forward to welcoming parents in for each class for their Family Learning afternoons. These are a great opportunity to come and take part in fun activities with your child. It has been wonderful to welcome in parents of 5P and 5W so far this term. 5T parents, your rearranged Family Learning date is listed on the flyer in this newsletter.

Royal British Legion Fundraising
As we do every year, we will be fundraising for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies, snap bands and other items. Poppies will be sold during the school day, with the Year 6 Class Ambassadors coming round to the classrooms in the afternoon to sell them. If your child would like to buy a poppy, they should bring their donation in a named purse or envelope and give it to their teacher in the morning for safekeeping.
Other items for sale includig key rings, snap bands and bracelets will be on sale on the playground after school every day. We ask for a £1 donation for each of these items.
Please note that we have a sealed cash collection pot so are unable to take card payments or give change.
All children will be working on a Remembrance unit of work after the holidays and, as always, we will mark Remembrance by holiding a 2 minute silence on November 11th.



We hope everyone has an enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 2nd November.

Diary dates

Mon 2 Nov First day of term
3L Family Learning Afternoon
Wed 4 Nov 3A Family Learning Afternoon
Fri 6 Nov Christmas raffle gift non-uniform
Tues 10 Nov 4L Family Learning Afternoon
Wed 11 Nov 4R Family Learning afternoon
Thurs 12 Nov 4DL Family Learning afternoon
Fri 13 Nov Children in Need
Wed 18 Nov 5T Family Learning afternoon
Tues 1 Dec 6C Family Learning aftenoon
Thurs 3 Dec FOF Y3/4 movie night
6T Family Learning afternoon
Fri 4 Dec 6B Family Learning afternoon
Tues 8 Dec Firside Festive Fayre
Thurs 10 Dec FOF Y5/6 movie night
Wed 16 Dec
Y3 Christmas performance 9:30am
Y4 Christmas performance 1:30pm
Thurs 17 Dec
Y4 Christmas performance 9:30am
Y3 Christmas performance 1:30pm
Fri 18 Dec Last day of term
Tues 5 Jan First day of term for pupils

Keeping up to date

As well as our regular communication through emails, newsletters and weekly diary dates, there are also other ways you can keep track of things going on in school. Make sure you like / follow / join to keep up to date!

- Our school Facebook page
- The Friends of Firside Committee Facebook page

Wellies!



We are excited that shortly after half term, we will be taking delivery of our new welly racks. These will mean that children can have wellies in school to be able to access the field over the winter months when everything becomes a bit wetter and muddier! In previous years, we have had to stop using the field in the winter, but, with the right footwear and clothing, we hope to be able to use it all winter! Having these welly racks means that the children have a proper place to store wellies rathen than their lockers!

Please don't send wellies in just yet as we do not have the storage for them quite yet, but we want to give advanced notice that they will be needed if children want to access the field over the winter. We will email parents to let them know when the racks have arrived and when wellies can start coming into school. Once this happens, we suggest that wellies are kept in school for whole terms rather than brought in daily. When they do come into school, all wellies must be clearly named. We are hoping to take delivery of the racks around the end of November. Watch this space!

We will also be advising that children have waterproof trousers in school to put over their school uniform - these will mean that they don't have to worry about sitting / kneeling whilst playing, particularly in areas such as the sandpit.

We are excited with this new step with our OPAL play and ensuring that children can access OPAL play regardless of the weather.

We will also be starting a welly swap shop for when children grow out of theirs. If your child grows out of their wellies and they are in a good, usable condition, please consider donating them to our OPAL stock!

See you soon and welcome!



Today we have said 'see you soon and good luck' to Mrs Thompson who leaves us to start her maternity leave. We wish her all the best for her new arrival and can't wait to hear her news soon.

After half term, we are welcoming Mrs Stammer back as she will be taking over Mrs Thompson's class. Mrs Stammers is a familiar face within our school as she has been working in 4DL this term.

We are pleased to say that Mrs Lutchmeah willl be returning to school after half term to teach her usual three days in 4DL.

Class charts

During our Open Classroom events some parents asked if we were still using Class Charts. At our school, we believe in recognising and celebrating positive behaviour, while also ensuring that any concerns are addressed fairly and consistently. We want to encourage children to make positive choices, take responsibility for their actions and contribute to a happy and supportive school community.

Celebrating Positive Behaviour

We use our in-person team points system to reward positive behaviour. We feel that having a physical reminder of their achievements helps children to recognise the impact of their positive choices and encourages them to keep doing their best. Children collect team points during lessons throughout the week, with our team captains taking responsibility for counting the points each week. The weekly house winners are celebrated during assembly, and the winning house receives a reward at the end of each half term. This recognises children's ongoing effort, teamwork and positive contributions to school life.

Alongside our team points system, we celebrate children's achievements and positive choices in a variety of other ways. These include DREAM Awards, badge rewards, Golden Book awards and postcards home. We want to ensure that children are recognised for their efforts, achievements and the positive behaviours they demonstrate.

Recording and addressing negative behaviour

We also believe it is important to address negative behaviour consistently, helping children to reflect on their choices and understand how their actions affect others. All parents should have a login for Class Charts, where negative behaviour incidents are recorded. This allows parents to view any negative behaviour entries relating to their child and helps to maintain open communication between home and school.

Where behaviour concerns are more serious or become persistent, we will communicate directly with parents. This may be through a telephone call, email or an in-person conversation, depending on the nature of the concern. Working together with parents allows us to share information, discuss appropriate next steps and support children in making positive changes.

Through our approach to both positive and negative behaviour, we aim to maintain clear expectations, celebrate success and ensure every child has the opportunity to learn, grow and make positive choices.

Family Learning afternoons



Save the date!



FOF update

A huge thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who attended our AGM last week. It was lovely to welcome some new faces to help plan exciting ideas for the next year. We really do appreciate any support that families can give FOF. Please remember that without parent support, FOF cannot operate so we needed as many parents, carers, grandparents etc to help us.

This year, FOF are continuing to support parents by contributing funds for school trips to reduce the costs for parents. They are also aiming to help the school with resources for both in the classroom and outside equipment for OPAL.

As part of our discussions at the AGM, we talked about having a regular space in the school newsletter to update you with upcoming events and ways to get involved.

Upcoming dates for your diary (more information coming soon about these):

- Friday 6th November Christmas raffle gifts non-uniform day
- Thursday 3rd December Y3/4 movie night after school
- Thursday 10th December Y5/6 move night after school
- Tuesday 8th December Firside Festive Fayre
- Hot chocolate Wednesdays (after school) start November 11th

Christmas raffle non-uniform day

Every year, we hold a non-uniform day to collect gift items for our annual Christmas raffle. On Friday 6th November, children are welcome to come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a gift. These items should be brought into school on the day. To be able to collect a range of items, we are asking for these suggested items:

Year 3&4: candles, smellies, small gifts **Year 5&6:** chocolates, sweets, biscuits, small gifts

We are also looking for **donations of Christmas gift bags** of different sizes. These can be dropped at the school office.

Look out for raffle tickets coming home in November!