

Firfield Primary School Newsletter

May 2023

www.firfield.derbyshire.sch.uk

Message from Mr Yellop

March and April have been very busy months in school. Thank you to all the parents, staff, governors and children who painted such a good picture of the school during our Ofsted Inspection. The experience was very positive, and we should be able to share the details of the report in the near future as soon as it is published.

We continue to focus on developing our knowledge-rich curriculum, hopefully you children have shared some of the learning that they have enjoyed so far this year. We also continue to focus on behaviour in the classrooms and around school as we look to maximise learning time as every second is precious to us.

Thank you to everyone who helped support World Down's Syndrome Day by wearing different socks and we have really enjoyed celebrating World Autism Week in school through assemblies and lessons in class.



Congratulations



A huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Tolson who became proud parents of a beautiful baby girl – Charlotte Emily Rose Tolson. We also welcome Mrs Shah who joins the teaching team in Reception.

Staff goodbye

We say farewell to Mrs Nicholson who has worked with many pupils as a teaching assistant across the school for many years. We would like to thank her for the care and support she has given to everyone in the school. We wish her all the best in her new post.

Coronation Day

On Friday the 5th May we celebrate the coronation of King Charles and Camilla Queen Consort. A reminder that we invite children to come dressed



in white, red and / or blue and bring a small food donation to help support our street style party. Please refer to the letter sent out to parents earlier this week.

Assessments in school

During May and June many children in school will be involved in statutory or school assessments. Year 2 and 6 will be involved in national tests in May. In June, Year 1 will be involved in Phonics and Year 4 will complete an online times table assessment.

Towards the end of June other year groups will complete summer assessments to help us inform teacher assessments which will be reported to parents in the end of year reports.

Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who supported Red Nose Day in school, we managed to raise £847.06



Sporting Update

Well done to Mrs Smith who completed the London Marathon in just over 3hrs 30minutes. A super achievement, we are proud of you! Last week I was fortunate to take the children to a swimming gala and Year 5 / 6 football match. I was extremely proud of the sporting performances and the sportsmanship that our children showed. Many thanks to Mrs Smith for organising all of the extensive opportunities that we offer at Firfield and to the staff who give their time to support clubs and events during and after school.

BERT Award

The school has now received our BERT Bronze award certificate for excellence in Building Effective Relationships Together. The next step for the school is to work towards the next level which will involve working alongside our families to build better awareness. Well done to the team for all the efforts in achieving this award.

Travel and Parking

The Parish Council and the school have received numerous complaints from parents and local residents in regard to parking and travel at drop off and pick up times. This includes inconsiderate parking, causing congestion on Firfield Avenue, dangerous driving and rude and aggressive behaviour towards local residents. I understand that the Parish Council have written to Derbyshire County Council and the local MP to try and come up with some solutions.

We have written to parents on numerous occasions when we have received complaints or concerns for pupil safety including parents using the school car park at WRAP club times. We therefore remind parents to be polite and courteous at all times (these are two of our school values). Please allow more time for your journey to school and try to avoid parking on Firfield Avenue (please leave these spaces for families with adults or pupils who need them for accessibility reasons).

Road Crossing Patrol

As you may be aware there has not been a crossing patrol on Wilsthorpe road for a few months. The responsibility for recruiting Crossing Patrol staff is with Derbyshire County Council transport department and not with the school. We ask parents and pupils to take extra care when crossing this road. If you are interested in doing a few hours to help keep our pupils safe, then please scan the QR code below which will take you to the DCC website.



Travel Smart Week

The previous sections feeds nicely into the next item. During the week beginning 15th May we will be recording how pupils travel to school over the week. This would be an ideal opportunity to kickstart new habits by trying to reduce pollution and congestion by **walking, cycling or scooting** to school (even if this is parking a little further away and walking some of the way, **Park and Stride**). Increasing your step count is also a great way of keeping physically and mentally healthy.



Balance Bike Sessions

As an introduction to road and bike safety we will be holding some balance bike activities for year 1 on 5th May, more details will follow.



INSET Days for 2023/24

The governors have decided that the following days will be used as INSET days in the next academic year.

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 27th October 2023

Friday 22nd December 2023

Monday 3rd June 2024

There will be one further INSET day, the date will depend on whether the school is going to be used as a polling station in 2024.

Diary Dates

MAY 2023

1 st	May Day Bank Holiday
4 th	INSET Day – School Closed
5 th	Coronation Day in school
5 th	Balance Bike Training (Y1)
8 th	Additional Bank Holiday
10 th	Year 2 trip to Trent Arboretum
11 th	Year 5 Cromford Trip
9-12 th	Year 6 SATs week
16 th	Year 3 Magna Trip
15-19 th	Year 2 SATs Week
15 th -19 th	Travel Smart Week
17 th	Class and Yr6 leavers photos
26 th	Break up for Whitsun

JUNE 2023

5 th	INSET Day
6 th	Children Return to School
6 th	Year 4 Times Tables Check (window opens)
12-16 th	Year 1 Phonics Check
19-23 rd	Assessment Week in school
21-23 rd	Year 6 Residential (Whitehall)
27 th	KS1 Sports day
30 th	KS2 Sports day