

Firfield Primary School Newsletter

September 2023

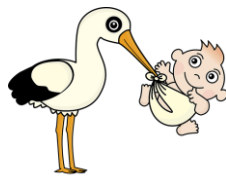
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Welcome

A warm welcome back to all our families. It has been great to see everyone back in school and enjoying time with friends and learning together in the classrooms. The children have settled really well. This week is behaviour week in school. As part of our behaviour curriculum, we will be reinforcing our high expectations for excellent behaviour ensuring the children are always Ready, Respectful and Safe so that learning time is maximised. This is all part of our wider vision to help the pupils flourish and thrive helping them to achieve their personal best in everything they do. We appreciate your support with this.

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Mr Thurgood and his wife on the birth of baby George over the summer holidays.



Welcome

We welcome Kevan to the school staff team. He will support Richard in looking after the school, opening and locking up and general caretaking. We also welcome Kate's return as school crossing patrol on Wilsthorpe Road.

Birthdays

A polite reminder that we ask parents not to send in sweets to give out on birthdays. Thank you for your anticipated support, we will always try to celebrate special occasions as much as we can. In KS1, birthdays are celebrated as part of the Friday Celebration Assembly.

Reading Cabin

As mentioned in the letter sent out earlier this week from Miss Tomlinson, we are delighted with our newly built reading cabin. We are currently purchasing furniture and books and hope to open this up to children as soon as possible. A massive thank you to the PTA who supported funding towards the project, and to MOTO for their donation towards the project.

School Leadership Team

A reminder of the members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). This consists of Mr Yellop as Headteacher, Mr Thurgood as Deputy Headteacher who leads on the Quality of Education and Miss Tittershill as Assistant

Headteacher who leads on behaviour and nurture support. Miss Tittershill will also lead Reception (EYFS) while Mrs Tolson is on Maternity leave. Mr Tolson leads Key Stage 1 and numeracy and Miss Tomlinson now leads Key Stage 2 and literacy. Miss Trigg continues as Special Needs Coordinator. Miss Neasham is the final member of the SLT as School Business Manager.

Prospective Parent Tours



There will be a number of parent tours this term for families with children looking to start school in September 2024. If you know anyone who may be looking for a school for their child, we would be grateful if you could share the dates and times below:

Thursday 5th October at 10am
Wednesday 11th October at 2pm
Tuesday 17th October at 4.30pm
Thursday 26th October at 10am
Wednesday 8th November 2pm
Tuesday 14th November at 4.30pm

PTA – Facebook and AGM

Just a reminder that the PTA have a Facebook Group for parents and carers which enables them to communicate with you quicker and more effectively. They also use the group to advertise events and keep you updated on fundraising activities.

To join, you will be asked a set of membership questions which will be reviewed and once they have confirmed your details match the school records, you will be accepted into the group. They are unable to provide access to anyone who does not complete these questions.

We really hope you will find this useful in keeping up to date with fundraising initiatives and activities.

The PTA annual general meeting will be held at Firfield Primary School on Monday 2nd October at 6pm. Parents are welcome to attend. The PTA are always looking for new members who can offer support throughout the year.

Safeguarding Team

The four designated safeguarding leads in school are James Yellop, Rachel Tittershill, Adam Thurgood and Kirsty Shepherd. If you have any concerns about a child at Firfield Primary School, please speak to one of the leads. If you have immediate concerns that a child is suffering or at risk of harm, please call Starting Point on 01629 533190.

After the annual changes to keeping children safe in education (June 2023) we have updated our safeguarding policies and documents. These will be available at the end of the month. The main changes are around schools ensuring that the filtering and monitoring procedures are effective in providing a safe online environment.

Acceptable Use of ICT

The school is committed to working with parents to promote children's online safety and believes that, as adults, we have a responsibility to behave as role models in our own use of social media. Staff are also subject to policies and guidance concerning any use they make of such sites. We ask that parents, carers and other members of the school community also bear in mind their own approach to the use of social media. Further, we ask for parents and carers support in addressing any inappropriate use of digital communication devices by pupils in school. We ask that careful thought is given to any posts concerning the school or individual members. We would be grateful if parents do not use social media to raise concerns or complaints but, instead, encourage you to come into school and speak to us so that we can understand and help to solve the problem. Later this month we will be sending out further details on acceptable use of ICT for both pupils and parents and would ask parents to agree to the guidance in the policies.

Building Condition

You may have heard a lot of publicity about RAAC (concrete) in schools and other buildings. Derbyshire County Council have confirmed that the school does not contain any of this material. The school regularly checks the condition of the building and grounds to ensure that it is as safe as possible. We are proud of the environment that we have. As part of this, over the summer we have totally refurbished the Year 3/4 toilets. We have painted and protected the gates, fences and outdoor furniture around school, as well as making repairs to the flooring in the EYFS outdoor area. We have been awarded funding to replace the roof on the junior building and will keep you updated when work commences.

Trim Trail

You may have noticed three new pieces of exercise equipment around the edge of the trim trail. The new trim trail is scheduled to be completed in the last weeks of September and the new surfacing completed at the start of October. Thank you to the school council who were involved in choosing and designing this equipment. We ask that parents ensure pupils do not use this equipment before and after school as part of our health and safety risk management.

School Meals

Can we please remind parents/carers that school meals should be booked in advance via your ParentPay login. A

reminder that there has been a significant rise in the cost of school meals (increase of 95p), the daily cost is now £3.25. We only found out about this increase at the end of the summer term. I expressed my concerns with Derbyshire Catering Department as I want healthy school meals to be available to everyone.

Free School Meals

We appreciate that with continue cost of living rises, this may continue be a difficult year for everyone and some families may find it harder to manage their finances. We would encourage any family who find themselves in this position to consider applying for free school meals.

If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals the application is quick and easy. Please follow the link below to apply.

[Apply for Free School Meals](#)

School Uniform

The children have come back to school looking smart in their uniforms. We remind parents that jewellery and make-up should not be worn to school including nail varnish. This also includes temporary transfers or tattoos. Children are allowed to wear one pair of simple ear studs or small sleepers but should avoid any ear jewellery that could potentially cause injury to the pupil or their peers. We ask if parents do decide to allow their child to have their ears pierced that the do so in the longer school holidays so they can be removed on PE / Swimming days.

We also remind parents that suitable hair styling should be encouraged in school, for example no hair dyes or extravagant hairstyles such as mohawks or shaved patterns in hair.

Further guidance on school uniform is available on the school website, use the QR code below for a direct link.



Travel Smart Award



We are delighted to announce that the school has achieved the Bronze Good Travel Plan Award and we are now working towards silver. In the summer term, after discussions with the parish council, local community and Rob Bounds from Derbyshire County Council, we started to look at our school travel plan and submitted evidence to reach the first stage on the ModeShift Award.

Parking



A polite reminder regarding parking around school at drop off and pick up time. The local community is very important to the school. Please try, wherever possible, to park further away

from the school and take a little extra time to walk. There is much more space on Wilsthorpe Road or the side roads off Wilsthorpe Road.

WRAP Club Parking

We remind parents that when dropping off or picking up children from before or after school club that they use the spaces nearest to the school rather than the spaces on the left as you enter the car park. If you are arriving after 8:15am please park outside the school grounds.

WRAP Club Costs

With new pupils starting the school, we remind parents that the costs for attending our WRAP club are:

£5 per breakfast session

£8.50 per afterschool session

Bikes and Scooters

As we have more parents and children waiting in the car park outside the main gate, we ask that children and adults dismount from bikes and scooters as soon as they enter the school grounds and walk with them to the scooter / bike park near the tennis court. This will ensure safety at all times.



One of our targets for achieving the ModeShift Silver Award is to encourage more children to walk, scooter, skate or bike to school. This includes encouraging more families to park further away from school and enjoy a walk together (Park and Stride). I am sure you all know the benefits to both physical and mental health this provides. We also want to increase the percentage of children who cycle to school. In Key Stage 2 we run Bikeability sessions to support children becoming more

independent road users. We are looking to increase cycle and scooter storage around school to cater for this.

World Car Free Day

Friday 22nd September is World Car Free Day. To support this initiative, we would like to encourage as many pupils as possible to walk to school on this day rather than use a car. We understand that many families live further from the school and are unable to walk, we ask families to park on the roads a little further away from the school and stride for 10 minutes. This could be the start of some new habits and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

Travel Smart Month

October is also Travel Smart Month and the Autumn Travel Smart Week Campaign will take place from 16 to 20 October 2023 during International Walk to School month. This week we will be collecting information on the children's usual and preferred modes of transport.



Thank You

We want to thank all our hardworking school staff and our community for continuing to provide an enriched and caring environment to all our pupils. We continue to be proud of every member of our team and are committed to sustaining and continuously improving our school for all our young people and staff.

THANK YOU
FOR MAKING
OUR SCHOOL
A HAPPY
PLACE

SEPTEMBER 2023

Friday 8th – Curriculum News Out

Thursday 21st - Year 5 Swimming Starts

Friday 22nd - World Car Free Day

Monday 25th – SEND Parents' Meeting

Wednesday 27th September – 4th October- Book Fair

Friday 29th - European Day of Languages



OCTOBER 2023

TRAVEL SMART MONTH

Wednesday 4th – Phonics Workshop for Parents

Thursday 5th – 10am New Parent Tour

Wednesday 11th – 2pm New Parent Tour

Monday 16th – Friday 20th – Travel Smart Week

Tuesday 17th – 4.30pm New Parent Tour

Wednesday 18th – Book Evening

Wednesday 18th – Parents' Curriculum Meeting

Friday 20th Year 4 Egyptian Partake

Tuesday 24th – Individual and Sibling Photos

Tuesday 24th – Parents' Evening

Thursday 26th – 10am New Parent Tour

Thursday 26th – Parents' Evening

Friday 27th – INSET Day

INSET DAYS

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 27th October 2023

Friday 22nd December 2024

Thursday 2nd May 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024