

Firfield Primary School Newsletter

December 2023

www.firfield.derbyshire.sch.uk

Happy December everyone. We are starting to get Christmassy in school and have lots of events organised this month. We have our PTA Christmas Fair, Christmas plays, carol singing and Christmas Experience at St Michael's Church, Christmas Panto, Christmas Craft afternoon, Christmas Dinner and our Christmas Jumper Day. We are embracing the Christmas joy to spread the festive cheer.

Thank You to Firfield Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all their hard work over the year. Our amazing Ofsted report and lots of developments around the school including new toilets, trim trail and reading lodge. Everyone has done a fantastic job to provide the best we can for all the children.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

I wish our families and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Yellop

Sustainable Futures

As part of our drive towards net zero and improving school sustainability we are involved in lots of different opportunities to reduce energy and water waste, increase biodiversity and improve our travel, helping to reduce pollution to ensure we look after our environment. We have been granted £10,000 from East Midlands Airport to install solar panels. We are changing some of our electrical lighting and devices to more energy efficient one and looking for ways to save water.

In November many children were trained through Bikeability and this month we continue to promote alternative ways of travelling. To support this, we have signed up to a national initiative called 'Cycle Bells', encouraging pupils, family and staff to cycle, scoot or walk to school throughout the month of December.

As part of the initiative, there is a festive cycle song to encourage pupils to get involved. Please see the below link to the lyrics to get your child involved:

<https://modeshift.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Cycle-Bells-Both.pdf>

Adverse weather conditions

The adverse weather conditions policy can be found on the school website. If the school decides that it is unsafe to open then parents will be informed via the school website, the Derbyshire school closures website, Parent Pay and Class Dojo. Please ensure that we have up to date contact details in school. For any extended closures over 24 hours, the school will endeavour to provide remote learning to support families via Class Dojo.

Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs Shaw, Mrs Geeson and Mrs Chambers who are all expecting a baby towards the end of the Spring term, such exciting news. We will keep classes informed with who will be taking over class teacher responsibilities when we return in January.



At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Mrs Shah who has been covering the maternity leave of Mrs Harston who will now take over responsibilities for Maple Class. We would like to thank Mrs Shah for being part of 'The Firfield Family' and wish her all the best on her teaching journey.

Kindness and Respect

Kindness is one of our school values and one of our rules is respect. We therefore ask that everyone in school including our parents and carers be respectful and kind to other adults including the local residents. Unfortunately, we have had a number of incidents this term where this has not been the case.

Christmas Jumper Days

This year National Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day falls on Thursday 7th December. We do not ask for a monetary donation as Firfield staff donate to the cause. If you would like to make a donation, please bring cash to the main office. Children are invited to wear a festive jumper or non-uniform (if you don't have a jumper). The children will also have an opportunity to wear their festive jumper again on Christmas Dinner Day, where they will also engage in Christmas activities during the afternoon.



Christmas Dinner

Please remember Christmas dinner is on Wednesday 20th December this year. If you would like to book a Christmas lunch for your child, please do so before Friday 8th December in order for the kitchen to order in sufficient food.



Christmas Craft Afternoon

The Christmas Craft Afternoon will be on Wednesday 20th December, with Glee Club singing in the hall (3pm). This event will take place between 1:30pm and 3:30pm and parents are invited to participate in the Christmas Crafts.

Christmas Plays

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to watch the children in their Christmas Performances. This year's performance in KS1 is Santa's Setbacks and Hey Ewe! in EYFS. The EYFS performance is on Wednesday 13th December starting at 9.30am and the Year 1&2 performances are on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 2.30pm and Thursday 14th December at 9.30am. We have limited spaces in the hall and all tickets have been allocated.

Christmas Panto (in school)

A reminder that during the last week of term the pupils will be treated to a live production of Cinderella.

Monday 18th December

Year 4, 5 and 6 (9.05am)

Year 2 and 3 (10.20am)

EYFS and Year 1 (1.40pm)



Experience Christmas – St Michael's Church

On Wednesday 6th December Year 2 will be visiting St Michael's Church to take part in a Christmas Experience.

Lime Class 9.30am – 10.45am

Olive Class 11.00am – 12.15am

Church Christmas Carols

Parents are warmly invited to join our Year group carol concerts at the Methodist Church on Tuesday 19th December each lasting 45 minutes. The timings are shown below.

Year 5 – 9.30 – 10.15am

Year 3 – 11.00am – 11.45am

Year 6 – 1.15pm – 2.00pm

Year 4 - 2.15pm – 3.00pm

PTA Christmas Fair

Tonight is the PTA Christmas Fair, please come and join us at the event and spend lots of pennies to support the school. The event will start at 5pm – 7pm (Santa's Grotto starts slightly earlier at booked time slots).



Poppy Appeal



A massive thank you to all the children who purchased items for the Poppy Appeal. This year we raised £343.40. Thank you to the school council members for attending the Remembrance Day service who represented the school brilliantly!

Fundraising – Thank You

Thank you to all the parents and children who donated to support Children in Need. We also had great fun doing the bear pong challenge. We managed to raise £1,289.22, well done to all involved.



Diary Dates

DECEMBER 2023

- 1st PTA Christmas Fayre 5-7pm
- 6th Year 2 Experience Christmas (St Michael's Church)
- 7th Christmas Jumper Day
- 13th EYFS Performance 9.30 AM
- 13th Yr 1 & Yr 2 Christmas Performance PM
- 14th Yr 1 & Yr 2 Christmas Performance AM
- 18th Christmas Panto – Cinderella (in school)
- 19th Church Christmas Carols
- 20st Christmas Craft Afternoon
- 20st School Christmas Dinner
- 21st Last Day of Term

JANUARY 2023

- 8^h Return to school
- 18th Year 5 Swimming Starts Back