

# Firfield Primary School Newsletter

## October 2024

[www.firfield.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.firfield.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Thank you for your continued support in helping the children settle in so well over the past four weeks. Hopefully the new homework format is working well; we appreciate your support with reading, retrieval (brain gym activities) and the online apps on offer. Lots of sports clubs and activities such as Year 3/4 running club, Year 1/2 gymnastics and Year 5 swimming have now started this term and a number of football matches have been played against other schools, match reviews will appear on Class Dojo. Over the year we hope to offer a wide range of activities to help keep everyone engaged, healthy and fit.

We also look forward to seeing you all at our parents evening at the end of the month.

Mr Yellop

### Parents' Evening

A reminder that at the end of October we will be holding Parents' Evening.

The window to book

appointments online opens on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm (closing on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 12pm) using the QR code below or the link sent out on ParentPay.



We will hold a second Parents' Evening in the Spring Term. Parents have been invited to attend on either Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> or Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. A reminder that this year we will be holding these within the hall. Please ensure that you arrive at the allotted time slot given.

### Book Evening

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October we invite parents into their child's classroom to look at work in books. These will be available between 3.30pm and 4.45pm. We look forward to seeing you and sharing our new curriculum.

### Individual Photos

A reminder that Individual Photos will take place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Please ensure your child is dressed smartly in their uniform.

### Phonics Evening

A reminder that we will be holding a Phonics Evening on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October. There is still time to sign up to attend by scanning the QR code.



### Pupils as Leaders

During the Autumn term we have a number of positions of responsibility that children can apply or be chosen for. There are more opportunities as the pupils get older. These include:

- School Council Reps
- Happy Lunchtime Helpers
- Wellbeing Champions
- Mini Movers, Play Makers and Young Ambassadors for sport

### Safeguarding / Wellbeing



A reminder that the current safeguarding leads in school are Mr Yellop, Miss Tittershill, Mr Thurgood and Mrs Shepherd. We continue to support the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils and we are celebrating this on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October by wearing something yellow with our school uniform. A reminder, we will not be requesting any cost for this. However, if you wish to make a donation to the Young Minds charity use the QR code below



## Derby and Derbyshire Emotional Health and Wellbeing



The website below has resources and advice to support emotional health and wellbeing for parents and children, click on the link or use the QR code.



## Active Lives Survey

At the end of the summer term, pupils in Year 1, 3 and 4 and parents in Key Stage 1 answered a health, sports and well being questionnaire. A full copy of the results from this survey can be found using the QR code below.



We were delighted that the wellbeing of our pupils in Key Stage 2 came out well above the national average 8.2 out of 10 compared to national average of 7.4. The participation at and outside school also rated well with many of our children being involved in sport, being

physically active during the week. We are also delighted that the children are benefiting from the new trim trail with 34% climbing and swinging on the playground (well above the national average). Finally, 64% of pupils come to school by active means, by foot, bike or scooter (which we will be encouraging further at the end of this month).

## Travel Smart Week

As part of making active and environmentally friendly journeys, which are good for our wellbeing and mental health, our community and the planet, we will be engaging in Travel Smart Week in school where we encourage children to find alternative methods of travel and record these within each class. This week will be 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October and helps the school work towards Silver Accreditation. Thank you to all parents for cooperating with our parking initiatives and respecting our parking buddies.



## Firfield Parents and Teacher Association



This week the PTA have held its annual general meeting and raised over £8500 last year. Money raised last year supported the building and furnishing of the reading lodge including the new landscaped area completed over the summer holidays and support the Year 6 trip at the end of the summer term. The money raised recently is going towards further bike and scooter storage, shading on the school playground, vinyl design for inside the reading lodge and additional outdoor seating. We had discussions on what we are raising future funds for and will share these with you soon. The next big event will be the Christmas Fair afterschool on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. It was lovely to see lots of new parents attend the meeting on Wednesday evening and we are always looking for more volunteers to be on the PTA helpers list.

## Firfield Governors

The Governing Body held their first meeting of the year last week. The meeting was largely administrative as we reviewed policies, ensured that Governors are up to date with our statutory obligations and agreed our key priorities. We also voted in our Chair, Victoria Beardmore, and Vice Chair, Rosie Pountney, for another term.

We would like to welcome our new co-opted governors, Professor Sam Johnson and Joseph Fish to the board. Sam has previously served on the Board of Governors and we are delighted she has returned. Joe brings us fresh insight and a finance perspective to the Board. Their input will be an asset to the school.

This year, we are placing a strong focus on future planning to ensure that Firfield continues to thrive and optimise outcomes for all children. We look forward to updating you on our progress throughout the year. Otherwise, we would like to say a warm welcome to new families joining the school and remind everyone that there is information on the school website about the governing body and what we do.

## DIARY DATES

### OCTOBER 2024

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Parents & Teachers Association AGM

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am New Parent Tour

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> - Phonics Workshop for Parents (4pm)

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - Individual and Sibling Photos

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Book Evening

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> - 1:30pm New Parent Tour

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 Egyptian Partake

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Travel Smart Week

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - 4:30pm New Parent Tour

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Parents' Evening

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> - Parents' Evening

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of Term

### NOVEMBER 2024

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – INSET Day

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Children Return to School

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – PTA Committee Meeting

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 London Trip

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Children in Need

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Canaan Trust Food Bank

## INSET DAYS

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025