

## November 2024 Newsletter

### Message from Mr Yellop

Thank you to all the parents that attended Parents' Evening in the last week before half term. It was also great to gather some of the views from our parents, so thank you for everyone who managed to complete a questionnaire on one of the evenings. This was an opportunity to repeat the questionnaire completed in February 2023. We will share a more detailed analysis of the school website. Here are a few of the headlines from the survey (out of 180 responses).

94% of parents agreed that their child is **happy** in school, compared to 91% in 2023.

98% of parents agreed that their children **felt safe** at school, compared to 94% in 2023.

94% of parents agreed that **behaviour at Firfield is good** (2.3% didn't know), compared to 90% in 2023.

All these responses are well above the national average for the Parent View Ofsted questionnaire. Thank you for your continued support in helping develop a culture and ethos where our children can flourish and thrive.

### Anti-Bullying Week / Odd Socks Day

A reminder that next week Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> is our Anti-Bullying Week and we are supporting the Anti-Bullying Alliance with their mission. The theme this year is '**Choose Respect**', a theme that empowers everyone to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. On **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>** we invite adults and children to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

### Children in Need

A reminder that on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding a fundraising day to support Children in Need. This year, the theme is 'Challenge Yourself!' We are inviting children to donate £1 to come into school dressed in an outfit of their choice. Year 5 and 6 will run stalls in the afternoon. Remember children can bring up to £3 to spend on the day (in a named wallet, purse or envelope).



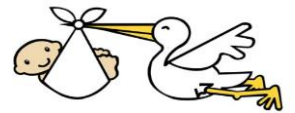
### The Big Sing

Congratulations to children from Glee Club that were involved in 'The Big Sing' at Trent College on Tuesday. You were excellent role models and made the school proud with your efforts. Thank you to all the parents that supported the event, we hope you enjoyed the evening performance and the amazing singing. Also, a big thank you to Mr Surrridge for helping to organise the event.



### Baby News

We are delighted to share the news that both Mrs Walsh and Miss Butler, who are currently on maternity leave, have given birth and are enjoying time as a family. Firstly, we welcome Elodie Walsh born on 15<sup>th</sup> October and secondly Finley Butler born on 30<sup>th</sup> September.



### School Christmas Dinner



Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December this year. If your child would like one, please order via ParentPay in advance so that the catering team can order enough food to cater for everyone. We also invite children to wear their Christmas jumpers again on this day (The main Christmas Jumper Day is 12<sup>th</sup> December).

### Christmas Panto

We are looking forward to taking our children in Year 2 and Year 4 to the Cinderella Pantomime at Derby Arena on 13<sup>th</sup> December. We are leaving school after lunch and will be back at school for 4.15pm.

## Christmas Performances

We are looking forward to inviting parents to watch the children in their Christmas Performances. This year's performance in KS1 is *Gnome Alone* and *Snuggle Up Stable* in EYFS. The performance dates can be found to the below. (Ticket details to follow next week)

Further details regarding the KS2 Christmas Carol service to follow.

## PTA



We are organising our amazing Christmas Fair for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 4.30pm - 6.30pm. There will be Stories with Santa, market stalls to buy Christmas gifts, games, refreshments and lots of festive family fun.

To help us keep expenses down, we would really love any donations of the following which can be left in the donation bin outside school reception door:

- Unused gifts for adults and children
- Alcohol
- Party bag type toys in good condition (pens, pencils, slap bands, balls etc)
- Good condition teddies
- Raffle prizes

We will also be having a cake stall so we welcome any baked goods which can be left at school on the Friday.

If your Company offers matched funding for charities, then we would be really pleased to hear from you, just contact the school office with your details. A previous Christmas fair raised an extra £500 via matched funding.

If you would like to get involved and join in the fun running a stall for us, then please contact us via our Facebook page or the school office.

Thank you, The PTA.

## Delivery and Collection Policy

A reminder to all parents and carers that whilst the school gates open at 8.45am, **we ask adults to stay with the children until the whistle goes at 8.55am** to ensure children are supervised at all times. When the whistle goes and children line up in their classes then the teachers will take over that responsibility. Any children who arrive **after 9.05am will need to go to the office** as the register will have already been taken and this will go down as a 'Late' mark. **At 9.05am the gates on Sawley Road will be locked followed by the main gates.** We also ask that any **Year 6 children** who are permitted to walk to school without a parent **do not arrive before 8.45am.**

In the afternoon the gates will be opened at 3.25pm. We ask that they are picked up only by a parent or responsible adult. **Only siblings 14 years and older** are also permitted to pick up younger siblings. Children are only allowed to walk home alone in the **summer term for Year 5** (after completing a consent form) **and in Year 6.**

Parents / carers must inform their child's class teacher or school office if there is a change to the collection arrangements for a child on any certain day to ensure the class teacher has the necessary information. Please contact the school office directly if there is a change during the day to collection arrangements rather than via class email / Class Dojo as these messages may not be read during the day. Click on the QR code below for the full policy.



## Trim Trail and Tyres

We ask that children, including younger siblings, do not use these facilities at pickup and drop off times as they are not supervised by a member of school staff.

## Reading Lodge

A huge thank you to our PTA for paying for and to Peacocks for installing the vinyl's in our Reading Lodge. The Reading Lodge is now fully completed, it looks great and is a fantastic addition to our school.

## New Crossing Patrol



We would like to inform you that we have a new crossing patrol lady starting this month on Sawley Road. Thank you for your patience with this over the last few months.

## Diary Dates

### NOVEMBER 2024

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> - School Council Remembrance**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Anti-Bullying Week**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Odd Socks Day**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> - Children in Need**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Canaan Trust Food Bank**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> - Year 3 Trip to Cresswell Craggs**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> - Year 1 Trip to Twycross**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - PTA Non- Uniform Day-  
(A donation of Chocolates/Sweets for the  
Christmas Fair)**

### DECEMBER 2024

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Year 2 local visit to Church**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - EYFS Performance (am)**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - KS1 Performance (pm)**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - KS1 Performance (am)**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Jumper Day**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - Year 2/4 Christmas Panto**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - PTA Christmas Fair**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Craft Day**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> - KS2 Carols at Church**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Dinner and  
Christmas Jumpers**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of Term**