

December 2024 Newsletter

Message from Mr Yellop

We come to the end of another busy year and look forward to a number of festive events. We have our EYFS and KS1 performances to enjoy, the PTA Christmas fair, carols at the church for KS2, Christmas dinner, year 2 and 4 going to the Panto and our Christmas craft afternoon. Hopefully this will get everyone into the festive spirit and end 2024 with a bang!



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

Fantastic Phonics

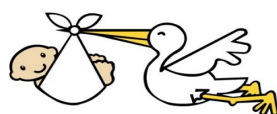


Last week we were joined by Ben Wray our school improvement partner from Derbyshire County Council looking at phonics and early reading in Early Years and Year 1. This was an area for further improvement at our last Ofsted

review in March 2023. The school improvement partner highlighted lots of strengths from his visit and report such as 'Phonics is well organised and taught to a high standard' and 'There is a clear ambition for all pupils in the school to develop a love for reading and that it begins with the phonics programme.' A massive thank you to Mrs Tolson and the team for all their hard work in promoting phonics and early reading.

Baby News

We are delighted to share further baby news with everyone. Congratulations to Mr Barnley and his partner on the birth of their baby girl Riven.



Goodbye Mrs Peach

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Mrs Peach who has been a parent, part of the Catering Team and School Business Assistant for many years at Firfield. We will miss her loads and hope she has a well-earned rest. We give a warm welcome to Mrs Limb, who will be joining the office team over the coming weeks and into the new year.

School Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday 18th 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 12th 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 13th December. We are leaving school after lunch and will be back at school for 4.15pm.



Christmas Performances

A reminder about our upcoming Christmas Performances, we are looking forward to putting on a couple of fantastic shows. This year's performance in KS1 is *Gnome Alone!* on Wednesday 11th December (pm) and Thursday 12th December (am). Our EYFS performance of *Snuggle up!* is on Wednesday 11th December in the morning. Hopefully you managed to reserve your ticket for the performances.

Key Stage 2 Christmas Carols

We also look forward to seeing parents and carers of children in Key Stage 2 at our Christmas Carol at St Michael's Church on Wednesday 18th December.

Year 3 - 9:30 - 10:15

Year 4 - 10:45 - 11:30

Year 5 - 13:15 - 14:00

Year 6 - 14:15 - 15:00

Children in Need

A huge thank you to Mrs Shepherd and the Year 5/6 children who organised and prepared an excellent Children in Need Day last month. We raised an amazing £1646.37 the highest total we have ever raised! Well Done to everyone.



PTA Christmas Fair

Remember to join us for our annual PTA Christmas Fair on Friday 13th 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.



Amazing Attendance

Thank you to all our parents who have supported our drive for excellent attendance. The Department for Education now track and compare attendance data from all schools. We are currently at 96.4% which is 0.6% higher than autumn term last year which is great. As always at this time of year we have had a number of colds and viruses effecting both pupils and staff. A few weeks ago we were at 97% and in the top 10% of schools in the country, a fantastic achievement. 'Every second counts' and great attendance ensures that children get the best learning possible.

Please ensure that your child is in school on time for the start of the school day at 8:55am. This is often when phonics, grammar, spellings and maths skills are taught - missing learning in these sessions has a massive impact on learning across the curriculum. Arriving on time also helps the children to settle for the day and make the best start to their learning.

Also, a polite reminder that you can report your child's absence in the following ways-

- email into enquiries@firfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
- call the school on 01332 872216 option 1 and leave a message
- text the absence line 07546 759537
- report via the school website
- speak to the office when dropping off siblings

Please note that if you fail to report your child's absence before 9.30am, this will be recorded as unauthorised.

Thank you again for your support with attendance.

Crossing Patrol and Relief Catering Assistant Positions

We are still recruiting for our Crossing Patrol on Sawley Road. Please do share with family and friends that there is a vacancy to become Crossing Patrol as the role is very rewarding seeing the children and parents. To apply see the Derbyshire County Council website via

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/schoolcrossingjobs or alternatively you can call 01629 536049 or email school.crossingpatrol@derbyshire.gov.uk.



Derbyshire County Council are also recruiting for Relief Catering Assistants to work at Firfield from time to time and across other schools. Again please do share the vacancy amongst friends and family, the role can be applied for using the below link: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/working-for-us/jobs/catering/catering.aspx>

Diary Dates

DECEMBER 2024

Wednesday 11th - EYFS Performance (am)

Wednesday 11th - KS1 Performance (pm)

Thursday 12th - KS1 Performance (am)

Thursday 12th - Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 13th - Year 2/4 Christmas Panto

Friday 13th - PTA Christmas Fair

Tuesday 17th - Christmas Craft Afternoon

Wednesday 18th - KS2 Carols at Church

Wednesday 18th - Christmas Dinner and

Christmas Jumpers

Friday 20th - Last Day of Term

January 2025



Monday 6th - First Day of Term