

## February 2025 Newsletter

Happy February, hopefully everyone has started the year well and managed to keep some of the New Years resolutions! We have had and have a number of exciting events in school including Mental Health Week, Internet Safety Day, Book and Parent's Evening, Young Voices and a number of sporting events.

We have a number of exciting projects over the next few months including additional spaces created next to the reading lodge (one a similar size to the reading lodge and a slightly larger lodge between the two), refurbishing the new school roof and the installation of solar panels on the KS1 and Reception buildings.

Mr Yellop

### Children's Mental Health Week

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week. Children have been involved in different activities to help improve awareness. This year's theme is called 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' with the aim to encourage children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. Children have been involved in a number of wellbeing activities, including yoga, mindfulness, using outdoor spaces and KS1 and KS2 will end the week watching Inside Out 2.



Use the QR code on the left to access support and resources on the Place2Be website. This includes resources linked to the film watched in school.

If you have any concerns about your child's mental health, please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. We also have our mental health and well-being champions who will be supporting sharing messages with their peers (they wear rainbow lanyards).

### Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. We will be doing lots of activities in school in school around online safety.



### Swimming at Firfield

A reminder that Year 5's last swimming session will be Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and Year 3 swimming will commence on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, the first Tuesday back after February half term. Further details will be sent out shortly.



### Sporting Events

We have competed in a number of events since the start of the year, coming second in the Year 5/6 Erewash Sports Hall Athletics Competition (out of nine schools). In the Year 3/4 event we came a very respectable 4<sup>th</sup> place. Well done to Ellie in Year 6 who came 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Derbyshire under 11's cross country championship.

We have had a few parents asking about selection for different sporting events and whilst we want to have a high participation in extra-curricular clubs and activities, we are also proud of our achievements in sporting events against other schools in the county and where possible want to enter events with our strongest teams. Selection for these events is sometimes really difficult to narrow down and Mrs Smith does an amazing job promoting sport at Firfield.

### Young Voices

Well done to all the children and a huge thank you to all the staff who attended the Young Voices concert in Sheffield at the start of the month. You were amazing and did the school proud!



### Building work

After many months of planning, we are delighted to share the building work for the new school roof on the old school building will take place after half-term until the second week in May to ensure there is no interference with SATs. Over February half-term the team will be erecting scaffolding in preparation to stripping the old roof and replacing with a new one. We ask parents to be extra vigilant at drop-off and pick up times to ensure that pupil do not enter restricted areas around the old school building. During this time the area around the back of the school including John's Garden will be out of bounds. Safeguarding during this work is our number one priority and we are working hard to ensure any building will have a minimal impact on pupils learning.



### Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended Book Evening this week and we look forward to Parents' Evening next week. We remind parents that we always have the children at the heart of everything we do and look to promote respect and kindness and ask that parents also share these values in discussions with staff.

### Parents and Teachers Association

A huge thank you to all parents (and other family members) who have registered on the Asda's Cashpot for Schools. This has raised an amazing £803.80 for the school PTA.

The PTA are looking to purchase new iPads for the school this year so please help us raise as much money as possible by supporting at events. Next half term we will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Disco, more details to follow.

### Governor Content for Newsletter

Hello, and a very belated Happy New Year from the Firfield Governing Body.

We had a productive Autumn Term; in our Curriculum meeting we discussed attainment and how pupil outcomes across the school are strong. Our literacy coordinator shared the provision for phonics and reading following the phonics meeting with parents earlier in the term and we focussed on writing being a priority for this year and the benefits of breaking pupil's learning on writing into small steps.

Governors attended a School Improvement Partner (SIP) visit for Phonics. It was wonderful to hear the positive feedback from the SIP about our phonics progress and a privilege to hear some wonderful reading from Reception children.

In the resource meeting we focussed on ensuring there is adequate provision for break out spaces across the school, something we recognise as being important for staff and pupils alike.

In our December "Full Governing Body" meeting we reviewed and updated policies and governors have held Link visits for Literacy and SEN and Finance. We'd like to wish you a happy and safe half-term – it seems like Christmas was only days ago!



## **FEBRUARY 2025**

<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Children's Mental Health Week</b>
<b>Wed 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Book Evening for Parents</b>
<b>Mon 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 6 WW2 Trip</b>
<b>Tues 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Safer Internet Day</b>
<b>Tues 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Parents' Evening</b>
<b>Tues 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Last Year 5 swimming</b>
<b>Thurs 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Parents' Evening</b>
<b>Fri 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM</b>
<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Back to school</b>
<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 3 swimming starts</b>

## **March 2025**

<b>Thurs 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>World Book Day</b>
<b>Tues 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 4 Residential</b>
<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 4 Residential</b>
<b>Thurs 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>French Day</b>
<b>Fri 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Comic Relief</b>
<b>Fri 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PTA Disco (EYFS - 2:30pm, KS1 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm, Y3/Y4 5pm to 6pm, Y5/Y6 6:30pm to 7:30pm)</b>

## **INSET DAYS 2025**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 (polling day)**

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

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

## **NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR INSET DAYS 25/26**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (polling day)**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**