



Firfield Primary School

Learn Together, Grow Together, Achieve Together

January Newsletter 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Book Evening**
February 4, 2026 (3.30 - 5.00pm)
At the start of February we invite parents and carers into school to share the fantastic work the children have been producing.
- * **Parents' Evening**
February 10 and 12, 2026
We look forward to seeing all parents and carers at our second Parents' Evening of the year.
- * **Young Voices**
February 11, 2026
Glee Club show off their talents at the Young Voices concert at the Sheffield Arena.



Retirement of our caretaker

We say a sad farewell as we wish Kevan Kirk all the best in his retirement and thank him for his dedication to the school. Without his fixing skills the school wouldn't be in the great condition that it is.



We welcome Emma Parker who will be joining us in a couple of weeks. She will be working in the Early Years team as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant



Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back to school everyone and a very happy New Year to you all. I hope the break brought rest, fun, and plenty of time with family and friends. As we begin this new term, there is a real sense of excitement across the school.

A new year always brings fresh opportunities and we are eager to build on the wonderful achievements of last term.

As a school, we continue to focus on our writing journey, working towards publishing high-quality texts created by the children. We want writing to be fun, engaging, and inspiring, giving pupils the chance to explore a wide range of genres and develop confidence in their own voices.

This year, the DfE and the National Literacy Trust have launched the National Year of Reading—an initiative designed to address the decline in reading among children, young people, and adults. It will be a nationwide celebration of reading for pleasure, encouraging schools, families, libraries and communities to get involved and rediscover the joy of books. At Firfield, we will continue to champion the importance of reading as it opens the door to so many opportunities.

We are also looking forward to building on the excellent behaviour shown last term and will continue to promote high expectations for all our children. It promises to be an exciting journey ahead.

Mr Yellop

Fantastic Opportunities

Residential Trips

We are busy planning our residential trips for the Spring and Summer Term.

Year 4 Castleton Trip

On the 10th March Year 4 set off on their residential trip to Castleton Youth Hostel to enjoy two days of learning as they travel back in time, immersing themselves in Roman life as part of their history curriculum. It will be a fun-filled adventure where the children have a Roman battle, make and build different artifacts and enjoy the beautiful countryside in the Derbyshire Dales.

Year 6 Whitehall Trip

Year 6 look forward to their trip to The White Hall Centre just outside Buxton. The children will be involved in a range of educational, challenging and adventure activities. In the past this has included paddleboarding, abseiling, indoor climbing wall, zip wire, rock scrambling, night hike and other activities within the centre's grounds. It is an amazing 3-day, adrenaline-filled residential that the children will remember forever!



Music Opportunities

At Firfield we value the creative arts. In February Glee Club are performing at the Sheffield Arena sharing their musical talents that we get to enjoy throughout the year (including their super performance at the Christmas Fair). A huge thank you to Mrs Tolson for providing this opportunity and her dedication to running Glee Club each week.

We continue to offer a range of instrument lessons in addition to our music curriculum and applaud all the peripatetic music teachers for the support in developing the musical talents of our children. More recently we have added Rocking Robins drumming lessons and IRock tuition.

This term we are hoping to offer violin lessons (to pupils in Key Stage 2). We will send out additional information if your child is interested in learning to play this instrument.



National Statutory Test

As we move into the spring and summer terms, several national statutory assessments will take place across primary schools. These include the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, which assesses children's developing phonics knowledge and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, designed to ensure pupils have quick recall of their times tables. Our Year 6 children will also be preparing for their end-of-key-stage SATs, which provide a snapshot of their attainment and progress in reading, writing, and mathematics.

We will not be completing the optional Year 2 SATs this year, as these assessments are no longer part of the statutory requirements for schools. We feel that we can gather enough information in regard to end of year expectations during our termly assessment windows.

Over the coming months, teachers will continue to support pupils through high-quality teaching and gentle preparation, ensuring they feel confident and ready. We will share further information closer to each assessment window, but please be assured that our focus remains on helping every child do their best while keeping their wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.

Last year our Year 6 pupils worked extremely hard to ensure that 60% reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths - above the average for Derbyshire schools. The percentage of pupils reaching the higher standard was 14%, almost double the national and county average of 8%. Well done to everyone involved.

Firfield PTA – Amazing Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to the Parents and Teachers Association for an fantastic Christmas Fair. The support at this event from our families was amazing. We were delighted with how much we raised at the Fair, a brilliant £3768!

We look forward to lots of exciting events in 2026 and raising more money to enhance resources and activities for the pupils at Firfield.



Focus on Safeguarding

Adverse Weather Conditions

A huge thank you to all our staff for battling the elements to ensure the school could open last Friday, following the impact of Storm Goretta and the disruption caused by the snow. A special thank you goes to Richard, our caretaker, and to Mr Thurgood for clearing the paths and making sure the site was safe for everyone.

We would also like to thank all parents and carers for braving the slippery conditions and ensuring that the children arrived safely.

Closing the school is always a last resort and we would only do so if we were unable to open safely for safeguarding reasons. This decision is influenced not only by the weather in Breaston but also by conditions across the wider region, as many of our staff travel from outside the area. We always aim to inform parents by 7am if a closure is necessary.

Smart Watches

A reminder – To help keep all children safe and focused in school, we’d like to remind families that smart watches are not permitted on site. These devices can take photos, access the internet and easily become a distraction during learning time. We kindly ask parents to ensure these remain at home. Thank you for your support in maintaining a safe and calm learning environment.

Dates for the Diary



February 2026

- Wednesday 4th – Book Evening
- Monday 9th – Year 6 Beaumanor Trip
- Tuesday 10th – Safer Internet Day
- Tuesday 10th – Parents’ Evening
- Tuesday 10th – Year 6 Author Visit
- Wednesday 11th – Young Voices (Glee Club)
- Thursday 12th – Parents’ Evening
- Thursday 12th – Year 1 – Animal Experience
- Friday 13th – Cross Country Event
- Friday 13th – Last Day of Term
- Monday 23rd – INSET Day (School Closed to Pupils)

Sports Clubs this Half-term

Day	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Oak Table Tennis YR6 Leaders – Birch Games	Year 3& 4 Gymnastics
Tuesday	Willow Table Tennis Playground Aerobics – All years	
Wednesday	Chestnut Table Tennis	
Thursday	Redwood Table Tennis YR5 Leaders – Elm Games	

INSET Days

- Thursday 4th September 2025
- Friday 5th September 2025
- Monday 23rd February 2026
- Thursday 7th May 2026
- Monday 1st June 2026

Friday 4th September 2026



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