



September Newsletter 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Year 5 Swimming Starts**
September 15, 2026
Year 5 start swimming lessons at Westpark Leisure Centre.
- * **PTA Annual General Meeting**
September 22, 2026
Please join us from 5pm - in the school lodges.
- * **Travelling Books**
September 23, 2025
Travelling books will be in school from Wednesday September 23th until Wednesday 30th.



Welcome to Firfield

We welcome a number of new staff members at Firfield this term.

Miss Harlow joins our Year 5 teaching team as Redwood Class Teacher.

Mr Spencer joins us as caretaker who will be in school all day on Monday and Tuesday as well as Wednesday morning. Mr Bennett will continue to work the second half of the week. We welcome Terina to the cleaning team.

Finally we have a new crossing patrol person on Wilsthorpe Road, we welcome Rose to the Firfield Team



Message from the Headteacher

A warm welcome back to all our pupils and to those joining our Firfield family. We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are feeling ready for the new term. This week, the children and staff have been busy revisiting our behaviour curriculum and sharing our Ready, Respectful, Safe expectations.

Everyone has returned focused and eager to be positive role models. We have also been exploring our four school values of being **kind, honest, resilient, and inclusive**. Alongside our existing awards, we are now celebrating children who demonstrate these values in our weekly celebration assembly, so keep an eye out for our new values certificates.

We continue to use Dojo points, star of the week awards, reading tokens and hot chocolate nominations, so there are lots of opportunities for children to be recognised for their efforts and good behaviour. A reminder that Hot Chocolate Friday nominations are for showing outstanding behaviour over a sustained period of time, and not every child will receive this each year.

You may also have noticed our new shelter in the quiet area – a fantastic addition to our playground. A huge thank you to Balfour Beatty and Stackright for this generous donation and for all the work involved in getting it ready for the new term.

Mr Yellop

Amazing Outcomes

We are delighted with our outcomes at the end of last year, here are a few of the highlights:

- 80% of children in Early Years reached a 'Good Level of Development'. This means a child has met the expected level in the prime areas (well above 72%, the national average).
- 58% of pupils in Year 4 achieved full marks (national average was 44%).

In Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6) were achieved the following:

- Reading 88% reached the expected level (NA 75%)
- Maths 90% reached the expected level (NA 75%)
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (NA 74%)

The school continues to focus on writing as a priority area.

- Writing at Year 6 - 63% reached the expected level (NA 72%)
- Phonics at Year 1 - 78% reached the phonics threshold (NA 82%)

Focus on literacy

Writing at Firfield

A couple of years ago we started developing our writing curriculum which splits the writing process into the following five areas. More details can be found on the school website.

- Explore
- Plan
- Draft
- Edit
- Publish



More details can be found on the QR code above.

Reading at Firfield

At Firfield we see regular reading as a vital skill that opens so many doors not only to the full curriculum but in all areas of life. Alongside our Essential Letters and Sounds Phonics Programme (In EYFS and Year 1) we encourage parents to listen to their child read at least 4 times a week if possible.



We have the travelling book fair for a week from Wednesday September 23th until Wednesday September 30th. In November we have the Book Bus in school. Finally we have Scholastic Books in February / March to support World Book Day. We also encourage reading by using our book vending machine. Children can earn tokens for showing good reading habits.

Attendance



Regular attendance is vital for children's learning, progress and wellbeing. Every day in school provides valuable opportunities that cannot be replaced.

We are proud that our school attendance is 96.1%, well above the national average of 94.7%. Thank you to all our families for supporting excellent attendance.

Please remember that term-time holidays will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances, in line with government guidance. We ask families to plan holidays during school holiday periods wherever possible.

Parents/carers should contact the school on the first day of their child's absence (as early as possible preferably by 9.30am at the latest). The school will start to contact parents and carers if no contact has been made.

This can be done through the following-

- Text message: 07340 612803
- Phone school main number and leave a message.
- School website (use QR Code)



Together, we can ensure every child has the best opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Parents and Teachers Association

On Monday September 21st, there will be a PTA Annual General Meeting held at Firfield Primary School (in the middle lodge) from 5pm. If you are in joining our PTA, supporting as a volunteer or want to have more understanding of what the PTA do, please come along (everyone is very welcome).

Safeguarding

A reminder that the school safeguarding team is Mr Yellop, Mr Thurgood, Miss Tittershill and Mrs Shepherd. If children or parents have a safeguarding concern they should speak to a member of the safeguarding team. During school holidays parents can report a concern to the safeguarding team at Derbyshire (Starting Point - 01629 533190) or email safeguarding@firfield.derbyshire.sch.uk.



Staff Car Park

A reminder that any parents / carers using the school staff car park for WRAP drop off and pick up can only use the six spaces nearest to the school. Please remember to reverse into the spaces (If these spaces are full, please park outside the school gate.) We ask that parents and carers are respectful at all times and drive careful at all times.

The car park is not to be used for drop off / pick up between the hours of 8:30am - 4pm.

If parents and carers can not respect these rules then we will have no alternative but to ban parking in the staff car park altogether.

School Trim Trail

A final reminder that the use of the school trim trail is only allowed during the day when supervised by a member of school staff. Please could all parents and carers ensure that children do not use the equipment during drop off and collection. This forms part of our school risk assessment and insurance.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.



Dates for the Diary



September 2026

Tuesday 15th	Year 5 Swimming Starts
Thursday 17th	Friesland School (Open Evening)
Monday 22nd	PTA Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 23rd	Travelling Books (until 20th)
Thursday 24th	Wilsthorpe School (Open Evening)
Tuesday 29th	Long Eaton School (Open Evening)

October 2026

Wednesday 14th	Book Evening
Tuesday 20th	Parents' Evening
Thursday 22nd	Parents' Evening
Thursday 22nd	Individual Photos
Friday 24th	Last Day of Term

INSET Days

Friday 4th September 2026
 Monday 4th January 2026
 Thursday 6th May 2027
 Monday 7th June 2027
 Monday 26th July 2027



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