



Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 8
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2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see the children come back in on Monday so excited to see their friends and teachers and back into their learning in a settled way. We are very proud of them. This week in the classroom there has continued to be an emphasis on wellbeing, reconnecting and also assessment to see where everyone is.

I have visited every class and spoken with the children and the overwhelming feeling from them was that they were delighted to be back and to see their teachers and friends. The most important thing over the next few weeks is to allow the children time to reconnect and redevelop routines. It is important that they can socialise with their friends in school and that our younger pupils continue to develop their communication and language skills, this will be a school priority for Fir Tree

Teachers have also reported that the children have really enjoyed their first few weeks back. They were keen to settle down to their work and have established good working routines – long may this continue!

I sincerely hope that this will now be how we can operate and that any further lockdowns will be avoided. I'm sure that there will be bumps in the road and we may have identified cases in school that we have to deal with, but we will do everything we can to make sure the rest of the year is as smooth as possible for our pupils.

Thank you to all you parents and carers for being so understanding at drop off and pick up times this week. Just like in September, it took a while to get used to our new normal and everything we have put in place is to keep everyone safe. By the end of this week, everything is running a lot smoother and people are coming at

their exact times which stops crowding. We will be contacting some families about punctuality early next, children have already missed out on lots of time at school and just by being 10 or more minutes later each day and adding that up over a week has a huge impact.

We will be re-starting our school clubs in the summer term. Please give this your full support and encourage your children to take part. The extra-curricular offer is hugely important to our school and to the offer we provide for your children. I can confirm that all clubs will be following the relevant guidelines to be as safe as possible. We will be organising all our clubs in year groups so that children across different year groups do not mix with each other, so please do keep an eye out for more information coming your way shortly.

It seems strange to think that next week is the penultimate week of term before the Easter Holidays, especially as we have just got started!

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Regards,

Lindsay Wood

Headteacher



With the lovely weather ahead of us we are looking to improve the outdoors at school. We have lots of tyres and boots outside to plant and to brighten up the school grounds, not to mention the front of school. We would be incredibly grateful for any donations of unwanted gardening equipment that the children could use or any plants. Please do contact Mrs Smith if you are able to help!

I am also delighted to tell you that we have been granted an extension to our application to the Good Exchange to improve our outdoors has been extended until July 2021. We still have over £1000 to go! Please visit our project at the following link: <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/17485/fir-tree-school/improving-the-outdoors-for-all> The PTA are working behind the scenes to arrange fund raising for this, but we welcome any donations to the project as will impact all the pupils at Fir Tree.

We are also looking for donations of plastic bottle tops too for an Art Project for the front of the school, so before you pop in your recycling boxes, please give them a rinse and send into school!

Diary Dates

Please note that our online calendar on the school website is updated regularly.

Tuesday 1st April

End of Term 4
(finish normal times)

Monday 19th April

Start of Term 5

Tuesday 17th April

Class Photos

Monday 3rd May

Bank holiday— school closed

Friday 28th May

Children last day of summer 1 term

w/c 31st May

week off for half term

Monday 7th June

Start of Term 6

Wednesday 21st July

End of term 6

Teacher Training Days

Friday 25th June 2021

National Assessments

You may be aware that due to further disruption this academic year, all the various national assessments that the children across the school are required to sit each year have been cancelled due to COVID 19. I can confirm that following will not take place this academic year.

- Year 6 SATs
- Year 2 SATs
- Year 4 Multiplication Test Check
- Year 1 Phonics Screening
- EYFS Profile



Although there are no national assessments, we will still be assessing pupils internally to ensure that gaps are ascertained and that pupils are fully prepared for their next steps in learning and schooling.



Today saw the focus on Comic Relief and in particular making others smile and spreading some cheer. At Fir Tree as you know, each class identified their class superpower and challenged it to

the mathe max today! I have to say there are some very strong strong talents across the school. We raised a fantastic £. As always thank you for your contributions and for encouraging the children to take part –here and at the end of the letter are a few snapshots of the day for you!!!



Wellbeing top tip of the week

Making someone smile can be one of the best gifts we can give.

How many people can you make smile today?



Thank you to everyone who completed our return to school/wellbeing survey. This was really well received and returned. In school we are working through your comments and observations to ensure that your child/ren are supported. Please remember that you can still contact class teachers via email if you ever have any questions or concerns.



As we have mentioned we are settling back in to school, and recovery will take some time. A whole school focus for us at Fir Tree in **ORACY**. It is through talk that children have the opportunity to develop and share their understanding, through interactions with families, teachers and peers. Oracy helps support children to build successful relationships, talk through issues, express feelings and resolve conflicts. Taking the time to talk to your children and playing games with them regularly will support them with this a long with:

- developing their speech and their language
- enabling them to listen, learn and progress
- making them feel supported and lessen anxiety
- identifying any barriers or concerns



The Children's Wellbeing Service are aware that many parents have struggled with their child's sleep during lockdown and still are, they have produced four videos all about how parents can support their children to get a better night's sleep. The videos are all relatively short (between 7 and 12 mins long), and

are all live on YouTube – links below.

Parts 1 – 3 are directed for the parents of primary school aged children and Part 4 is about supporting adolescents with sleep.

- Part 1 link - <https://youtu.be/Xm3-tMDymtA>
- Part 2 link - https://youtu.be/_itInFlxqU
- Part 3 link - <https://youtu.be/9U8SCH1272w>
- Part 4 link - <https://youtu.be/OKJNTNuoJ0>



Every week children come and see me to share their fantastic work or to tell me how hard they have worked, they are then written into my **Golden Book** and we celebrate them in our Friday Assembly. As you may be missing Friday assemblies now and because we can still not have termly Headteacher Tea Parties – we thought it would be nice to share with you the weekly **Golden Book Winners**.

This Week:

Year	Name	For
5	Ryan	Super Maths work with Fractions
4	Lola	An amazing 'River' poem
6	Jack S	Superb engagement and comprehension learning about Pompeii
5	Gabriel	Outstanding descriptive writing
6	Maisie F	Being incredibly resilient
2	Leanne-Marie Rosie	Making wonderful finger puppets in DT
2	Eva	Reading to her peers beautifully in Arabic (it was in her school reading book)
6	Holly Tushar Sai Kristijan Franek	Writing very detailed balanced arguments about the use of technology with superb vocabulary.

A huge well done to all these children and look forward to seeing an celebrating more children next week!!!



Thank you for supporting Fir Tree on Red Nose Day!