



Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 12
8th March
2019

Dear Parents,

Term 4 is well underway at Fir Tree. The new playground signs have arrived and Mr Kavanagh has started to put them up for the children. The KS2 Adventure area has been rebarked and we are awaiting delivery of our new playground toys and 'buddy benches' so we shall keep you posted.

Thank you to everyone for their efforts with World Book Day – the children looked brilliant and it was so hard to choose the best costumes. Throughout the day each class turned their classroom door into a book cover and they were fab as you can see in some of the pictures below. A huge thank you to those of you that visited the book fair and to Mrs Purcell and staff who ran it after school – remember book tokens can still be used up until 31st March!



Next week will be Parents Evenings; as always there will be an opportunity for you to look at your child's books and discuss their progress and next steps. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Finally, I just wanted to give a gentle reminder about punctuality and attendance. Arriving after 8:50 does have an impact on the school day and learning for your child. It is imperative that they arrive at school on time and that lessons start promptly but also they start the day well – I am conscious that some pupils are arriving later and later. Equally illness is something that cannot be helped, but regular poor attendance can also affect children's learning with gaps forming where they have missed lessons. I hope that you will support the staff and I with this.

As always thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact myself or a member of the Fir Tree Team if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Lindsay Wood

Headteacher

On Thursday 28th February We had our 'Move with Buddy' Day at Fir Tree. Mr Nobes organized a super Danceathlon for all the children and staff to take part in throughout the day and continue to promote the awareness of preventing abuse of children and helping those affected to recover.



Thank you to all the pupils and parents for your sponsorship – we raised a fantastic £498.10 and this was celebrated in our special assembly with Elizabeth from the NSPCC today.

Work has already started on our visual display/charter for the children in the school hall that was designed by both Joey (year 6) and Noor (year 2)- we will show you a picture of the finished display once complete.

Thanks as always with your support with this.



On the 18th March we are really lucky to have the Blue Cross coming in to speak to the children. The Blue Cross Education Team teach young people about pet welfare, staying safe around dogs and responsible pet ownership from an early age to encourage behaviour change across a generation. In reaching as many children and teenagers as possible, they can improve the lives of both future pets and their owners, and stamp out cases of animal cruelty and neglect in the process.

Diary Dates

Monday 11th March
Royal Albert Hall Trip

Monday 11th March/Wednesday 13th March 2019
Parents Evenings

Thursday 14th March
Year 4 Class Assembly– 2:15 onwards

Friday 15th March
Comic Relief – Wear red to school day

Monday 18th March
Blue Cross Assembly

Wednesday 27th March
Year 1 Class Assembly

PTA Meeting 3:30pm

Wednesday 24th April
SEN Coffee Morning – 9am

KS1 and KS2 SATS Evenings
(More details to follow)

Wednesday 1st May 2019
Year 1 Phonics Evening
(More details to follow)

Teacher Training Days

Thursday 4th April 2019 – pupils finish at 12pm (Training for staff in the afternoon)

Friday 5th April 2019

Friday 28th June 2019



This Tuesday the PTA met after school to discuss our future events to raise funds for the school. There was much discussion about improving the outdoors, if you have any ideas do let us know. The PTA will be setting a '**Copper Challenge**' to every class next week. Each class will be given a jar and they will have to the end of term to collect as many 1p and 2ps as possible! The winning class will each receive an Easter Egg.

Staying with the theme of Easter, the PTA will be setting an optional Easter Holidays homework – they would like you to decorate an egg (hard boiled) for £1 – the more creative the better! There will be prizes for the best creations – then on our return we will racing the eggs one evening after school down the bank of the field to see whose is the fastest!!!

The PTA will be meeting on the 27th March to start planning for the Summer Fete (Saturday 6th July) at 3:30pm, crèche provided – we would love to see you there!

Diary Dates

Class assemblies begin this term. Assemblies will take place on a Wednesday and will begin at 2:30pm. You will be able to come into the school hall from 2:15pm. We look forward to sharing with you all the hard work and learning that is going on in every class.

Class Assemblies Dates:

14th March Year 4

27th March Year 1

23rd April Year 5

1st May Year R

19th June Year 3

3rd July Year 2

9th July Year 6 (Production)



As mentioned in the previous newsletter. If you would like to meet with Mrs Pearse regarding your child or need her help to support the needs of your child or to work with external agencies she will be available for appointments on Wednesday mornings. These can be booked via the school office. Mrs Pearse will also be holding coffee mornings for you to come in and chat on: **24th April, 5th June and 10th July**.



In exchange for £1, children are invited to wear something **RED** in support of Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March. If any KS2 pupils would be interested in helping to raise any more money please pop and see me.

Our value of the month for March is

Responsibility

What is Responsibility?

1. Being responsible for a job or person/people.
2. Taking care of things at school or home.
3. Helping others when they need help.
4. Being someone a person can rely on.

Suggestions for parents to work with children at home:

1. As a parent, what is your job? What are you responsible for at home and/or in the workplace? How do you feel when you do a good job?
2. Think about when you were little and started to do things. What made you feel proud of yourself? What attitude is most productive in helping children take pride in their achievements?
3. Allow your children to help you with easy household chores. Have fun showing them how to do things.
4. Set aside 20 minutes when everyone helps 'make our house shine'. Allow them to help with preparing food in the kitchen, wipe something down, sweep, set the table etc. Make sure you assign something at which they will be successful. Note what they are doing and praise them for being so helpful and such a good helper. Notice when your child is being fair and affirm that positive action. Notice when your child is making an effort at a new self-care skill and praise him or her. At times this requires allowing them to do something alone and prompting and praising, rather than more quickly doing it yourself. Verbalise what they did and that they're being responsible, taking care of themselves.

ESafety

As always I think it is helpful to support parents with the growing use of technology with our children. The National Online Safety Website is a fantastic free resource to parents. Its mission is to educate and empower trusted adults with the information they need to engage in meaningful dialogue between children and young people about the online world, their online activities and the ever-evolving risks that they are exposed to. They focus on both general online safety risks and platform specific risks to provide adults with easy to follow information which enables conversations between adults and children. The link below will provide you with many guides related to apps and games that your children use.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>

We have attached some to this newsletter that we hear the children talk about regularly.

