



Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 9
1st April
2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write to you I cannot believe that another term is over! This academic year at Fir Tree seems to be flying. This half term has been a learning curve for us all and we have been impressed by the whole community's resilience and efforts. **This term has continued to be a productive one and I could not be prouder of all the pupils or the staff and all their hard work.** They have seamlessly adapted back into school and have worked so hard.

As we come to the end of another great week at Fir Tree, we have been reflecting on our school values and character skills. These are spoken about everyday across the school; on the playground, in every classroom and within each topic. All the children and staff use this shared language of **GROW** and it feeds in to our high expectations of our whole community.

It's been a busy time in school since our last newsletter and as always we are grateful to you for your support. Each class has undertaken a handwashing session using the ultra violet lighting which was fun. Plus each class has hosted the chicks that we have had in school this term. It has

been lovely to see them hatch and grow and has certainly made it feel like Spring and Easter at Fir Tree.

Next term we have

added to the school calendar **parents meetings**, as you may recall these were postponed this term. Further information will follow when we return.

Thank you to everyone for another successful term; your support with getting everything back to some sense of normality and working together really makes a difference. It has been lovely to have a warm start to the Spring, and it will take us into a much needed Easter holiday period. Hopefully, this will give you and your families a well-deserved rest, and some Covid-19 'roadmap' easements with more opportunities to meet up with family and friends outside, safely.

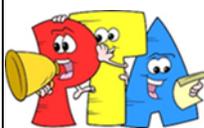
I wish you all the most wonderful Easter Break, enjoy the Spring weather and lots of Easter Eggs and please stay safe!

Regards,

Lindsay Wood

Headteacher

Please may we respectfully remind all parents and carers to practice social distancing when dropping off and collecting children. We have specifically timed each year group bubble to start and end differently to avoid any large groups congregating around the school gates or on the other side of Fir Tree Lane. **Should you arrive early, please stand well clear of the entrances to allow other people to move around within the 2 metre guidelines especially near the road crossing. You are encouraged to wear a mask, and must wear one if invited to come into school. Thank you.**



I am delighted to share with you that the PTA will be holding another **Break the Rules** day at Fir Tree on **Friday 23rd April**. The children are very excited about this, not to mention the sweetie cones too! Attached to this newsletter is a poster about the event. This is to help the school raise money towards our **'Improving the Outdoors'** project as we have only until the end of July to reach our target, so we really hope that you support us with the event. The PTA are also working in the background to arrange some other exciting events and opportunities to not only raise money; but to bring us all together and encourage some fun, all Covid safe of course.



Over Easter, Mrs Smith has set up a **Times Table Battle** on TTRS for Fir Tree – where we are all taking part in a teacher vs student battle! All children and staff at Fir Tree are encouraged to take part in order to see who will be the ultimate champions! There will be prizes for both top scorers of teachers and pupils! Good luck everyone!!!

Diary Dates

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

Monday 19th April
Start of Term 5

Friday 23rd April
Break The Rules Day

Tuesday 27th April
Class Photos

Monday 3rd May
Bank holiday— school closed

Wednesday 26th & Friday 28th May
Parents Meetings

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

This year we have really been trying to expose all our children to a wealth of **vocabulary**. Having a broad vocabulary has huge benefits for children, increasing their confidence as readers, writers and talkers. Try these ideas to boost your child's word power at home!

Play Word Games

Traditional games like Scrabble and Hangman are great for encouraging kids to try out new words or sparking discussions about what words mean. There are also some great 'word finding' games and apps available for use on tablets and phones.

Word of the Day

Have a word of the day. This can be a new word you've discovered or shared, a favourite word of yours, or a word you've randomly picked from a dictionary! Challenge the family to use the word at least once during the day, in context: in other words, they can't just say a sentence with the word in, it has to be part of a conversation or referring to something you've seen or done.

Talk, Talk, Talk

Be a talking family. Plan regular times where the family sits down and talks together. Mealtimes are ideal. Use great vocabulary when you speak to your child. Talk about the things you see around you, what you've done that day or are planning to do tomorrow/next week/on holiday.



You may recall last year that before we closed last March, we mentioned about opening a Healthy School Tuck Shop every Friday breaktime. The PTA have kindly agreed to support with the opening of the tuck shop by buying the initial goods. We still intend to do this during the

summer term, albeit Covid safe. The Tuck Shop will be located in the School Hall at 10:30am and will be run by the Year 6's and Miss Purcell/Mrs Williams. All children will have the opportunity to purchase a healthy snack and/or drink. As it grows we hope to have a weekly, freshly cooked special too! We will keep you updated as to its opening, but hope that you will support this – watch this space!!!

You might wish to speak to your children about **mental health** and how important it is to talk to you about their feelings, no matter how big or small, especially when they are feeling worried about anything. This can include:

- Bullying
- Friends
- Their body
- Puberty
- School life
- Coping with stress

At Fir Tree, we have trained staff that are also always available to listen to your children. You can also tell them about Childline - a freefone number - 0800 11 11. This number does not show up on your phone bill.

Wellbeing top tip of the week

Ask for help

It's important to ask for help when we need it. It can be difficult, but it can also make a world of difference, be brave and ask for help.

Five ways to wellbeing



As you know 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. Here are this week's **Golden Book Winners**.

This Week:

Year	Name	For
5	Caiden	Outstanding descriptive writing about Beowulf
	Connor	
	Ben	
3	Penelope	Super work multiplying in Maths
	Rishi	
	Muhammad	
	Matas	
5	Gabriel	Impressive work adding and subtracting fractions.
	Millie	
4	Harley	Confident work with multiplying
	Deshane	
3	Abdullah	Superb instructions about how to become a Roman Gladiator
	Mohamed	
	Penelope	
	Archie Y	
3	Waseel	Creative instructions for how to build a Roman Road
1	Veronica	Fantastic writing about the Three Billy Goats Gruff
5	Charlie	Outstanding work and understanding within the whole topic of Fractions
	Tejas	
2	Stanley	A huge improvement in their phonics
	Alpha	
4	Daniel	Confident work with division
1	Lenny	Wring brilliant wanted posters for the Troll in the Three Billy Goats Gruff using adjectives
	Jaydon	
	Kai	
	Shaylen	
2	Alpha	Making great progress with his Rainbow Reading
6	Adrian	A super diary entry
5	Gabriel	Wonderful descriptive writing
6	Ghena	Fantastic progress within Reading
	Marouwane	

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

This term Miss Burton has relaunched **School Council** as it is very important that the pupil voice is heard at Fir Tree. They will be meeting regularly to discuss ideas for the school. I am pleased to announce that the following children have been elected to represent their classes this year:



- Emma and Samuel (Year 2)
- Annabelle and Alfie (Year 3)
- Logan and Jannat (Year 4)
- Tejas and Poppy (Year 5)
- Maisy R and Jack S (Year 6)

Have a lovely Easter break -we look forward to seeing you all when we return on Monday 19th April



Note on Covid-19 testing

If your child has been absent from school and isolating awaiting Covid-19 test results, either for themselves or a member of their household or support bubble, please remember to inform the office of the results of the test.

During the Easter break, please email Covid-19 test results to office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org

Please refer to the attached guidance for further information.

**FIR TREE PRIMARY
SCHOOL'S PTA PRESENTS**

**BREAK
THE
RULES**

FRIDAY 23RD APRIL 2021

Rules - 50p-£2.00 **Sweetie cones £1.00**