



# Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 1  
21<sup>st</sup>  
September  
2018

Dear Parents,

It certainly has been full on back in class for our pupils. It has been lovely to walk around the school and into classrooms to see the children engrossed in lessons and working hard. Our 'Golden Goals' which I wrote to you about during our first week back are in full swing.

It has been nice to speak to many of you at the school gate in the mornings and I am gradually getting there with all the children's names too.

Please could I just gently remind you that children should be in school ready to enter their classrooms at 8:50am, there are still some children coming through the gate at that time or afterwards and this does have an impact on the rest of the class because we have set activities as soon as they get into class daily and also the first lesson of the day cannot start promptly.

Today you will also receive a copy of the parent handbook. Being a parent of three children myself being kept informed and aware of expectations from my child's school is paramount. Being able to prepare for the year ahead and having aspects of school life clarified is key – so I do hope that you find this helpful.

The children are showing great resilience at present with some of the changes we have made to lunchtimes and the behaviour system. I recognise likewise for yourselves we are in a transitional period with a new Headteacher; but I know that we all have the common goals of ensuring that your children are safe at school and that they are getting the very best education. I thank you in advance for all your support and working with us.

As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office or speak to myself at the school gate.

Regards,

*Lindsay Wood*

Headteacher

At Fir Tree we know how important it is that children have a healthy, balanced lunch. Please could you ensure that if your child has a packed lunch that it does not contain chocolate, cakes and sweets.



For simple, tasty and healthy tips for hassle-free packed lunches. Find lunchbox recipes and more on Change4Life.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

Also, just a reminder that we are a nut free school, which includes peanut butter, Nutella, cereal bars with nuts etc.



## Homework

This term as a staff we will collectively be reviewing the homework policy at Fir Tree. We will be taking into account your reflections from the questionnaire that we sent out about homework at the end of the last academic year.

The purpose of homework is to consolidate learning within school or to support children with upcoming topics and objectives. It is the ideal opportunity for you to see what your child is learning and what is expected of them.

You may see some changes to homework after half term, but this will be communicated to you in due course.



I have asked the children to not bring in personal footballs from home. Every class has been allocated a class football from Mr. Nobes.

## Diary Dates

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September**  
Individual School Photos

**W/C 1<sup>st</sup> October**  
STEM Week  
(more details to follow separately)

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October**  
Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7pm

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**  
Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7pm

**W/C 5<sup>th</sup> November**  
Inter Faith Week

**W/C 12<sup>th</sup> November**  
Anti Bullying Week

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**Teacher Training Days**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 –**  
pupils finish at 12pm (Training for  
staff in the afternoon)

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – pupils finish**  
at 12pm (Training for staff in the  
afternoon)

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

As some parents are aware Years 3 and 6 commenced swimming lessons this week. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum for PE for Key Stage



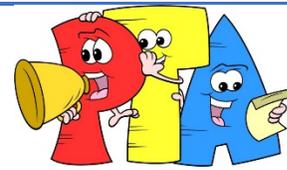
2. I am conscious that the price this year has increased in comparison to previous years and perhaps not communicated to you as to why. The increase is because each class is being taught separately rather than together as two classes, as previously, to ensure that they get the very best teaching and make the best possible progress within their lessons this will be better for children who are less confident but also for those that are ready to be developed further with their swimming too. When not swimming children will be working with a set task at the Centre, so no learning time will be wasted.



Your child may have come home last week and mentioned to you about the new GROW awards at Fir Tree. As a school our vision is to have the 'Freedom to Flourish' as you know. Well to flourish means to grow!!! We have introduced four awards this year which link to GROW.

<b>G - Goals</b>	aspirations, targets
<b>R - Resilience</b>	effort, trying hard, determination, perseverance, doing your best
<b>O - Outstanding</b>	drive, motivation, success, achievement
<b>W - Wonder</b>	curiosity, question, inspiration, enthusiasm, creativity

Each week every class teacher awards these focuses within their class by awarding a certificate for each to a member of their class and this is then celebrated as a whole school during our Friday Celebration Assembly. Our aim is to instill positive learning attitudes within all our children.



We know how busy parents are but it would be great to re-establish the Fir Tree PTA!

It would be lovely to set up a group of parents who would be willing to volunteer their time and work with myself and the staff to organize events to raise money for educational and fun purposes for our children – it is often these events that are the most memorable to our children but also the equipment and resources that are funded by the PTA that can make a difference to them too.

We would look to meet termly to plan events and fundraising. However you may just want to be someone that just helps at events and not attend meetings. Any help and time would be greatly received.

If you would be interested please do let Mrs Dougal in the Office know by the end of the month.



I'm delighted to inform you that Mrs Moore is expecting her first child, I hope that you join me and the staff wishing Mrs Moore and her husband all the very best with their impending arrival.

Mrs Wilson and I have already begun the process to ensure the provision for Year 2 is not affected. We have advertised for Mrs Moore's Maternity Cover and would like to appoint a new teacher to work with the class and Mrs Moore for smooth transition before she leaves us at Christmas. I will keep Year 2 parents updated and write to them personally with more information once I am in a position to do so.



I know that many of our children have immense success outside of school with clubs, groups and events that they attend. I also know that many of them like to share this with their friends and the rest of the school too! We would love to celebrate these achievements and successes in our newsletters, so if you are happy for your child to bring in their medals/trophies/certificates and to have this shared with their photo in our newsletter please do pop into the Office and let them know!