



Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 6
23rd
November
2018

Dear Parents,

The academic year continues at pace and we have already achieved so much as we head towards the end of the calendar year. New topics and experiences have taken place and the recent Worldbeat was a huge success (more on that later). With a number of exciting events and activities planned for the remainder of the term, we hope that our Christmas diary dates letter was helpful to you.

As promised in the accompanying letter with our Ofsted report last week there will be an opportunity to discuss aspects of the report at our next curriculum evening on Wednesday 30th January and share our progress towards our development targets. We look forward to having the opportunity to talk further with you at that time.

I do hope that you are finding the new homework books more structured and supporting for your children. Homework is now set on a Friday and due in on the following Wednesday. I was overwhelmed and amazed by the entries designed by our wonderful pupils at Fir Tree for the NAT Winter Concert – these will be judged shortly and I will let you know the outcome in due course.

Finally, with the winter weather fully upon us, please can I remind you that children need to be dressed appropriately for school – it has been a cold one this week!

Wishing you all a great weekend and looking forward to seeing you at the bazaar next week. Thanks as always for your continued support.

Regards,
Lindsay Wood
Headteacher



Family Holidays in term time

A reminder that the Headteacher may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing by completing an absence request form from the School Office. A response will be returned indicating whether leave is authorised. Any absence not authorised may be liable to a local authority penalty notice.



Anti-Bullying Week was here last week – (Monday 12th – Friday 16th November) with the theme 'Choose Respect'.

We raised awareness of Anti-bullying week through assemblies, lessons and activities using resources provided by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, the aims of the week were to support and help children to understand:

- **The definition of respect**
- **That bullying is a behaviour choice**
- **That we can respectfully disagree with each other i.e. we don't have to be best friends or always agree with each other but we do have to respect each other**
- **That we all need to choose to respect each other both face to face and online.**

More information can be found here:
<https://www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullyingweek-2018-choose-respect>

We will continue to build on this throughout the academic year. I have contacted the NSPCC to come and run some workshops with classes; I would like the children to devise a visual whole school anti-bullying policy and work with our anti-bullying ambassadors from Trinity.



Thank you so much for your kind donations today towards the bazaar in return for the children not wearing school uniform. On Monday the children will be coming home with a plate for any donations towards the cake sale. If you recall I mentioned that some of the proceeds raised on this stall will go towards the Priors Court Family Fund. Our School Christmas Bazaar is next Friday 30th November 2018 at 3:30pm – 5pm, we hope that you will be able to join us and get into the Christmas spirit.

Diary Dates

Friday 30th November
Christmas Bazaar
After School

Wednesday 5th December
Whole School Panto Trip

****CHANGED DATES****
Thursday 6th December
EYFS Christmas Production
Afternoon performance

Friday 7th December
EYFS Christmas Production
Morning performance
(Separate letter to follow)

Thursday 13th December
NAT Winter Concert @ Trinity

Wednesday 30th January 2018
Curriculum Evening – 7pm

Teacher Training Days

Wednesday 19th December 2018 – pupils finish at 12pm (training for staff in the afternoon)

Thursday 20th December 2018

Monday 7th January 2019

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

Friday 5th April 2019

Friday 28th June 2019

Thank you to those parents that attended our phonics mornings for EYFS and KS1 last week. The purpose of the mornings was to help you to support your children with phonics which supports early reading and writing. In school we follow the Letters and Sounds programme. Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills which consists of six phases. The presentations shared have now been uploaded to our website for those that could not attend and supporting materials that were given out were also sent home with children in EYFS and Years 1 and 2.



We intend to run these sessions again for those parents that were unable to attend in the new year along with calculations session to help you support your child's learning.



This week we held our first ever Worldbeat at Fir Tree Primary and what an event it was! The whole school joined together to participate in a multilingual singing contest which they performed to the whole school, including a panel of judges which consisted of a class representative from every class; Mrs Wilson; Mrs Dougal and Mrs Adams (MFL Lead from Trinity).

The event panned out in true Eurovision style and was tense when the scores finally came in!! It was a wonderful morning which was enjoyed by all – photos and videos to follow on the website. Well done to all the children for taking part and a huge congratulations to our 2018 winners: Year 4!!!



Staff Update

I am pleased to inform you that we were able to appoint a Teaching Assistant last week to join our team at Fir Tree and to work in Year 4 now that Miss Dunne has commenced her maternity leave. Mrs McNally who we appointed to support at lunchtimes earlier on in the academic year has increased her duties and will be working in the role to support Year 4 pupils and Mr Osmond. Mrs McNally is a great addition to the team and is already working away within Year 4.



A huge thank you to everyone for their donations last Friday to Children in Need. There were some fantastic spot ensembles worn to school and I have never seen toast be so popular. We will definitely make sure that we stock up next year and maybe accompany it with some Hot Chocolate. We raised a fabulous **£216.78** – thank you everyone!

We currently have a number of Parents that pay for hot dinners via Parent Pay. Parent Pay is a flexible and secure web application which allows parents to make online payments for all their child's school items, including meals, trips, clubs and uniform. If you would be interested in going cashless and paying via Parent Pay please pop into the School Office to see Mrs Rummins for details how to set it up and for a password.



ParentPay



Thursday 15th November

On Thursday, our Year 3&4 boys played their first football friendly of the season, in preparation for their tournaments after Christmas. Our visitors were Shaw-cum-Donnington, and what a match it was! We found ourselves 1-0 down after about 30 seconds, due to a fine goal scored by Shaw. After growing into the game, the boys put together some great attacking play going 3-1 up. However, after the break, it was Shaw who came out on top. 3 second half goals secured them a 4-3 win in a 7 goal thriller! Well done boys, what a match!

Friday 16th November

On Friday 16th November, our Year 5/6's competed at the Newbury District Primary Schools FA Small Schools tournament. Our group, consisting of Curridge, Bradfield and Inkpen proved to be quite interesting. We were victorious against Curridge and Inkpen (2-0 and 3-0 respectively), and were held to a 0-0 draw with Bradfield. However, Bradfield also had EXACTLY the same results with the same score lines, meaning the winners of our group had to be decided by a penalty shootout. On this occasion, we were not successful in our shootout, losing 3-2. This meant we were group runners-up and would play St Finians in the semi's. The semi-final went on to be one that we dominated in terms of possession, but sadly the result went against us. A huge well done to the team for reaching the semi-finals! They played the best football they've played all season and were excellent role-models for sport at Fir Tree.

