



Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 10
1st
February
2019

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy fortnight at Fir Tree, with the pupils and staff working immensely hard. We have had many visitors this term in school who have commented on the ethos and behaviour of our school and pupils which I am immensely proud of.

Thank you to the many parents that attended our first 'Book Look' of the year earlier this week. I hope that you found it interesting and helpful to sit with your child and look at their work and discuss what they have been doing and their next steps.

I would also like to thank those of you who attended our Curriculum evening on Wednesday night where we shared with parents all the hard work that has taken place by the team at Fir Tree since Ofsted visited us in November.

Will you be spring cleaning during half term?

If so and you have some board games that you no longer want that are in good condition we would love to take them off of your hands!!

As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything with me, please ring the school or call in to see me but thank you so much for your continued support, wishing you all a great weekend.

Lindsay Wood

Headteacher

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

Parental controls are an important way to keep your child safe online.

Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases or manage how long your child spends online. And the good news is parental controls are really easy to set up.

Innocent searches sometimes reveal not so innocent results. So if you're worried about what your child is searching for online, who they're talking to or what they're seeing, the NSPCC can help.

It's simple to get started, and, along with talking to your child regularly, using parental controls is one of the best ways to help keep children safe online. You'll find lots more information on their website- or you can give them a call on 0808 800 5002 to chat to one of their expert NSPCC and O2 advisors.



As part of our rewards system I will be introducing a Headteacher's end of term Tea party for pupils who are consistent 'Superstars', who always work hard and behave exceptionally or go above and beyond, deserving special recognition.

Pupils will be nominated weekly by the class teacher to myself and formal invites will be sent to pupils in the last week of term to let them know that they have been recognised for their efforts.

During the last Friday of term they will attend 'High Tea' with myself in the afternoon. The children can show their best work and talk about what they are learning. They can discuss what they enjoy about school and also what they think could make it even better. 'High Tea' will also promote good speaking and listening and also creates a chance for the children to get to know their peers and myself better and vice versa. But most importantly it will ensure that consistent hard work and behaviour is recognised and rewarded at Fir Tree. All this and more over a cup of juice and a cake!



Last Call for the PTA Film Night on the 14th February, 5pm - 7pm. The children voted for Hotel Transylvania 3 and there are still some tickets left! Tickets are priced at £3 each, but £2 for additional pupils regarding families. The cost of the ticket includes the viewing on the film but also an ice-cream; there of course will be a dairy free alternative. These will be on sale in the school office until Wednesday 6th February!!!!

Diary Dates

Tuesday 5th February 2019
Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 6th February 2019
PTA Meeting - 7pm

Wednesday 13th February 2019
Recycling Share and Learn Day

Thursday 14th February 2019
PTA Film Night

26th February - 5th March 2019
Travelling Book Fair

Thursday 7th March
World Book Day

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

Wednesday 24th April 2019
Year 2 and Year 6
SATs Information Evening
(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

Value of the Month for February is...

RESILIENCE

Throughout February we are learning focusing on the importance of being resilient.

This value is one that we have been working on across the school since September and formulates part of our weekly GROW awards. This year we have been working with the children to know and understand how to be resilient.

Developing our resilience will help us in the following areas:

- Helps us to be confident people and have a positive attitude
- Allows us to stay calm at times of stress or pressure
- Helps us 'bounce back' from when we haven't done our best and gives us determination to succeed
- Allows us to believe in ourselves and our abilities

Suggestions for parents to work with children at home:

1. Where have you seen your child show resilience?
2. Praise your child for persevering and not giving up when completing activities or helping at home.
3. Discuss how being resilient is all part of learning and that learning from our mistakes and not giving up is a fantastic life skill.



Just a gentle reminder that on the 13th February we will be working in Houses all day in our first Share and Learn day at Fir Tree. The theme will be 'recycling'. We would be very grateful for any junk/recycling for the event. Any donations of the following would be gratefully received:

- Old Clothes
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Bubble wrap
- Un-used tin foil
- Material
- Wool
- String
- kitchen towel tubes



No glass or plastics please.

Donations can be brought into school from Monday 11th February. We hope to fill the hall with junk to launch the day!! Thanks in advance for your support with this!

Fir Tree continues to have more competition success! This week 4 of our Year 4 pupils attended a Maths Challenge at St Gabriels. The children competed against 46 other teams and I am proud to tell you that Fir Tree came 3rd!! A huge well done to Kristjan, Tushar, Lakshita G and Lakshita S and well done for representing our school as well as performing so well too!



Competition Winners



We are extremely fortunate to have some amazing outdoor equipment within our school grounds for the children to use during the day and as you know are looking to improve the outdoors for our children this year.

We have noticed an increasing number of children, including siblings, climbing and playing on this equipment before and after school.

Please could we remind all parents and carers that children are not permitted to use the equipment at these times. We have repeated this message to the children in school and would appreciate your support by not allowing the children to do so.

Please could you pass this message onto any family member or child minder who may help with school drop offs and pick-ups. Many thanks.



On Monday 21st, our Year 3 and 4 boys took part in the annual 7-a-side football tournament at Park House School. The boys were drawn against John Rankin, St Nics, Hermitage, Calcot, Spurcroft and Kennet Valley. The group was extremely close, with most matches separated by just the 1 goal. Our team played some excellent football throughout the competition and were winners in 3 of their 6 matches. A great start to your season boys! Next up is the Indoor 5-a-side competition @ Trinity! Best of Luck!



On Thursday 24th, some of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in an Archery event at Park House. The children faced many different target challenges which were incredibly tricky! Our team managed to work so well together, collecting a total of 407 points! Their outstanding effort meant that they were awarded Bronze medals! A huge well done to the team, you were superb!



Outdoor P.E.

Just a reminder that during the colder weather, please provide your child with a track suit or other appropriate warm clothing including trainers for outdoor P.E. this term.

