



Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 4
19th
October
2018

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that Term 1 is over! Thank you so much for all your support this term and for making me feel so welcome; as a school we have made some changes and are already starting to see the merit of these.

I'm hoping that you found Parents Evenings informative this week and the year group expectations for English and Maths helpful, copies of these have been added to our class pages on the school website.

Term 2 is action packed with so many exciting activities planned with the run up to Christmas, with children fully absorbed in their new topics and themes and demonstrating the full range of Learning Behaviours that we actively promote through our golden goals and GROW awards and with various events planned within the school, and as part of the wider community.

I wish you all a restful half-term break and look forward to next term, don't forget to change those clocks!

Regards,
Lindsay Wood
Headteacher



Thank you very much for the very generous donations that we received. The Newbury Foodbank were incredibly grateful and intend to distribute your contributions to those who will benefit in the upcoming weeks.



On Friday 16th November, Fir Tree Primary School will once again be supporting this year's Children in Need appeal. We will be holding a non-school uniform day and the children are encouraged to be "Spotacular Fundraisers" and wear something spotty to school in return for a donation to Children in Need. Thank you in anticipation of your support. More details will follow nearer the event.



Some Reminders from the School Office

Contact Details

Please let the office know if any of your contact details have changed recently, i.e. email address/mobile etc. as we regularly use these as a form of communication. Please note that although you are able to reply to texts from the school, the inbox is not checked on a regular basis so please do not use it as a means of communication with the school.

Medical Details

Don't forget that it is your responsibility to keep the school informed of any changes to your child's medical details held within school. If we hold any medication in school for your child, including inhalers, it is your responsibility to ensure we have them and they are in date. If your child does need to use an inhaler during the school day – please see Mrs Pearse (SENDco) or Mrs Brown in the Office so that we can ensure a plan is in place.

Diary Dates

W/C 5th November
Inter Faith Week

Thursday 8th November
Calculations Evening 6pm

W/C 12th November
Anti Bullying Week

Wednesday 21st November
Worldbeat Competition

Phonics Mornings
EYFS – Tuesday 13th November
KSI – Wednesday 14th November

Friday 30th November
Christmas Bazaar
After School

Wednesday 5th December
Whole School Panto Trip

Thursday 6th December
Reception Christmas Production
Afternoon and evening performances

Teacher Training Days

Monday 29th October 2018

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

Homework

As communicated in a previous newsletter we have been working in school to reflect on your feedback from the Homework survey last year.

As a staff we have agreed a new procedure going forward starting from after half term. This procedure can be found on our website with the finer details and will be added to the Parent Handbook, but essentially we have devised a system whereby the class teacher sets an allocated amount of homework **per week**. The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different classes, children's abilities and topics of study. Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment. We aim to return marked homework to the pupils for the following week, whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupil's mind. With this in mind, pupils' homework will be **set every Friday** and will be **due in the following Wednesday for every class**. Homework will also be in book going forward.

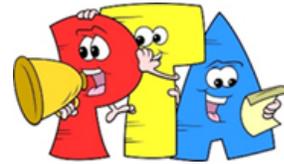
Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

- 1.It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- 2.It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own, vital practise for secondary school.
- 3.Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
- 4.It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
- 5.It can allow pupils to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
- 6.It can involve parents and others in the pupils' work for their mutual benefit.
- 7.It can give opportunities for long-term research and other work.
- 8.This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines.
- 9.It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at Secondary School.



As a school we have just Purchased 'Times Tables Rock Stars'. In either paper form or online Times Tables Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times table practice to boost pupils' recall. Please keep an eye out

for your child's login next term. They will be able to access the programme at home as well as in school.



It was wonderful to have so many parents and staff members volunteer to join the Fir Tree Primary PTA. We met after school on Tuesday 16th October. We discussed the purpose of the group and talked about the need to establish a committee going forward and formulating a group of volunteers to support with the running of future events. We have agreed to meet at 7pm on Tuesday 13th November next term and will then finalise our committee and discuss fundraising priorities, as well as Spring and Summer Events when we meet next term. Thank you to everyone that has expressed an interest – I look forward to working with parents and staff to get this up and running and to organise events that our children will benefit from in school!



Just a note to inform you that there have been several reports of recurring Head lice in school. Thank you to everyone for keeping us informed. We appreciate how frustrating the problem is, however Head lice are a problem in many communities and do not reflect poor hygiene or social status.

Please do your part to prevent the spread of this communicable condition by checking your child(ren) daily for the next few weeks, and on a regular basis thereafter. Lice infestation is much easier to treat if caught early.

If you should discover a case of head lice, please notify the school office. This is the best way to protect your family and community.

