



# Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 3  
11<sup>th</sup> October  
2019

Dear Parents,

This term continues to plough full steam ahead and it has been action packed; We had a fantastic STEM week last week where the children investigated Space across the curriculum due to an unexpected rocket landing in the school playground. It was lovely to see the children exploring, science, technology, engineering and maths altogether and as always this gave the children those memorable learning experiences and ignited their curiosity. There are more photos on the website on some of the activities that took place.



The recent weather has meant that we have had to move off the field during playtimes. I have spoken to the children this week about respecting the play equipment and this means first thing in the morning too, no equipment should be out and being used. Children should be waiting with their parents or friends before the bell for line up time.

Thank you so much for those of you that have brought in stickers for the Aldi 'Get Set, Get Fresh' competition. We are so close to completion!! We would love to complete another a chart before the deadline after half term to be in with a chance of winning £20,000 for the school.



Finally, we look forward to seeing you at parent's evenings on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October. There is still time to sign up. This will be the opportunity for you to discuss with your child's class teacher how they have settled in. You will also have the opportunity to sample some school dinners from our new caterers Aspens and purchase teas, coffees and cakes from the PTA too.

Thanks for all your support.

Regards,

*Lindsay Wood*

Headteacher



Thank you very much for the kind donations that we have already received for the Food Bank. It has been wonderful to see the children embrace what harvest is all about. We will be collecting goods until Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 if you would like to contribute.



### Pupil Safety

As the dark nights draw in please ensure that you have spoken to your child about stranger danger and road safety as well as ensuring they always walk home with an adult or friend. Remember please do inform the Office if your child has permission to walk home or is being collected by someone different this also applies to clubs too.

We still have spaces at Our afterschool 'Treehouse Club'. It runs daily from 3:15pm to 6:00pm. There is always plenty to do including various games, crafts, using the computers/IPads or just socialising with friends – even completing homework!!!. You can book termly by contacting the School Office for a booking form; remember please speak to the School Office if you would like a free trial too!!!



## Diary Dates

**W/C 21<sup>st</sup> October**  
Whole School Maths Investigation  
(more details to follow separately)

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October**  
Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7pm

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**  
Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7pm

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**  
End of Term 1 finish at 3:15pm

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
Start of Term 2

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
Children in Need Day

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**  
World Beat Competition

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
End of Term 2 - pupils finish at 12pm

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**Teacher Training Days**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## 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.



This term every class has been focusing on E-Safety. As a parent myself I know only too well how much

computers and technology has become a normal part of children's everyday lives. On occasions, we see the games that children play spill over into school or affect friendships. Internetmatters.org is a fantastic website for parents with how to support and monitor the use of apps, social media and gaming when it comes to children.

### What to talk about

#### Discuss what they enjoy playing

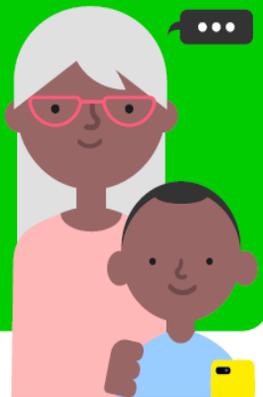
Have regular conversations about the games they play so you can create an environment where they feel they can come to you if something goes wrong.

#### Talk about potential risks

Help them understand the importance of keeping personal details private and tell them that not everyone online is who they say they are.

#### How to cope when things go wrong

If they see something that upsets them or are targeted by another player in a game, it's important to talk about how to handle this situation. Advise them to come and talk to you or a trusted adult for support.



## Things to do

### Set digital boundaries

Use a family agreement to set rules on what they can play, when and how long for to help them strike a healthy balance between gaming other activities they do.

### Use reviews and sites to pick appropriate games

Read parents and expert reviews of games they are interested in to help you choose the right games for them to play.

### Encourage them to play in shared spaces

This is a simple way to stay engaged in what they are doing while gaming and **step in if you feel something's not quite right.**

### Set privacy settings and learn how to report in-game abuse

Make it a habit to review their privacy settings on their account and teach them where to report in-game abuse so they can take action if they feel concerned.

### Gen-up on the lingo

Get up to speed on how players communicate while gaming to spot the signs of cyberbullying or negative behaviour.

### Make gaming a family affair

Trying out new games with children makes it easier to relate and can give you a better sense of what the game is about and prompt conversation or safety measures to help them stay safe.

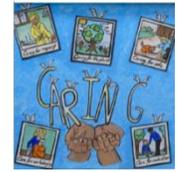
**On Friday 15th November, Fir Tree Primary School will once again be supporting this year's Children in Need appeal. The school council have decided that we will be holding a non-school uniform day and the children are encouraged to wear pyjamas or onesies to school in return for a donation to Children in Need. Also due to the success of 'Pudsey Toast' last year this will be making a return at break time that day along with 'Pudsey Hot Chocolate'. Thank you in anticipation of your support. More details will follow nearer the event.**

## Value of the Month for October is...

CARING

### What is caring?

Feeling concern or interest about someone or something.



Our focus on Caring has three strands:

- Caring for ourselves, our belongings and our pets.
- Caring for the environment (indoors and outdoors) by the things we do and how we think.
- Caring about people (in our families, our friends, others who are different or less fortunate) by our actions.

### Suggestions for parents to work with children at home:

1. Explore what care is and what your child thinks it is.
2. Talk about what makes a caring person.
3. Discuss how we care for members of our family.
4. Ask your child what they can do to show they care about school.
5. Make a family list- "We show we care for.....by ....."
6. Make another list- "I find it difficult to care for..... when....."and then take time to discuss each item.
7. Discuss feelings- How do you feel when you are caring for someone or something? How do you feel when you decide you don't really care?
8. Discuss the importance of personal hygiene e.g. brushing teeth twice a day, bathing etc.

It seems like ages ago that we had our 'Living One Handed' Day at Fir Tree. Thank you very much to the children who collected sponsors to partake in the morning.

Fir Tree has raised a fantastic £ 1004.80 for Reach and raised the awareness of others who may have limb deficiencies. Thank you to everyone involved and who supported all the events. I am hugely proud of the school council for putting everything into this and supporting such a worthwhile charity!!!



## HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH READING

### I spy

Play 'I Spy' games. Can you find words beginning with...? Can you find a picture of a ...? How many ... can you see?

### Ask questions

Ask questions about the story as you read it e.g. What is the story about? Why do you think they made that choice? Was it a good choice? Why did that happen? What do you think will happen next? What was your favourite part of the story? Why?

### Make it fun

Enjoy reading together. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures. Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or start with the same sound.

### Be seen

Make sure you are seen reading. Keep books and magazines at easy reach.

### Get out

Go to your public library regularly. Find the books you loved as a kid to read together.

### Create

Use reading to inspire drawings or new stories.

### Go online

Look online & in app stores for appropriate word & spelling games.

### Make space

Have a special place or a certain time when you read together.

## Read everything out loud.

Books, poems, nursery rhymes, newspaper & magazine articles, food labels... anything that is close to hand!

