



Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 5
27th
November
2020

Dear Parents,

As I write to you it continues to be strange times, we are in the midst of a second lockdown and face further changes and restrictions from next week as we approach Christmas.

Fir Tree has now seen its first isolated case of Covid 19 and a bubble closure. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and understanding with this and most importantly keeping your children in school, because it really is the best place for them. When I wrote to you in my last letter about TEAMS and sending home Home Learning exercise books in preparation for such an event I was not however expecting to have a closure so quickly. As always everyone at Fir Tree – staff, pupils and parents have pulled together and adapted to ensure everything continues as normally as it possibly can, thank you.

There have been so many things to celebrate since half term that it is has been difficult to capture it all within this newsletter. From children's attitude and work to fund raising and generous donations, it really has been action packed! Last week saw a successful anti-bullying week, where every class made a video and contributed to a whole school mural on the playground.



As we build towards Christmas, Term 2 shows no sign of slowing down and we look forward to celebrating all our successes together. If you would like to know more about the themes and curriculum areas your child will be studying this term, please do log on to the 'Classes' page on our school website and navigate to the relevant Year Group.

Wishing you a lovely weekend and start to December, perhaps put up some decorations this weekend like the Wood household will be!

Regards,
Lindsay Wood
Headteacher

Wellbeing

The mental health and well-being of our children, staff and families is very important to us. Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. Please take a moment to look at the well-being page on our website, you will find the link below:

<https://www.firtreeschool.co.uk/page/?title=Well%2Dbeing&pid=109>

If you have any suggestions, thoughts or comments on how we can continue to support our children then please do let us know.



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 at any time.

We still have spaces at our breakfast club 'Treehouse Club'. It runs daily from 8:00am to 8:30am. There is always plenty to do including various games, crafts, using the computers/IPads or just socialising with friends – even completing homework in a Covid safe environment. 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

Please note that our online calendar on the school website is updated regularly.

Thursday 10th December
PTA Christmas Movie Night
Lockdown lifted dependent

Tuesday 15th – Thursday 17th
December
Christmas Dinners

Wednesday 16th December
Panto

Thursday 17th December
End of Term 2 – early
afternoon finish

Teacher Training Days

Friday 18th December 2020

Monday 4th January 2021

Friday 25th June 2021

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH TIMES TABLES



What does my child need to know?

Year 2: x2, x5, x10

Year 3: x2, x3, x4, x5, x8, x10

Year 4: all times tables up to 12 x 12

Ideas/activities to do at home:

All children from Year 2 onwards have logins to Times Tables Rockstars. It would be great if they could use this to practice at home for 10 mins at least 3 times a week. Alternatively, there are many educational online multiplication games such as:

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/times-tables>

<https://www.splashlearn.com/times-tables-games>

Equally on the internet you will find lots of other activities that you can print such as:

Print out and laminate the [times table mats](#), alternatively print out and display the [large times tables poster](#) to aid solving times tables questions (both up to 12 x 12).

There are various versions of the [multiplication square](#) to help children solve multiplication calculations. This square also helps children to see number patterns within the various different times tables.

Use these great [1 to 12 Times Tables Wheel Cut Outs](#) to learn and practise all times tables. Children can check their own work using the answers.

Print out the [cards](#) containing individual calculations and answers to help children learn their 3 times tables. You could also separate the sums and answers and turn this into a matching up activity. Cards come in sets for each times table.

[Multiplication Wordsearch Worksheets](#) test children on a range of questions within each times table. Children must then find the number word answer in the word search. These sheets are available for each times table.

[Times Tables Matching Cards](#) cover a selection of different times tables. Print out and laminate the cards, face them down and ask your child to try and pick 3 matching cards. One correct set will include the question, number answer and number word answer.

Class teachers will be more than happy to help you find or print/provide these for you, please do pop and see them.



This week the PTA have launched their school tea towels. They have worked incredibly hard to place all the images and it looks fabulous, a lovely school memento and perhaps a Christmas gift? These are priced

at £4 each or 3 for £10. Separate details have been sent regarding how to order these.

Value of the Month for March is...

P E A C E

We can split peace into two areas:

External peace- in the world and in relationships needed for a civilised society

Internal peace- the feeling of self-contentment with who we are and what we have.



Suggestions for parents to work with children at home.

1. Talk about a special place where you can sit quietly and think. Why do we need to be quiet and peaceful sometimes? Discuss how you feel inside when you are quiet and peaceful.
2. Talk about the sort of things that make you feel peaceful inside. How important is peace in our lives?
3. Discuss what it means to have peace in your family. What sort of things disrupt the peace in your family? What can help the family be more peaceful?
4. Talk together about situations that make you angry and ways of finding peaceful solutions.
5. How can we try to control angry feelings and replace them with calmer, peaceful ones?
6. Try to explore how feelings can escalate and small upsets become big and out of control.
7. Discuss the question: 'Are people naturally peaceful, or do they need to be taught?'
8. Talk about how you think we can stop wanting things, status, attention etc so that we can feel more contentment and peace.

Discuss scenes on television that show arguments. What makes people argue and lose their temper? Think of five things you can do to prevent arguments

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, in EYFS they follow the **ECAT Programme (Every Child a Talker)** Developing a child's speech and their language is imperative in order for them to listen, learn and progress. This week's tips to share with you, that we are working on in class that you too could employ at home to support your child's development, are as follows:



Talking Tips

1. Encourage your child to communicate in any way possible: If your child points to the item that they want when you offer them a choice, name the item and repeat the word several times for them to hear.
2. Encourage your child to join in with play: Play is very important in encouraging the development of your child's speech, language and communication skills.
3. Speak to your child using the language you are strongest in: This does not have to be English. It is beneficial for a child to learn more than one language, especially in the early years.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you for your contributions to the Poppy Appeal – we raised a fantastic **£239-08!**



Christmas Dinner

Please can we remind you to order Christmas Dinner by **Monday 30th November**. If you would like to know when dinner is for your child's class please ask the office.

