



Fir Tree Newsletter



Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of what has been a successful Term 1, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support. Pupils have returned to Fir Tree with an enthusiasm and passion for learning and have brought the school community back together.

Over Term 1 we have seen a changing landscape with further updates from the Government. We ask that you continue to remind your child of the importance of following the rules in place at school, as well as adhering to the tier rules outside of school. We also wanted to thank parents who drive pupils to school for your support with using the side streets; this has helped to reduce the traffic on an already busy road.

Moving into Term 2 we are wanting to build on the excellent routines that have been embedded in Term 1. We ask that children always have a reading book and their school diary as part of their equipment; we encourage children to read between lessons. Reading is an integral part of the Fir Tree curriculum and we encourage children and parents to read at home; Mrs Purcell has produced a helpful guide to support you with this attached alongside this newsletter. Reading increases children's vocabulary and will help them when accessing other areas of the curriculum, not to mention in the future and in their chosen career destinations.

As the weather changes over the coming months, please can I draw your attention to the uniform policy. We recognise there may have been some issues with ordering of correct uniform and PE kit at the start of term, but over the last few weeks we have seen these resolved. Windows will be open in the classrooms for ventilation, so it is imperative that pupils are dressed appropriately.

We hope that you found the parents meetings this week informative and helpful. Thank you for being adaptable when on site this week. We look forward to working with you next term, building upon assessments and any gaps identified in pupil learning and the strategies to close these gaps can be discussed; anything you do at home to help will make a difference!

We wish you a well-deserved restful break and look forward to seeing the children on their return.

Regards,
Lindsay Wood
Headteacher

Please could we just remind you of a few things to ensure that the school day continues to run smoothly.

- School dinners should be ordered by 8am each day. If you are having difficulty with Parent Pay, please speak to Mrs Rummins in the School Office.
- Please could we remind you of the **one-way** system we have for entering the school gates, please do not enter out of turn from crossing the road and please do not hold up the system by standing at the end of the ramp, thank you in advance for your support with this.



A huge thank you to the PTA and to all those who took part in Fir Tree's first ever **break the rules day**

yesterday. It was a great success. I think the staff enjoyed breaking the rules as much as the children did! See the end of the Newsletter for more pictures!



I am delighted to announce that with match funding we will raise a super **£787.79** for this event and that it will be going towards the outdoor improvements at Fir Tree that will benefit the whole school. We want all our pupils to be active learners who have a love of the outdoors. I am delighted to inform you that our application to the Good Exchange to improve our outdoors has been extended until April 2021. So we have from now until next April to raise £1500. Please visit our project at the following link:

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/17485/fir-tree-school/improving-the-outdoors-for-all>
A huge thank you to the PTA for their support with this!

Diary Dates

Monday 2nd November
Start of Term 2

Friday 13th November
Children in Need Day
(more info to follow)

W/b 16th November
Anti-Bullying Week
(more info to follow)

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

Last newsletter I explained how we are intending to use **Teams** for any remote learning which may need to be completed after half term and beyond. In addition to that guidance, I thought it may be useful to clarify (below) when we will send work home to children for completion. Current arrangements for sending work to children who are unable to attend school:



- If a child is unwell but not showing symptoms work will not be sent.
- If a child awaiting a test result is unwell work will not be sent home.
- If a child is awaiting a delayed test result and feels fine, work will be sent home as soon as possible but no later than the next day.
- If a child is having to self-isolate after a positive test, then work will be sent home when they are feeling better. Parents are to inform the school, and work will be sent as soon as possible but no later than the next day.
- If a child or a group of children is/are having to isolate (but is/are feeling well themselves) as a family or class member is showing symptoms or has tested positive, then they will be sent work home as soon as possible but no later than the next day.
 - If a class of children are having to self-isolate then the children will be taught by the class teacher remotely starting on the first day of isolation if possible.



Just a reminder that on Friday 13th November, Fir Tree Primary School will once again be supporting this year's Children in Need appeal. The theme this year is 'Act Your Age' and the children will be completing tasks and activities in school to raise money and awareness (in non-uniform) in return for a donation to Children in Need. Also due to the continued success of 'Pudsey Toast' and 'Pudsey Hot Chocolate' these will be available too, just organized slightly differently due to bubble restrictions. Thank you in anticipation of your support. More details will follow nearer the event.

Miss Burton is a member of West Berks Food Bank. As we did not celebrate Harvest this term, we would like to collect for the Food Bank on our return and up to 4th December. Any donations of tins or dried food that could go to others in need would be gratefully received. Teachers will be working with children in class to discuss why we are collecting and to develop our "it's ok to talk about it" culture at Fir Tree. Thanks in advance for your donations and help!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

It is the legal duty of parents to ensure the regular attendance of a child of compulsory school age. Failure to do so could result in the local authority issuing a penalty notice or prosecuting the parents in the magistrates' court.



The guide below is to support with **non-covid symptoms.**

Should my child go to school today?

Every day counts!

Headache, earache and stomachache– YES - your child can go to school– just let the staff know that they have felt unwell so they can be monitored. Give them plenty to drink.

Sore throat –YES - give them plenty to drink and then send to school. Let staff know that they have felt unwell so they can be monitored.

Diarrhoea and vomiting caused by a bug not coughing or any other reason Children can return after 48 hours from when they were last sick or experienced diarrhoea. If vomiting is caused by coughing, excitement or overeating then the child may be able to return to school sooner. Explain the cause to the office staff when you telephone.

Did you know that children who have good attendance achieve much higher than children who miss at least 10 days in a year!

Did you know that a child who misses one day every two weeks will miss 18 days a year

Did you know that for every one day your child misses it puts them behind two days, socially and in their learning

Make good attendance a life skill for your child

When a child complains of feeling unwell, **THINK...**

- is it necessary to keep them off school?
- is there another reason for feeling poorly?
- am I setting a good example by keeping them home?

Make attendance a priority in your house - Talk to your child about why going to school is so important.

Give your child the best chance of success!

If you need support with your child's attendance, please speak with Mrs Hayton or the office on 01635 42129

Please note: Please do not administer children's paracetamol or ibuprofen to your child before sending them to school as this may mask symptoms of Covid-19. If your child is well enough to come to school but feeling slightly unwell or poorly, please tell us so we can monitor them and contact you as necessary.

Requests for absence -Key points for Parents

- Requests for absence during term time will not be authorised
- Any requests for the purpose of visiting family, attending family occasions or celebrations– will not be authorised
- Parents will receive a penalty notice for unauthorised absence. This is a fine of £60 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid within 28 days.



If a child is absent for 21 continuous days without any contact, your child will be removed from the school register. This means that your child cannot return to the school. You will need to register your child with the local authority to apply for a new school place.



Break the Rules!

