



Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 1
13th
September
2019

Dear Parents,

I hope everybody has had a wonderful summer holiday and we look forward to another exciting year. In particular, may I welcome all the new children and families that have joined Fir Tree.

I have been most impressed with how well the children have settled back into school and I have had so many visitors to my office already to go into my Golden Book which is wonderful to see.

The teachers have been working hard to plan exciting curriculums for your children and you should have received the Autumn Term topic web electronically so you know what they are learning about up until Christmas. This will also be available on the school website along with the class timetable so you know when specific lessons are taking place.

This year as a school we will really be working hard on our resilience and have lots of strategies to employ to support our children to become more confident and independent within everything that they do. We believe in them and know how fantastic they are and we want them to believe it too and always try their very best.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead and continued collaboration with yourselves.

If you have queries on anything please don't hesitate to contact the school office or myself.

Wishing you all a lovely sunny weekend!

Regards,

Lindsay Wood

Headteacher



In order to ensure that your child is safe and that we dismiss children safely at the end of the day. Please do let the School Office know if your child is being collected by someone different at the end of the school day so that they can inform the Class Teacher. If you are happy for your child in years 5 or 6 to walk home by themselves or you would like them to walk around to where you may be waiting for a sibling or at the school gate please do provide us with written permission or an email. Class Teachers will then be informed.

Value of the Month for September is...

CHANGE

Each month we look at different values and what they mean to our pupils. We do this through discussion in class, in assemblies and through our curriculum e.g. in PSHE. Our values this year have been chosen to fit around our theme of 'Resilience' and reflect what we feel is important about our school. At the end of each month, in our Celebration Assembly, 'Value of the Month' certificates are presented to pupils who have most keenly demonstrated the value of that month voted for by their peers.

This month our value is: **Change.**

Adapting to change can be quite challenging. Having a new teacher, new classroom, new friends, new routines can all test us, but often change is a good thing. This month we will be focusing on being resilient and adapting to change at Fir Tree.



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 always trying to improve the outdoors for our children.

With new families and friends joining the school, could we remind all parents and carers that children are not permitted to use the equipment first thing in the morning and at the end of the day for safety reasons. We have reminded 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.

Diary Dates

W/C 16th September
School Clubs start

Monday 23rd September
School Photos

Friday 27th September
One-Handed Morning to raise money for REACH

W/C 30th September
STEM Week
(more details to follow separately)

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

Monday 21st October
Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7pm

Wednesday 23rd October
Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7pm

Thursday 24th October
End of Term 1 finish at 3:15pm

Monday 4th November
Start of Term 2

Friday 22nd November
World Beat Competition

Wednesday 18th December
End of Term 2 - pupils finish at 12pm

Teacher Training Days

Friday 25th October 2019

Monday 6th January 2020

Friday 14th February 2020

Friday 26th June 2020



This September, Aldi are running an initiative for schools, to help support **Get Set to Eat Fresh** and its aims. Aldi's Kit For Schools promotion is giving twenty primary schools the chance to win £20,000 to kick start a health legacy for their school. What's more, every school who enters by completing their Aldi Kit for Schools poster with 300 Team GB stickers will also receive an exclusive schools sports kit!

From the 6th September to 3rd November, families who shop in Aldi stores can receive Team GB stickers to send into school with their children, as we will be taking part there will be a collection box in the School Office to bring the stickers into school and the newly elected School Council will collate the stickers and will keep you updated with our progress – happy collecting all!



At Fir Tree we run a very successful breakfast Club every morning, but this academic year we have also introduced a NEW After School Club too – both of which will be known as 'Treehouse Club'.

Treehouse Club is wraparound

care for parents. So if you are a bit rushed in the mornings or need someone to look after your child/ren after school, why not take advantage of our Treehouse Club which is available Mon-Fri between 8.00am and 8.45am and 3:15pm to 6:00pm. For £3.50 per session for Breakfast club and £11 per session for After School club children have the choice of fruit, toast or cereals and a drink in the morning and a cooked snack and drinks and fruit in the evening. There is always plenty to do including various games, crafts, using the computers/IPads or just socialising with friends. You can book termly by contacting the School Office for a booking form. However we do know that sometimes care may be needed daily or weekly. Please do phone up the Office as we can help, you will still need to complete a booking form but will be charged as and when you use

We are incredibly lucky at Fir Tree to have such a dedicated and committed PTA. They really have been instrumental in bringing the school community

Together and I know that they have lots of ideas already for some great events this academic year that we will inform you of in due course. If you would be interested in joining the PTA to help raise funds to benefit the children at Fir Tree do contact the School Office.

To help the PTA plan and take on board your views they would be very grateful if you could take 5-10 minutes to complete a short survey for them. This can either be done on paper via the attached questionnaire or via the link below by 27th September, thank you as always for your support. <https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/FGXFP7>



You may recall last term that the School Council held their first fund raising event for REACH, a charity for children with upper limb differences. Thank you for all your support. Through the non-uniform day; wristband purchases and tombola the children raised £412.92 (+ £76.30 raised at the Summer fete) for REACH which they are very proud of!

The School Council are keen to add to the amount that has been raised and promote further awareness, so they have decided to invite the children and staff of Fir Tree to take part in a sponsored "Living One-Handed" day on the 27th September, to raise both money and awareness of life with limb differences. At the end of July we sent home a sponsor form for your child to be sponsored to take part in the morning one-handed. Children and staff will be asked to cover one hand with a sock for the morning and complete everyday activities using only one hand and be sponsored for doing so!!!! We hope the sponsors are coming along, but have attached the sponsor form again just in case you have mislaid it.



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. These will need to be collected at the end of term and brought back in September.

Also, if you are entitled to Pupil Premium funding (please read the criteria below) please could you inform the School Office.

Children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2

All children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 get free school meals.

However, if you or your child receive any of the benefits listed below, you should apply for free school meals. This will help the school to get extra funding from central government, which will be used to buy additional resources to benefit its pupils.



Parking

As always, we appreciate your efforts in keeping the roads around the school safe. There have been a few occasions where cars have been pulling up in front of the school gates allowing children to jump out. Please can we remind parents that cars should not park on the white lines or in front of the school gates. There are lots of children crossing the road in this area and it is very dangerous. It also encourages other drivers to do the same and this becomes a hazard. Equally we have had many residents blocked in their properties because parents have parked outside, especially in the Bus Lane. We just ask for you to be courteous and safe. Thank you

Children from Year 3 onwards

You can apply for free school meals from Year 3 and above if you or your child receive any of these benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your household annual income is less than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (provided your household annual income is less than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get)