



Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 1
11th
September
2020

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.

It has been a long time coming, but it is so nice to have the children back in school. They have been amazing and have brought the Fir Tree family community to life. I would also like to thank you for your support with helping us transition the children back to school with the new drop off and collection times and system. This has been vital for their own wellbeing and has given us the chance to explain the new routines and systems necessary for our return.

It has been lovely to see lessons return this week and 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.

This year we will continue to focus on developing the children's resilience and independence, whilst immersing them back into the curriculum and addressing any gaps in learning. Teachers will be providing you with information shortly about how you can help at home. I am confident that getting back into a routine, being back with their peers and teachers, that our children will flourish.

Many thanks again for your support. Despite the huge amount of work we have had to put in to ensure we can open, it is great to be back. I would like to reiterate a huge thank you to your children for being amazing and understanding of the systems and routines we have had to put in place, and over the past week and a half they have been flexible and adaptable when needed. I have included a guide to support you with when your child is unwell and school attendance below – I have this stuck on my fridge at home for my own three children! Please remember that if anyone in your household is symptomatic, they should isolate for 10 days or until you have confirmation of a negative result for Covid-19.

At the end of the first full week we are very happy, tired, ready for week three and looking forward to continuing uphill with our provision.

Wishing you all a lovely sunny weekend!

Regards,

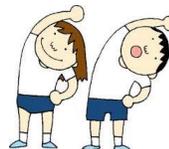
Lindsay Wood

Headteacher



Uniform

It has been brilliant to see everyone come back to school in the correct uniform, especially correct footwear. Please remember that **children's PE kits should be brought into school every Monday and go home every Friday** as part of some of the changes we have implemented due to Covid-19.



School Lunches



All school dinner orders must be **placed by 8:00am on the day required, if not before, including free school meal pupils**. As you can appreciate, lunchtimes are very complicated now with staggered times and locations. Prior to lockdown, we were also having a considerable amount of waste too, which we would like to reduce. **If you have not ordered by the deadline, you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch.**

Collection

We are aware of most sibling departure times now and have coordinated with parents from which gate and what time to collect your child/children. If for any reason you need someone else to collect your child please let the school office know as soon as possible so that we can arrange children to be ready on time. **The 'kiss and drop' system is working well, and we are grateful to you for your support with this.**



If you are happy for your child in years 5 or 6 to walk home by themselves, please do provide us with written permission or an email. Class Teachers will then be informed.

Please can we ask that no cars enter our car park or are parked in front of the school gate.

Diary Dates

Friday 18th September
Roald Dahl Day in class

W/c 1st October
National Poetry Focus

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

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

Thursday 24th October
End of Term 1

Friday 23rd October
INSET day

Monday 2nd November
Start of Term 2

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

Teacher Training Days

Friday 23rd October 2020

Friday 18th December 2020

Monday 4th January 2021

Friday 25th June 2021

Homework

As you are aware homework will be set every Friday and due into school by no later than Wednesday morning. The expectation is that children complete the tasks and activities at home on a Friday afternoon to consolidate their learning of the week or pre-learn in advance for the following week.

During lockdown we set weekly home learning which was accessible to you via our school website. In the event of a bubble closure or another lockdown we would use this method to ensure that your child continues to access learning and be taught the curriculum. We are currently setting up Microsoft Teams to support this so that teachers will be able to provide online lessons to your children in these scenarios. **It would be helpful for us to know if your child does not have access to a computer or laptop, as we need to ensure all children can access learning in the event of any closure.** Please do let the school office know if this could be a difficulty for you so that we can plan.

Staff News

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Carroll to the Year 6 team, she will be supporting the class along with Mrs Williams. Miss Dunne has joined the Reception team and Miss Burton will be teaching Year 5 full time, with Miss Martin teaching Year 1 every Friday whilst Mrs Hayton undertakes her new pastoral role.



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. Please ask to check your child's medication if you are unsure.

Absences

We request that if your child is absent you call the school absence line to inform us, before 9am on the day of absence. Nursery children who only attend the afternoon session should report any absence before 12noon. When calling please state your child's name, class and the reason for their absence. If you do not report an absence, we do have to follow this up for reasons of safeguarding.

Pupil Premium

If you are entitled to Pupil Premium funding (please read the following criteria) please 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, 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 pupils.

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)

Contacting a member of staff



We have always had an open door policy at Fir Tree. **Unfortunately, due to the current situation we would ask that you do not come into the school building, unless you have a pre-arranged appointment.** There will be a member of staff in the office, who will be able to help with queries over the phone or via email only throughout the school day.

If you need to contact the class teacher, you may leave a message with the school office for them to call you back or alternatively you can contact them via the school website, by sending them a message through the class webpage. This worked very well during lockdown. Teachers will always try to respond to you within 48 hours, unless it is an emergency.

Value of the Month for September is...

C H A N G E

Each month we look at different values and what they mean to our pupils. We do this through discussion in class, in assemblies (which are a little different this year, they are either virtual or streamed live into the classroom from my office!) and through our curriculum e.g. in PSHE. Our values this year will fit around our theme of '**Resilience**' and focus on being good citizens, reflecting what we feel is important about our school. At the end of each month, in our 'virtual' 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.

ESafety

As always, I think it is helpful to support parents with the growing use of technology for and by our children. The National Online Safety Website is a fantastic free resource for parents. Its mission is to educate and empower trusted adults with the information they need to engage in meaningful dialogue between children and young people about the online world, their online activities and the ever-evolving risks that they are exposed to. They focus on both general online safety risks and platform specific risks to provide adults with easy to follow information which enables conversations between adults and children. The link below will provide you with many guides related to apps and games that your children use.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>

We have attached a guide to Tik Tok to this newsletter. Tik Tok is an app that we hear the children talk about regularly that needs to be monitored carefully by parents.



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.

Contact Fir Tree School

To get in touch with us, please email the School Office at office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org or telephone 01635 42129

If you wish to contact a Class Teacher please visit the link to your class page on the school website <https://www.firtreeschool.co.uk/page/?title=Classes&pid=24>

If your child does feel ill and you are in any doubt about them attending, please refer to the guide below:

IS YOUR CHILD TOO SICK TO JOIN US TODAY?

RED LIGHT

TRY AGAIN NEXT WEEK

- Fever 38.2C (101F) or higher
- Diarrhoea or vomiting
- Unusual colour
- Chicken Pox / Shingles - until spots have crusted over (usually 5days)

AMBER LIGHT

OK TO JOIN US

- Fever free for 24hrs
- Sporadic cough
- Minimal green / yellow runny nose
- Redness or runny nose
- Sore throat or swollen glands – BUT no fever
- Lethargy – BUT no fever
- Undiagnosed rashes – BUT no fever
- Conjunctivitis – only when been on treatment for 24hrs
- Ear infection – if severe, keep away until feeling better AND no fever
- Hand, foot and mouth disease – if well in themselves
- Glandular Fever – once you feel well again
- Impetigo – until sores crusted over and been on medication for at least 48hrs
- Ringworm – only once started medication
- Scarlet fever – only if been on medication for at least 24hrs

GREEN LIGHT

COME IN AND LEARN!

- Cold sores
- Mild / infrequent Cough
- Colds – BUT no fever
- Clear runny nose
- Head lice and nits
- Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)
- Active, alert and ready to learn



If in doubt, please stay out and try again next week!