



# Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 5  
15<sup>th</sup>  
November  
2019

Dear Parents,

The academic year continues at pace and we have already achieved so much as we head towards the end of the calendar year. With a number of exciting events and activities planned for the remainder of the term, we will be sending out our Christmas diary dates letter to help keep you up to speed.

It was so lovely to see so many pupils and parents at our PTA discos on Friday. They were very well attended and the pupils were impeccably behaved. Thank you so much for all your support and of course to the PTA for making the event the success it was. We raised between £350-£400 for the pupils of Fir Tree and this will go into our funding to 'Improve the outdoors' (as previously mentioned the Greenham Trust have pledged £5000 match funding to us!!!) So we have from now until next October to start raising £5000. Please visit our project at the following link and help pledge your support:

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/17485/fir-tree-school/improving-the-outdoors-for-all>

I am also delighted to announce that the Newbury Building Society as part of their community fund have donated £500 to Fir Tree so that we can purchase a class set of glockenspiels to deliver our music curriculum and to encourage a love of music.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for short notice cancellation of clubs recently. The decisions to cancel any club is not taken lightly and we do appreciate that short notice can be tricky for yourselves when having to change your day to collect your child. Wherever possible, as much notice as possible will be given.

There is still time to apply to be a parent governor for Fir Tree if you are interested; completed nomination forms need to be with the School Office by Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Finally, with the winter weather fully upon us, please can I remind you that children need to be dressed appropriately for school – it has been a cold and wet one this week!!

Wishing you all a great weekend and looking forward to seeing you at the bazaar next week. Thanks as always for your continued support.

Regards,

*Lindsay Wood*

Headteacher



Anti-Bullying Week was here this week – (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November) with the theme 'Change Starts With Us'. We raised awareness of Anti-bullying week through assemblies, lessons and activities using resources provided by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. The aims of the week were to support and help children to understand:

- The definition of respect
- That bullying is a behaviour choice
- That we can respectfully disagree with each other i.e. we don't have to be best friends or always agree with each other but we do have to respect each other
- That we all need to choose to respect each other both face to face and online.

More information can be found here:

[https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk%2fanti-bullying-week/RK=2/RS=dTevJA\\_PI3YYN0CGXi0DFXiG7kQ-](https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk%2fanti-bullying-week/RK=2/RS=dTevJA_PI3YYN0CGXi0DFXiG7kQ-)



Fitting in with Anti-bullying and with increasing information in the news about online safety, I wanted to share with you a useful resource from Childnet International about how parents and carers can support young people. The resource sheet (attached to this newsletter) contains information on how to report concerns and other organisations/websites that you can access for information on this topic.

I hope you find this useful and if you have any concerns please contact me.

### Tax Free Childcare (Treehouse Club)

Fir Tree has signed up for the government Tax Free Childcare which is available to working parents. To apply go to the following website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## Diary Dates

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November**  
EYFS Rhyme Share  
(Separate letter to follow)

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

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November**  
House Share & Learn Day  
(CHANGE OF DATE)

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**  
Non-Uniform Day

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**  
Christmas Bazaar

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
EYFS Christmas Morning  
Performance

**Book Look for Parents 3:15pm – 4pm**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
EYFS Christmas Afternoon  
Performance

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
NAT Winter Concert @ Trinity 7pm

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
Christmas Dinner

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
Pantomime Trip

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
Christmas Service at 9:30am

**End of Term 2 - pupils finish at 12pm**

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### Teacher Training Days

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

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

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



A huge thank you to everyone for their donations today to Children in Need. There were some fantastic onesies and pyjamas worn to school and I have never seen toast and hot chocolate be so popular. We raised a fabulous **£340.10** thank you everyone!



**WORLD BEAT**



Next week we will hold our second Worldbeat event at Fir Tree Primary. The whole school will join together to celebrate languages from around the world and to perform to one another in front of a panel of judges. Pressure is on our reigning champions 'Year 5' who won last year. You should have received a letter this week about countries to be represented and what the children need to wear to school next Friday. Please contact the School Office if you have not.

**Value of the Month for November is...**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**Friendship is an act of giving to others.**



**Ideas for the theme of Friendship are:**

- Discuss 'What is a Friend?'
- Talk about how we can care for our friends.
- Get your child to draw a picture of a special friend and write why they like them.
- Discuss, 'The only way to find a friend is to be one'.
- Talk about being a good friend and get your child to think about what kind of friend they are. How does being a friend influence their behaviour?
- Get your child to make two lists- What have you done this week that was friendly to others?
- What have you done this week that was unfriendly to others?
- Discuss what they write and give positive praise and encouragement for friendly behaviour.
- Talk about what makes a good friend – this can be to brothers and sisters too!

As mentioned in our last newsletter, in EYFS they follow the **ECAT Programme (Ever 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 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**

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**



Our School Christmas Bazaar is rapidly approaching us. It will take place straight after school on Friday 6th December at 3:30pm – 5pm, we hope that you will be able to join us and get into the Christmas spirit.

As always we would be really grateful for any kind donations and in gratitude for this we will be allowing the children to come to school in non-uniform on Friday 30th November when they bring in the items. This year we would be really grateful for donations of the following to help with the bazaar:

Class	Donation
<b>EYFS</b>	Anything chocolate and sweets, the more Christmassy the better!
<b>Year 1</b>	Boys Christmas Stocking Fillers
<b>Year 2</b>	Girls Christmas Stocking Fillers
<b>Year 3 and Year 4</b>	Christmas fayre e.g. food, decorations, stationery, toiletries
<b>Year 5 and Year 6</b>	Christmas tippie (alcohol) or soft drink

We would also love any kind donations of cakes - plates will be coming home the week before the event. Monies raised will be going towards a Comic Artist working with Fir Tree during World Book Day 2020.

Father Christmas will be joining us again this year – but moving a little more swiftly! Tickets will be available to meet him and to receive a present from the office on Monday, priced at £5 each.

Finally, if you are linked to a company who may like to donate a raffle prize we would be most grateful.



Rocky and Dolly in Year 5 and 6 have come up with a wonderful idea to spread Christmas Cheer to those less fortunate than ourselves. they would like to take some Christmas presents up to the Children's Ward at Reading Hospital and to potentially read to them at the end of the term. If you would like to be involved and donate a chocolate or sweet treat to their cause please pass to Mrs Wood or the School Office by 30th November.

**NEW THIS TERM**



This term we have introduced a Weekly presentation award alongside the weekly GROW Awards at Fir Tree. We want all our pupils to take pride in their work and strive to improve on how they present their work. Trying their best and making small improvements will really make the difference!!

