



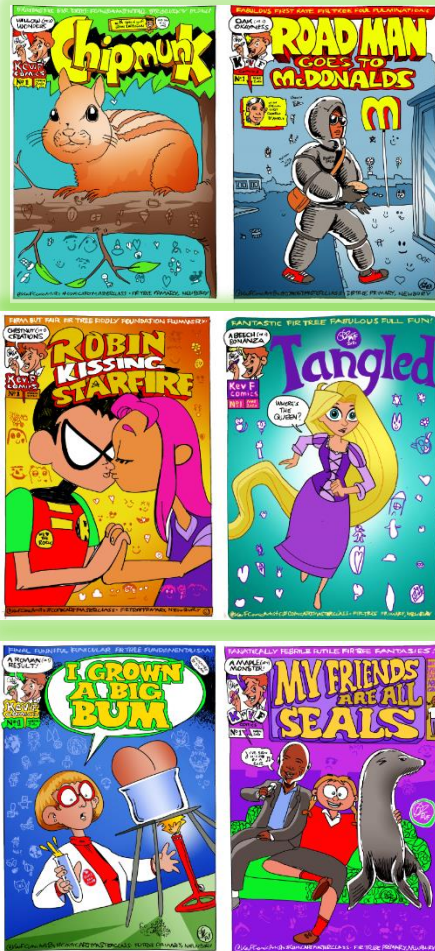
Fir Tree Newsletter

Issue 13
20th
March
2020

Dear Parents,

It's been a busy time in school since our last newsletter and as always we are grateful to you for your support.

Last week Year 1 through to 6 were visited by the Comic Artist Kev F and partook in his comic masterclasses. A fantastic time was had by all! It was brilliant to see Reading and Art brought together and to watch the children develop a new found enjoyment of comics as well as developing art skills. Every class produced a class comic, which I hope that you have seen. Plus the children were also lucky to have their caricatures drawn too. Kev has sent us the final front cover artwork of all the comics and I am sure that you will agree they are brilliant!



Last Friday everyone took part in the fun sports mile and other sporting activities. I don't think I have ever seen so many scooters all at once! The day was a great success, thanks to all Mr Hosier efforts and organization and we raised a fab £130.00 Thank you for your donations for Sports Relief, I am sure that it will make a difference.

As always we want to keep you informed and up-to-date with events and changes at school, as a result of the rapidly changing situation regarding Coronavirus we made the decision to cancel and/or postpone events. Yesterday you will have heard about the school closures taking place next week. All schools across England will close from Monday for all students with the exception of children of key workers and vulnerable children. Once more information is received we will communicate this to you. We remain vigilant and promote good hygiene and cleanliness in school by cleaning and disinfecting regularly touched objects. As always we will keep you updated if we receive further guidance and advice.

However, just a gentle reminder that:

- Children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- If children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home
- We are supervising children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues

The updated guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19#contents>



Please take care and look after those around you. These are challenging times but working together and looking after those around us is the best way forward. I will communicate again in due course as more information is available. Thank you again for your support.

Kindest regards

Lindsay Wood
Headteacher

Diary Dates

ALL EVENTS FOR the REMAINDER OF TERM 4 POSPONED & WILL BE RE-ARRANGED

Wednesday 25th March
Year 3 Class Assembly @ 2:30pm

Wednesday 1st April
Year 2 Class Assembly @ 2:30pm

Wednesday 1st April
Year 2 and Year 6
SATs Information Evening
(More details to follow)

Friday 3rd April
End of term 4 – finish at 12pm

Monday 20th April
Start of Term 5

Tuesday 21st April
Year 4 Multiplication Check
Evening
(More details to follow)

Tuesday 28th April
Year 1 Phonics Evening
(More details to follow)

Wednesday 29th April
Year 4 Class Assembly @ 2:30pm

Wednesday 20th May
Year 1 Class Assembly @ 2:30pm

Wednesday 3rd June
Year 5 Class Assembly @ 2:30pm

Wednesday 17th June
EYFS Rhyme Challenge am & pm

Wednesday 15th July
Year 6 Production – pm (time to be confirmed)

Teacher Training Days

Friday 26th June 2020

This year we have really been trying to expose all our children to a wealth of vocabulary. Having a broad vocabulary has huge benefits for children, increasing their confidence as readers, writers and talkers. Try these ideas to boost your child's word power at home!

Play Word Games

Traditional games like Scrabble and Hangman are great for encouraging kids to try out new words or sparking discussions about what words mean. There are also some great 'word finding' games and apps available for use on tablets and phones.

Word of the Day

Have a word of the day. This can be a new word you've discovered or shared, a favourite word of yours, or a word you've randomly picked from a dictionary! Challenge the family to use the word at least once during the day, in context: in other words, they can't just say a sentence with the word in, it has to be part of a conversation or referring to something you've seen or done.

Talk, Talk, Talk

Be a talking family. Plan regular times where the family sits down and talks together. Meal times are ideal. Use great vocabulary when you speak to your child. Talk about the things you see around you, what you've done that day or are planning to do tomorrow/next week/on holiday.



We continue to have so many of our wonderful children reading more and more at home! It is fantastic to see and hear more children achieving their 50 Reads! Thank you for supporting us with this, developing a love of reading and listening to your child read every night will help them in so many ways.

- Bella – Year R
- Charlotte – Year R
- Darcy – Year R
- Hassan – Year R
- Lexi – Year R
- Summer – Year R
- Jaydon – Year R
- Joel – Year R
- Emily – Year R
- Jonathan – Year R
- Jonah – Year R
- Breanna – Year 1
- Archie Y – Year 2
- Ryan – Year 4
- Trinity – Year 6



And amazingly we have some more **100 reads** achievements too! Well done to:

- Bella – Year R
- Lexi – Year R
- Ellie – Year 1

A huge congratulations to them all; I look forward to announcing further successes and awarding certificates!

Children are expected to undertake 5-10 minutes of reading at home a minimum of 3 times a week. When children read at home, an adult should make a short comment in this book on the appropriate day in the home-school diary.



I am delighted to tell you that when we re-open we will be opening a Healthy School Tuck Shop every Friday breaktime. The PTA have kindly supported with the opening of the tuck

shop by buying the initial goods. The Tuck Shop will be located in the School Hall at 10:30am and will be run by the Year 6's and Miss Purcell. All children will have the opportunity to purchase a healthy snack and/or drink. As it grows we hope to have a weekly, freshly cooked special too! We will keep you updated as to its opening.

Sticking with the theme of food. I am delighted to inform you all that we have a new fabulous School Cook, Mrs Hill! Mrs Hill has made a tremendous start at Fir Tree and the food coming out of the kitchen not only looks delicious, it smells it too! We are hoping to let you join your children for lunch later in the school year to sample her wonderful food. School Dinners are priced at £2.25 per day. Don't forget that if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they are eligible for daily universal free school meal! All orders must be made online before 9am of the start of the school day.

Lunch



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We have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies which would require the administering of an epi-pen in the event of a severe reaction. With this in mind can we please ask that children

who bring in a packed lunch from home have no nut products eg peanut butter sandwiches, walnut cake etc. in their lunchbox. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.



Can I also take this opportunity to gently remind you that children should be provided with a healthy packed lunch. Please avoid cakes and sweets and do encourage fruit, yoghurts and healthy alternatives. We have recently seen unhealthy drinks appear in boxes too.



Don't forget that the Loose Change Challenge is now up and running in every class!! Some of the jars are looking very full already, I wonder who will win this year!

Plus we are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/firtreeprimaryschoolandnursery/?utm_campaign=raise-more

You can also download the mobile app from your relevant App Store, please search for EasyFundraising - each download is worth 50p to Fir Tree School!

You can also follow the Fir Tree PTA on their own page on Facebook too, to be kept up-to-date with events and ideas.

