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Thursday 21st July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds everyone well, healthy and safe, especially after the extremes of weather that we have been experiencing.

It feels very strange writing my final letter of the term, what a jam packed, productive and rewarding year. I have said this multiple times before but I feel immensely proud to be the Headteacher of Fir Tree and this year more than ever! I would like to thank each and every pupil for all their efforts and for adapting back to school this academic year; adhering to covid measures and changes very early on as well as focussing on their learning and working very hard; a huge thanks to all parents for all your support and helping us support your children and the school – never more have we been a strong community and our successful Ofsted Inspection last term is testament that! And of course I owe a huge thank you to my wonderful and dedicated staff, they have worked relentlessly again this year in so many ways, going above and beyond and they are ready for their break.



We have seen an increase in covid cases in the last few weeks and who knows what is ahead of us in the winter months to come, as always, I know in true Fir Tree style we will adapt and be resilient where needed and I will of course keep communicating to you the entire way through the academic year.

Most pupils should have now received their end of year school report. If you have not received or collected it, it will be arriving with you shortly via post. Thank you to those parents who have sent back comments based on the child's report; we do value these as they support our provision and practice.



I am conscious that lots of information has been sent your way to digest over the past two weeks, I really hope that you feel informed, of course if you have any questions we are always a phone call or email away. As you know from September, school will be very much like it has been this year, continuing working on the areas identified from our inspection and I have every confidence that as always we will work together to ensure that your child is safe, happy and reaches their full potential at Fir Tree. As we communicated last week, next academic year we will be extending the school day to 3:30pm

Monday to Thursdays and finishing at 1pm on Fridays. Thank you to those parents who have been in contact with us regarding Friday afternoon provision where this may be difficult.

In addition to this information already sent, we are sending home the annual Parent Handbook today, this of course has been updated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. This can also be found on our school website.

With our commitment to being a greener school, electronic communication will continue and we hope that you find this useful. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for completing the various surveys throughout the year, your views and thoughts really do help us with our provision. We will continue to keep the link on class pages on the school website

for you to contact your class teacher next academic year as this has proved very helpful and we hope this will remain helpful to you.



In assembly today we shared our House winners for 2021/22 – the children have really embraced dojos this year and risen to the challenge to achieve them, which has been lovely and we look forward to this continuing next year! A huge well done to our winners: Donnington! As you can see it was incredibly close!

<b>1st</b>	<b>Donnington</b>	<b>10,995 points</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Berkeley</b>	<b>10,773 points</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Windsor</b>	<b>10,084 points</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>Highclere</b>	<b>10,069 points</b>



Also in assembly we shared the amazing Achievement of Ali in Year 4. Ali is the only pupil who has 100% attendance at Fir Tree this academic year, so we presented him with an extra special certificate today in assembly – well done Ali.



It's with sadness that we say our goodbye to our Year 6's. They had a wonderful send off as you can see, albeit a bit different to usual. We are immensely proud of them and wish them every success at their new schools and thank them for being so sensible and resilient during their return to school. Many families will be ending the school run to Fir Tree too, once again I'd like to thank them for all the support they have given to both their children and the school. We also say goodbye to some pupils elsewhere in the school who will moving to new schools – we wish them all the very best luck for the future too!



Please can I take this opportunity to thank our hardworking PTA, they truly work so hard behind the scenes to raise money for the school that will benefit all the pupils, as well as giving them memorable experiences too. With Year 6 pupils leaving Fir Tree, they have been left a little lighter, so if you would be interested in joining the team please do get in contact, even if it's just to share ideas or a run a stall, any help and support is greatly appreciated.



Can I also thank you on behalf of all the staff for the very kind gifts and cards that we have received this week, they really are not expected as we love our jobs, but we are incredibly grateful.

So on a final note, I would like to wish you all a well-deserved and restful summer break. We look forward to you all returning and welcoming our new pupils and families to school on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 using the new finish times** and to a successful year ahead at Fir Tree where we all continue to flourish and grow!

Have a lovely summer

Best wishes

Mrs L Wood  
**Associate Headteacher**



## A Few Reminders from the Office

- Ordering lunches from Term 1 onwards must be done by **8am that day** via ParentPay. You can order any time, but meals must be ordered by 8am of the day that the lunch is required. Lunches that are no longer required must also be cancelled by 8am, including when your child is unwell, otherwise you will still be charged, and no refunds are possible.
- Children moving up to Year 3 will now start paying for their lunches, unless eligible for Free School Meals, and these must be ordered via ParentPay. Please check your eligibility to [Free School Meals](#) through West Berkshire Council online; if found to be eligible then your child's meals will remain free.
- Please do familiarise yourself with the start and end times for your children, paying close attention to Fridays and which gate entrance you are to use. It is imperative that you are on time and 'drop and go' through the one-way system.

- Treehouse Breakfast Club will start from 5th September and bookings must be with the school office a week in advance. The booking form is available on the school website and should be emailed to [office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org). PLEASE NOTE – PREVIOUS REGULAR ATTENDEES MUST BOOK A PLACE. WITHOUT A BOOKING FORM WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR CHILD A PLACE.
- Please ensure all medication for children on Care Plans and an inhaler for those with asthma is brought in to school on 5<sup>th</sup> September and is well within expiry date. For any new medication, which must be prescribed, or changes to current medication, please attend the office to complete a medical form.

Finally, please let the office know if:

- any of your contact details have changed.
- your 'Trusted Adults' list has changed.
- there are any updates to your child's medical, allergy or dietary requirements.
- your child now has permission to walk/cycle home from school. *(Our policy on children walking and cycling to school is that Years 5 and 6 may walk or cycle to school by themselves with parent/carer permission, but children in younger year groups must be accompanied by an adult (over 18). All children cycling to school should wear a helmet and have received appropriate Bikeability (or similar) training.)*