

# FIRSIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL

September 2011

Middleton's Lane  
Hellesdon  
NORWICH NR6 5NF  
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Headteacher: Mr. S. J. Fisher  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R. Robinson



Dear Parent,

Welcome back – and a very warm welcome to all those parents whose children join us for the first time. The term has started really well and the children all seem to have settled well into their new classes (and school for the Year 3). The teachers have been busy, as you would expect, planning work to excite, challenge and hopefully inspire the children over the coming months. The main purpose of this first newsletter, therefore, is for us to tell you about those plans and to give you some important dates for the term ahead.

We all look forward to an exciting and rewarding term.

## YEAR 3 NEWSLETTER

We are really pleased to welcome all our new Year 3s to Firside. We have had several meetings with their Infant School teachers and look forward to building on the skills they have developed there.

This year, we are excited to be starting *Maths Makes Sense* which is an innovative and fun way to teach Maths. Alongside this, your child will have access to the *Mathletics* website which will support our work in school.

In Literacy, we will be studying a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts and will encourage the children to recognise the similarities and differences between them. We will be using Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation, (often abbreviated to VCOP) as key ideas to help the children improve their writing.

You can make a real difference to your child's progress by reading regularly with them at home – 4 or 5 times a week would be ideal. Times-table practise is also important and we will let the children know which tables they need to work on.

We would appreciate any help from parents and carers who can come into school to help with individual reading practice. Please talk to your child's teacher if you would like to help with this.

In ICT, we will introduce the children to email, and they will have their own gmail account. We feel confident that use of the Internet and email will support their learning and will discuss e-safety issues as part of our programme of study.

Some practical advice to help you and your child through the first week:

- For the first week, your child's teacher will bring your child, with his or her class, out to the playground at the end of the day. From the second week, children will come out independently at the end of the day. Please make sure that you and your child are aware of your own arrangements for collection.
- The children know where to leave their lunchboxes in the canteen but it would be helpful if you could assist them to do this before school starts.
- We have a fruit break every morning and encourage children to bring in a piece of fruit or a healthy snack. This should be brought into class rather than kept in their lunchbox. We also allow and encourage water bottles with lids that children can drink out of in class. Water only please.
- Children will be able to buy tuck from the canteen at break time and should bring no more than £1 in a named purse. This may be handed to their teacher for safe-keeping at the beginning of the day and taken home at the end of the day.



Firside Junior School ♦ Middleton's Lane ♦ Hellesdon ♦ Norwich



## Autumn Term Diary

### September

19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 5 trip to Holt Hall (small groups)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	School Photographs (individual) ..... <b>N.B. CHANGE OF DATE</b>
	Year 5 Parents Curriculum Information Event ..... 3.30pm (room 5T)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	'Grassroots Theatre' (whole school assembly & Y6 workshops)
	Year 3 Parents Event ..... 9.30am in classrooms
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	FOF AGM ..... 3.30pm
	Year 6 Parent's Kingswood & curriculum plans information event ..... 3:30 pm in 6m classroom

### October

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Parents Curriculum Information Event ..... 3.30pm (room 4P)
Tues/Wed 11/12 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Consultation Meetings ..... 3.30pm-5.30pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Harvest Assembly (with Ian and Sally McBride from the Salvation Army)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Half term week
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	School re-opens

### November

Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Anti-bullying week - theatre group to visit in school
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6 Newspaper Day

### December

Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Play
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	School Play
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas school lunch
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Autumn term

### 2011-2012 TERM DATES

Autumn	7 <sup>th</sup> September to 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Half term	24 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Spring	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan to 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Half term	13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Summer	16 <sup>th</sup> April to 20 <sup>th</sup> July (Bank holiday 7 <sup>th</sup> May)	Half term	4 <sup>th</sup> June to 8 <sup>th</sup> June

### REQUESTS FROM THE OFFICE

**School lunch orders:** Please try to place orders on a Monday at the office (envelopes available) and make cheques payable to Firside Junior School.

**Contacts:** please make sure the office has your up to date details in case of emergency - particularly phone numbers and email addresses.

**Helping:** if you are volunteering your help in school please talk to the office about CRB checks.

**Uniform:** please ensure that everything is clearly named so we can ensure lost uniform can be returned to the rightful owners.

**Photographs:** will now take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. We must have your photo consent forms returned by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September please.

### Redecoration of Girls Toilets

We would like to extend a huge 'Thank-you' to the Holiday Inn and their 'green-team' for the fantastic job they did over the summer, redecorating some of the girls toilets. Everyone knows how tight resources are in schools and without their help the much needed redecoration would quite simply not have happened.

### Conservation Area Clean-up

We are also indebted to Shelley Logan and her team who worked so hard to rejuvenate the conservation area. Over the course of the second week of the holiday they got really stuck into their work, clearing out all the weeds and waste, and getting the area ready for the new term. Another huge 'Thank-you'!