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Middleton's Lane, Hellesdon, NORWICH, NR6 5NF

 01603 426550

Headteacher: Mr S. J. Fisher

deputy Head: Mrs R. Robinson

Dear Parent,

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Winter Fayre such a success last Saturday. It was a very busy morning and we had visitors from all over this side of the city coming as well as those from our own community. Everyone I spoke to enjoyed it hugely and some were already asking about an Easter Fayre! A very big 'Thank you' to the *Friends of Firside* who organised and ran it so fantastically well.

I am pleased to let you know that the maintenance work in the kitchens has been completed and meals are once more being cooked at Firside by Debbie and her team. We are grateful to the staff at Angel Road kitchens for helping us out over the past few two weeks but we are very glad to get back to normal (especially with the Christmas lunch ahead).

There are many festive activities going on between now and the end of term which I hope you and your children enjoy. As this is the last newsletter of the term, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pirates of the Curry Bean

With the final dress-rehearsal on Monday, we are nearly there! If you have not yet got your tickets, you will need to contact the office extremely quickly to avoid disappointment. Please remember that the amount space we have is very limited and so we are forced to limit the number of tickets available to each family. We appreciate that families are often desperate for extra seats but fire restrictions apply – if you do not have a ticket you will not be able to get in! Do remember though that there are usually spare seats for the afternoon performances.

School Meals and School Funding

School budgets these days are determined by a number of things, one of which is the number of pupils in the school who are registered for free school meals. That means that if a child is registered for a free meal the school gains extra funding, regardless as to whether that child actually takes up their free meal or not. PLEASE apply for free school meals if you are entitled to them, even if you don't wish to have the meals.

Currently for each child registered for free school meals the school gains around £450 in extra funding. Further information, including information about who is eligible is available via the Norfolk schools website at www.norfolk.gov.uk/view/ncc67241, or by calling Norfolk County Council on 01603 222518 or 223051, or contact the Headteacher in confidence.

Friends of Firside – 'Thank You'

Winter Fayre: Thank you so much for your great support of this event on Saturday. We made a profit of almost £700.00 which will be put towards:

- play equipment which has been requested from the school council for all children to make use of, and
- work on the quad areas, again to benefit all our children.

We really hope that you enjoyed yourselves, and made use of the variety of activities and stalls available. We appreciate your feedback, so if you have any comments please forward these to the office for FoF's attention.

TheGivingMachine site - for online purchases! A reminder to make use of this fantastic (free) way to help the school's fundraising. Please refer to the card that was issued a few weeks ago or see the poster in the school foyer for further details. It is very easy to register with *TheGivingMachine*, then choose Firside Junior as your beneficiary. Then you have access to 100's of popular shops including eBay and Amazon for example, and each shop gives a donation % from your purchase, back to the school. Go to *TheGivingMachine* site before making purchases, choose Firside Junior, then click on the shop you want, and continue shopping. It's brilliant for us - please do remember to make use of it! Thanks again for your support, *Friends of Firside*

New Parent Support Adviser

The cluster Parent Support Adviser is an extremely valuable asset, and I know many families have benefited from their input in the past. Unfortunately we have been without one since July, so I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Nada Goodings will be starting in that role on the 5th December. Nada will be working with all the schools in the Hellesdon and Horsford Cluster. On this occasion we are working in partnership with the Benjamin Foundation, so whilst Nada will be working exclusively for our schools, she will benefit from the additional support they will be able to offer. To find out more about the Benjamin Foundation visit www.benjaminfoundation.co.uk. We are looking forward to being able to restart the invaluable support the Parent Support Advisers provide.

Hand washing

Both Arden Grove and we are launching our hand washing campaigns. The seasonal illnesses seem to have arrived and many families have fallen to one or other of the bugs that are going around. At school we are reinforcing the message that good hand-washing is the key to stopping the spread of germs. Please could you reinforce this message at home by reminding your child to wash and dry their hands every time they go to the toilet.



Diary

December

Tues. 6 th	Christmas Production 1.15pm & 6.30pm with Y3 & Y5 choir
Wed. 7 th	Christmas Production 1.15pm & 6.30pm with Y4 & Y6 choir
Mon 12 th	Year 3 Christmas Craft activities workshops (by prior booking) 3:15 onward
Tues 13 th	Year 3 & 4 Assembly with Major Sarah Murray (Salvation Army) Year 3 trip to the Puppet Theatre
Wed 14 th	Music ensemble for whole school (Peripatetic music teachers' 'Pop band')
Thurs 15 th	Year 5 & 6 Assembly with Major Sarah Murray (Salvation Army) Christmas Lunch
Fri 16 th	Last day of term

January

Wed. 4 th	School re-opens - first day of the spring term
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Joyeux Noël. God Jul. Feliz Navidad. Kung His Hsin Nien ling Chu Shen Tan



Early Arrival At School

School opens at 8:30 and not before!

Lessons start at 8:45 and not later!

We are concerned that an increasing number of children are arriving at school too early. While we are sympathetic to parents who need to get to work, we simply cannot have children in the school any earlier than 8:30. Please be aware that if they arrive before this time there is no-one to look after them and we cannot accept responsibility for them. We are a school and have no child care facilities.

Looking ahead, the extended schools team included a question on their recent questionnaire about before-school clubs. If enough people wanted this facility, we are sure they would try to arrange something. We hope that you took the opportunity the questionnaire offered to flag up any interest you may have in a before-school club.