

Dear Parent / Carer,

The term is well and truly underway and the 'progress meetings' with parents have been held this week. As you will know from meeting the classteacher, your child has been reminded of their targets in Reading, Writing and Maths. Individual targets have been introduced to Year 3 children, sometimes for the first time, and the teachers have spent quite a bit of time making sure they understand them.

Individual targets help each child understand what they need to focus on most, over the coming weeks. The targets are levelled so your child should always be working towards an appropriate target. We hope that you will talk to your child about their targets, find out what they need to focus on, and give them any help and encouragement you can.

Standards Update

In the last newsletter we shared with you the children's results in last year's national tests (the SATs). Since then national and local results have been released and we can compare how well we did compared with other schools. 90% attained Level 4 or more in both English and Maths which places Firside 2nd out of the 49 junior schools in Norfolk. 95% attained L4+ in maths and 93% attained L4+ in English, placing us 1st and 4th respectively out of all Norfolk junior schools. 83% made at least 2 levels progress from KS1 to end of year 6 which is a little lower than expected however if progress was measured from our assessments made when children first arrive at Firside, 100% make at least 2 levels progress.

These great results are a credit to all the teaching they have had since first starting school in reception. We are all proud of their achievements.

Top 10 Tips to help your child learn

(Taken from a recent report on practical ways in which parents and carers can help their child get on)

- 1) Read with, and to, your child.
- 2) Set time aside each day to talk with and listen to your child about their work
- 3) Talk to them about their targets and help them work towards them
- 4) Help them with their homework tasks
- 5) Encourage him/her to ask higher order questions (questions that lead to deeper understanding)
- 6) Use the locality to provide a stimulating range of experiences e.g. visit galleries, museums, sports centres, theatres, and nature reserves.
- 7) Provide resources to support learning at home (internet, visual stimuli, books, maps).
- 8) Encourage your child to participate in extra-curricular activities at school and in the local area
- 9) If your child complains about being bored, take the comments seriously and seek a solution with your child, and the school
- 10) Restrict the amount of time they spend in front of the TV and/or computer screen

Oh, and once more because it's SO important...

- 11) Read with, and to, your child.

Harvest Festival with a difference – A “Chocolate Harvest”

We plan to take a slightly different approach to Harvest Festival this year! Each year the children at Firside support local charities at Harvest time by supporting the Salvation Army ‘Toys and Tins’ appeal. This year we would like to hold a “Chocolate Harvest” on Friday 26th October to help local families around Norfolk at Christmas by giving them a gift of chocolate in their food parcels.

Radio Norfolk along with The Salvation Army launched their “Toys and Tins Appeal” over 20 years ago. Last year over 4500 adults and children were helped through this appeal. Each food parcel always contains *essential* items such as tea, sugar, tins of soup etc. but by giving a gift of chocolate we hope to include a little treat as well.

Hazel Sommerville from the Salvation Army will be coming in on the 26th October to tell the children more about where the chocolate will be used and will collect the children’s donations that afternoon. We would have loved to invite parents along but unfortunately simply can’t fit everyone in the hall!

Donations of chocolate could range from tins and boxes of chocolates to fun family bars or individual bars. All donations will be gratefully received. Please could children bring in their chocolate from Monday 22nd October.

Thank you for your support in this project.

Diary

October

Friday 26th Y6 to visit Gressenhall Museum
Finish for half term break

November

Monday 5th School reopens after half-term
Wednesday 7th Coffee & Chat (Dining Hall) 9am
Friday 16th Children in Need Bake Sale
Monday 26th Anti Bullying Theatre group in school
Tuesday 27th Y6 Newspaper Day

December

Wednesday 5th Coffee & Chat (Dining Hall) 9am
Tuesday 11th Christmas Celebrations 1.30 & 6.30pm
Wednesday 12th Christmas Celebrations 1.30 & 6.30pm
Thursday 20th Christmas lunch
Friday 21st Last day of term

January 2013

Tuesday 8th First day of spring term

Crocus planting project



The school council has had the great idea of planting the grassy quad with crocus bulbs! With funds from FOF they have ordered enough bulbs for every child in the school to take part. The quads should be a riot of colour this spring!

We plan to plant up the bulbs between now and half-term - please look out for the request for help on your child’s planting day. We would love you to come and join in.