

Dear Parent / Carer,

It has been a fabulous and busy last few weeks of term! On top of the usual work of the school, it has been quite hectic with the Christmas concerts, community carol concert and Christmas Fayre on top of the end of term activities.

The **Christmas Fayre** was great! It was *such* a busy morning with visitors from far and wide as well as those from our own community. Everyone enjoyed it immensely and we owe a huge 'Thank you' to the *Friends of Firside* who organised and ran it so brilliantly. What a fantastic morning! Thank you so much for your great support for the event. The funds raised will be used to help fund the re-development of the pond/pergola area at the school in the New Year.

Although we are using our Christmas concerts to fundraise for 'Shelter' we are still running our **BEFA sugar appeal**. Thank you for the sugar already sent in. BEFA volunteers will be coming to collect our donations at the beginning of next week, so if you haven't yet donated a bag of sugar, then there's still time – just!

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

School Christmas Concerts

We were delighted that so many parents, grandparents and friends were able to come and share our Christmas celebrations at the concerts this week. Thank you to everyone for the compliments. We agree with you – the children were great! They sang and played their hearts out and gave great performances. As everyone knows, the concerts were used to help raise funds for 'Shelter' and we are very grateful for your support – total raised **£380!**

We are already looking forward to putting on a play in the summer term as well as the summer concert, as part of a festival of learning.

FOF - The Giving Machine

A reminder about this fantastic (free) way to help the school's fundraising. Once registered with *TheGivingMachine*, you will have access to 100's of popular shops including eBay and Amazon for example. Each shop gives a donation % from your purchase, back to the school. Go to *TheGivingMachine* site before making purchases, choose Firside Junior, click on the shop you want, and continue shopping. It's brilliant for us - please do remember to make use of it!

Photo Competition

The school recently bought some great new cameras for the children to use, thanks to the generous support of FOF. Their use was launched with a photographic competition. All the children took part with each class selecting their favourite to put through to the finals. Miss Killingworth, Mrs Carpenter and Michael Grimshaw had a terrifically difficult time as judges to decide on the winning images. The winning photos were from 5C and 3Mc (many congratulations to those classes - they win £40 of indoor/wet play games). If you haven't had the chance to see the photos yet, the finalist images can be seen on the school website.

Handwashing

At school we are reminding children of the importance of hand-washing. Good hand-washing is the key to stopping the spread of germs. So please could you reinforce this message at home and remind your child to wash and dry their hands every time they go to the toilet.



December 2012

Monday	17 th	Christmas assembly with Paul Roast (local churches youth worker) Year 3 to Arden Grove to see their Christmas Play (am)
Tuesday	18 th	Year 3 Puppet Theatre trip (am)
Thursday	20 th	Christmas lunch (<i>pre-booked only</i>)
Friday	21 st	Last day of term

January 2013

Tuesday	8 th	First day of spring term
Thursday	10 th	Mad Science after school Club starts (6 week course)
Thursday	17 th	SESMA after school Club starts (5 week course)
Friday	18 th	CSF Football & Multi-Sports after school club starts (9 week course)

February 2013

Monday	18 th	Spring Half Term week
to Friday	22 nd	

Punctual Attendance

School opens at 8:30 ...and not before!

Lessons start at 8:45 ...and not later!

We are concerned that a 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 until 8:30.

Mobile phones in school

A reminder that mobile phones and other devices are not allowed in school unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any request for exemption should be made in writing, please. The school cannot accept responsibility for items such as this if they are lost or damaged. Please keep them at home.

Absences from School

Please note that if your child is unable to attend school we must have a call on the day, preferably before 9:30am. If your child continues to be absent please continue to ring in so we can keep accurate records. Thank you.

Dinner Money

Please try and order and pay for dinners on a Monday morning for the week ahead as it makes the administration and food ordering so much easier. Also, we require payment in advance for meals – we are not allowed to run a credit system except in an emergency. Thank you.

