

Dear Parent / Carer,

The second half of the summer term is a great time in school with not just exciting projects in classrooms but also the play, the prom on the pitch and school sports to look forward to. Just before the break we held the official opening of the Trim Trail. It was a great community event despite the "dodgy" weather and we were really pleased that so many parents were able to stay to enjoy the activities organised by FOF. We had a great range of outside groups helping, and children were able to try out tasters of archery, tennis and other activities. We were extremely grateful to Jon Thaxton who found time in his busy schedule to come and open the trail but our biggest thanks goes to the Friends of Firside (FOF) for organising the event and leading all the essential fundraising.

You can't have helped but notice the traffic cones along the road outside the school. This is part of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team campaign to make parking safer around schools and all the local schools have been given sets of cones. The CPSO team have been busy at other local schools and are now set to spend more time outside Firside to help us all keep the children safe and the traffic moving. Unfortunately we have had a number of complaints recently from our neighbours about thoughtless and/or dangerous parking on both Middleton's Lane and Meadow Way. PLEASE park carefully to avoid blocking the pavement or someone's driveway, or parking on a bend which restricts visibility. Thank you.

We are still waiting for an inspection team to visit. It is frustrating when we have so many success stories to share – not least how much progress all the children have made this year!

We have invested a great deal of energy and time in ensuring consistently high quality teaching to accelerate children's progress. The impact of this work is clearly seen in the in children's books during lessons and in the regular assessments. Mid and end of term assessments clearly show children are making really good progress!

All areas of development have been monitored regularly by governors, the Local Authority and of course the HMI inspection (November) which noted our rapid and sustained progress. The Local Authority has never been shaken in its view that Firside is a 'good' school and we now keenly wait for an inspection. Thank you to everyone who has already given their view of the school on ParentView. Please do help inform the inspection team about how well we are doing – we are keen that there should be a truly representative set of views for them to consider.

Book Cafés

This half term we are delighted to be starting to run Book Cafés in all year groups. Book Cafés are relaxed, informal events held during the school day at which you can:

- find out about how we share books and teach reading strategies
- take part in a short, fun follow-up task with your child
- enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with friends

Below is a summary of the Cafés planned for this half term.

Year 5: 2:00 pm on 11th June
Year 4: 2:00 pm on 18th June
Year 3: 2:00 pm on... 3M 25th June; 3H 26th June, 3Mc 28th June
Year 6: 11:30 am on 18th July

Parents, carers and other family members are all welcome. Cafés will last about 75 minutes. Over time we plan to vary the times of the Cafés to make them accessible to as many people as possible. If you have any questions about Book Cafés, please feel free to contact us. In the meantime, we very much hope that you will give one a try this half-term! We will, of course, also be very glad to have your feedback on the event you attend.

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Aviva Tag-Rugby

Leicester Tigers Community team, in partnership with Norwich RFC have invited our Year 3 to take part in a new national initiative. The children have just started a 6 week tag-rugby programme which will culminate in a fun tag-rugby festival. The first session was held on Tuesday 4th June and was brilliant fun as well as a great introduction to the game.

Yr3 Digital leaders

The introduction of digital leaders in Yr 3 is a real success story! Some pioneering work is going on to share our learning in and out of the classroom using 'Edmodo'. Well done to our team for being the first to take on the role.

Yr5 Learning Outdoors

The Holt Hall trip is brilliant way to learn about seashore habitats, environments – and outdoor cooking over a campfire! Learning outside the classroom brings learning alive!

Yr4 Tri-Golf

A highlight this term has been the Tri Golf programme! We have been extremely lucky to have Sally Benton from Hellesdon High, working with us on Tri Golf. They have thoroughly enjoyed it and developed great skill!

Yr6 Exemplary approach

We were so pleased with the fantastic effort and attitude of all pupils in test week! It was great to have 100% attendance for the 2nd year running. A BIG thank you for the superb Wold War II homework from half-term, as well.

Diary

June	Mon 10 th	Year 6 residential to Kingswood
	Wed 12 th	Year 3 Parents – 'Community Lunch'
	Fri 14 th	Father's Day breakfast/lunch
		Area Sports competition (pm) at Drayton Infant School
	Wed 19 th	Tri Golf competition – Year 4 team (pm) at Hellesdon High
	Thur 27 th	School closed – CPD day (applies to all local schools)
	Sat 29 th	Jumble Sale
July	Tues 2 nd	Year 3 trip – Carrow Road (OTBC)
	Fri 5 th	Reports home
	Mon 8 th , Tues 9 th	Hellesdon High transition day – Year 6 pupils to Hellesdon High
	Mon 8 th	Yr2 pupils to visit for morning
	Thur 11 th	Mixed-Age day
	Tues 16 th , Wed 17 th	School sports mornings
	Tues 16 th	Parent consultations (after school)
	Fri 19 th	Prom on the pitch
	Tues 23 rd	Leavers assembly 14:00
	Wed 24 th	Last day of term

School Sports (16th and 17th July)

As well as competing in the 'Area Sports', we hold our own School Sports and parents are warmly invited to both mornings as always.

School play (18th July)

Regular rehearsals have now started! The children are busy practising speeches and songs. Prop-making starts soon.

Prom on the pitch (19th July)

The music staff have started gearing up for the summer concert, too. It will be a creative and artistic end to the summer term!

Holidays in school time

A number of parents are planning ahead for their holidays next year. We are always grateful that parents make such an effort to avoid taking their children out of school in term time. Missed school causes significant disruption to a child's education and it is very difficult for them catch up on the missed teaching – they are then at a real disadvantage.

It is not always understood that although parents can request time off for a family holiday, there is no automatic right to having this authorised. The Headteacher considers the reasons making a decision – and there only very few reasons that he is allowed to accept in order to authorise an absence. There is little scope for allowing holidays over 10 days in any academic year: reasons for this would have to be truly exceptional. If an absence is not authorised and a family still takes a holiday, the school is compelled to refer to the Attendance Team. We therefore strongly advise you to check with the school before booking your holiday. Please note that holidays early in the autumn term and during essential test periods will not be authorised. Any absence request should be made using the form available from the school office.