

Dear Parent / Carer,

The term is not only well and truly underway but we are already at the half-term point! The *progress meetings* are an important part in the process of discussing your child's progress and enlisting your help at home. We appreciate the overwhelming majority of parents coming to the meetings and hope you found them helpful in understanding the next steps for your child.

There are many opportunities for you to be involved in school over the next two months. We hope you can take up some of these opportunities – the children always enjoy your involvement so much. There are Book Café's, Parent's to Lunch, FOF's Christmas Fayre and not least the Christmas Performances! I'd also like give a plug for the Friends of Firside and urge you to get involved in any way you can! FOF are not just about fundraising: they also provide a great many social and fun activities for the all the children that simply wouldn't happen without their work.

Lastly, I need to let you know that I shall be retiring in July. Making this decision was particularly difficult as I love my job so much, however the end of the year will be the best time both for the school and for me. It has been a great privilege to be Headteacher here for the last 13 years and even after all that time it is still a pleasure to come to work each day. I am also pleased that our rapid, upward trajectory has been already recognised by HMI before I go and I have absolutely no doubt whatsoever that in due course the school will be acknowledged as the outstanding school we know it to be. Firside is a brilliant school: the children are fantastic and the staff are great. When the time finally comes I will miss it intensely but in the meantime there is plenty of good stuff to be getting on with and a job to be done!

Harvest Festival

Each year we support local charities at Harvest time by supporting the Salvation Army 'Toys and Tins' appeal. Each year we have a different theme and this year they have asked us to collect bags of pasta and rice.

Radio Norfolk along with The Salvation Army launched their "Toys and Tins Appeal" over 20 years ago. Each year over 3000 adults and children are helped through the appeal. Each food parcel always contains *essential* items such as tea, sugar tins of soup etc. They always include a bag of rice or pasta, and so our donations will be very much appreciated.

Hazel Sommerville from the Salvation Army will come to our school assembly on the 25th October to tell the children more about the appeal and how families will be helped. They will collect the children's donations that afternoon. We would have loved to invite parents along but unfortunately we simply can't fit everyone in the hall!

All donations of bags of rice or pasta will be gratefully received. Please could children bring in their donations from Monday 21st October.

Thank you for your support in this project.

Golden Mile Launch

The Golden Mile is a safe, simple and measurable health & physical activity initiative, accessible to all pupils regardless of age or ability.

The aim is to inspire and encourage our school community through physical activity with a focus on fun, rewarding personal achievement and school competition.

It helps us reinforce the message from the Department of Health that children should engage in regular daily physical activity habits across the week, every week all year round.

The Golden Mile is an ALL YEAR ROUND initiative whereby Pupils, Staff and parents can get involved. Simply walk, jog or run around our Golden Mile tracks within the safety of the school grounds.

The number of laps the children achieve are then uploaded onto the website. Their laps are then converted into miles and the children's progress is displayed via graphs and league tables.

The fun began on Tuesday with our launch in school and the training of the young sports leaders who will champion the Golden Mile in school.

The fun begins!



Firside Awarded Bronze Sports 'Kitemark'

We are delighted to be awarded the bronze Kitemark for PE and games – especially notable as only around 5% of schools in Norfolk have managed it! We hope to achieve 'Silver' before the end of the year.

Shanghai Teachers Visit Firside

It was a pleasure to host a visit by four teachers from our link school, HuiShi Primary, in Shanghai this week. They were fascinated by many of the strategies that we use at Firside and even took photos of our target cards! They were particularly interested in the individual attention we give to each child and to the opportunities we give children to use and develop their imagination.



Diary Dates

October		
Monday	21 st	Sports hall Athletics tournament at Hellesdon High School
Tuesday	22 nd	Year 6 to visit Gressenhall Museum – Victorian Day
Friday	25 th	<i>Harvest Assembly</i> with Hazel Summerville (Salvation Army)
Monday	28 th	Half-term Week
November		
Monday	4 th	School re-opens
Thursday	7 th	Yr6 girl's football tournament at UEA
Friday	8 th	Year 6 to visit Sainsbury Centre
Monday	11 th	Tag Rugby tournament
Thursday	14 th	Year 4 Book Café – parents invited School Disco
Friday	15 th	'Be Seen, Be Safe' assembly with Radio Norwich
Monday	18 th	Sports hall Athletics tournament at Hellesdon High
Wednesday	20 th	New Parent's 'intake' evening meeting
Thursday	21 st	New Parent's open morning
Saturday	23 rd	FOF – Christmas Fayre
Tuesday	26 th	3Mc Book Café (2 pm)
Wednesday	27 th	3H Book Café (2 pm)
Friday	29 th	Year 6 Newspaper Day in school
December		
Tuesday	3 rd	'Voice in a Million': choir concert at St Andrew's Hall
Tuesday	10 th	Christmas Performance
Wednesday	11 th	Christmas Performances
Thursday	19 th	Christmas Lunch
Friday	20 th	Last day of term

Meadow Way Chapel, Light Night Party

We are pleased to draw attention to the Meadow Way Chapel 'Light Night Party'. This is a positive alternative to Halloween and will hopefully encourage children to stay off the streets while still having loads of fun.

