

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a good summer and have been able to relax and enjoy the sunshine. As you receive this newsletter we will be into Autumn the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". The first child to tell the poet who wrote those lines will get a small prize. Talking of Autumn there will be a message coming from Mrs Robinson (Head of School) regarding the Harvest Festival in the next week.

Firstly I must apologise for the lateness of the first newsletter and to reassure you that there will be regular and frequent communication from school to home.

I have really enjoyed the first two weeks at Firside and can see what potential the school has to provide the best possible opportunities for the children. I would like to thank all the parents and carers who have spoken to me outside school and wished me well and also those of you who have felt able to raise concerns. It is only through honest communication that improvements can be made and if any of you would like a longer discussion please phone the school to make an appointment

As you will be aware the school is expecting an Ofsted inspection this year and it is important that we show all the children making as much progress as possible. Progress is the most important measure now and even though the attainment (that means the actual results the children get) is high we must improve the progress the children make from their starting points at KS1 i.e. what they arrive at Firside with from the infant schools. To this end we need to have a greater sense of urgency and you can really help us by making sure that the students complete their homework to the best of their ability, are well equipped, well dressed and ready for school as soon as they arrive.

I look forward to working with all of you as the school starts the next part of its journey.

Yours faithfully
Gerard Batty
(Executive Headteacher)

School Dinners

Please remember to order and pay for all your child's meals on a **Monday** for the week ahead. Meals should only be ordered and paid for throughout the rest of the week in the event of unforeseen circumstances. This enables the kitchen staff to accurately order and prepare the correct amount of food and so eliminate waste. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Holidays in term time

As you will be aware schools cannot authorise any absence of any sort unless there are exceptional circumstances (medical needs, family emergencies etc.). This includes holidays. We would like parents to understand that the regulations are very clear and schools have no leeway in this. Please contact the school office if you require any further information.

Absences

If your child is unable to attend school please ring in before 9:15 on the first day of absence stating your child's name, class and reason for absence. If they are still absent after 2 days please ring to update us and thereafter every 2 days if illness persists.

Uniform

We already have some lost property! Please make sure that all uniform, PE kit, swimming kit (including towels) and personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name. It is much easier for everyone to find and return items that are named.

DIARY DATES

September

Monday 22 nd	River Glaven visit – Class 5L
Tuesday 23 rd	River Glaven visit – Class 5C
Thursday 25 th	River Glaven visit – Class 5H
w/c Monday 29 th	Harvest food collection for Salvation Army – <i>details to follow</i>

October

Monday 20 th	Theatre Company in school – WW1
Wednesday 22 nd	School closes for Half Term

November

Monday 3 rd	School re-opens
Friday 7 th	Non-Uniform for FOF Christmas Hampers
Friday 14 th	"Children in Need" Bake Sale & Book Sale
Tues/Wed 18 th /19 th	Parent Evenings
Saturday 29 th	FOF Christmas Fair

December

Tuesday 9 th	Christmas Performances 1:30 & 6:00pm Y3 & Y5
Wednesday 10 th	Christmas Performances 1:30 & 6:00pm Y4 & Y6 <i>(N.B. Ticket requests will cost a bag of sugar for the Buckingham Appeal)</i>
Thursday 18 th	School Christmas Lunch
Friday 19 th	Last day of the Autumn Term

ART & CRAFT

Please ensure that **every child** has a named craft apron or old shirt to wear for art and craft activities.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

This half term we have:

Street Dance on a Thursday 11th September to 16th October.

Community Sports Foundation **Football** Club on a Friday 19th September to 17th October.

Please look out for other clubs coming soon – forms will always be available in the Foyer.



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Head of School: Mrs R Robinson

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CYCLE PASSES

If your child wishes to cycle to school please fill out the form available in the Foyer and return to the school Office. Your child will then be issued with a pass and a hi-viz vest to wear for the year.

