



# Firside Update

23  
January  
2015

*“Become the best you can be!”*

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first edition of Firside Update. It is a new way of communicating with home and it is primarily to celebrate the success of children at the school however if there are other urgent items they will be raised as there are in this first issue. I hope you find it useful and please feel free to make suggestions.

A school is a very complex organic organisation and because it is made up of people from a wide variety of backgrounds there can be tensions. I have become increasingly concerned at the number of aggressive incidents, particularly involving boys but some girls as well. I must inform you that this will not be tolerated at any level, including retaliation, and will be dealt with accordingly and could possibly include:

- Inclusion at the high school
- Fixed term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion
- Loss of high school place

Every child deserves to feel safe, secure and happy at school and we will do everything we can to ensure this is the case at Firside.

One other problem I need to make you aware of is theft. It is unfortunately a statistical certainty that in a school of this size there will be children who find taking other pupil's possessions an everyday action. We have a particular problem in Years 5 and 6 which started before Christmas but is continuing. Please make their lives difficult by making sure that everything is labelled and reporting any theft as soon as possible. It is my fervent hope that none of these thefts are deliberate but just thoughtlessness.

On Monday at the whole school assembly I will be showing a video clip about inappropriate sharing on the internet. It is suitable for 8 -12 year olds but after consulting with the leadership team we feel it would be appropriate for the whole school. The link if you would like to preview it is [www.youtube.com/watch?v=sch\\_WMjd6go](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sch_WMjd6go)

I wish you a pleasant and peaceful weekend

Gerard Batty  
Headteacher

## Stars of the Week

- Y6** Ben East Lucy Goodson  
Sandie Winter Finlay Wilch  
Morgan Chase Cole Thompson
- Y5** Georgia Newman Ellie Madders  
Louis Halvey Lauren Woolner  
Lily Hewitt Ruby Jefferies  
Ben Smith
- Y4** Ryu Young Charlie Pinner  
Katie Lambert-Sharp Harry Gray  
Jacob Prescott Gabe Morgan
- Y3** Keira Leggett Alan Wuksta  
Chloe Walpole Cameron Crosswell  
Jacob Anderson Jack Hardy

## Head Lice

Since the Christmas break, we have been made aware that headlice have been found in the hair of a few pupils. We thought it would be helpful to remind parents to check children's hair regularly.

**SHARE THE MAGIC ...**

**Harry Potter Book Celebration**  
**Hellesdon Library**  
**Thursday 5 February, 6 - 7.30pm**  
**Free event - Fiendish quiz/ crafts and activities**  
Dress code - wizarding robes, Harry Potter fancy dress or your best muggle attire  
Booking essential

**J.K. ROWLING**

Booking essential, contact the library on 01603 427790. For children aged 7 and over. All children must be accompanied by an adult.  
harrypotterbooknight.com BLOOMSBURY #HarryPotterBookNight

### **BREAKING NEWS IN YEAR 3!**

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, children in year 3 made a startling discovery when they found three dragon eggs in the upper quad. The new born dragons, however, were nowhere to be found (much to the relief of everyone!) The children quickly identified these dragons as *Norfolk Crested dragons* and this was verified by dragonologists from around the country. In fact, one famous dragonologist, Dr Ernest Drake, wrote to the children this week asking for entries to his new book 'The dragon spotter's guide to dragons of the world'. The children have had great fun creating their own dragons and have been writing some brilliant non-chronological reports to explain all about these new dragons.



*'It was amazing to find a Norfolk Crested dragon egg in our school' Daisy, 3LH*

*'I was really excited to see the eggs!' Ollie, 3LH*

*'It was really exciting when year 3 found the eggs. I hope it happens again soon!' Cameron, 3LH*

We have been so pleased with the excellent attitude of the children and their enthusiasm to get back to learning after the Christmas break.

### **ACCELERATED READER**

Accelerated Reader is now well established in the school. It supports children in their book choices whilst allowing them to read 'real' books. The quizzes allow us to monitor their understanding of what they are reading. Children enjoy quizzing and the library has never been so well used.

Research suggests that up to an hour's reading practice a day is beneficial, so it is great that so many children are reading at home too. Even an additional 10-15 minutes a day can make a big difference!

Accelerated Reader is not about restricting children's reading, so if children would rather read something other than their Accelerated Reader book out of school, that is also to be encouraged.

We repeat the reading test once every half-term (more often if a child is on a reading intervention) and adjust children's reading ranges accordingly.

If you want to search for books that would suit your child or check the levels of books you might have at home, you can use [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk).

Finally, if you would like more information about how Accelerated Reader is supporting your child, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

**Y6 FOOTBALL** - Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> was the best football tournament ever (for us)! Liam, Hannah and Adelaide were goalies. Girls play the first half and boys finish off. Liam didn't concede at all and Hannah let a few in however was very good and was helped by her strong defenders - Kacey, Poppy & Sandie. Paige put everyone's head up by scoring first, from Adelaide's pass. Following on in that half, Adelaide scored two more against Toftwood Junior, the boys successfully stopped goals going in, due to strong midfield and defence with George & Daniel. Next match was 0-0 against Drayton Junior. Against Wreningham Primary Adelaide was the only one to score a goal but they equalised. Next Finlay scored twice to make it 2-0 against St Martha's Primary. The next match Luke scored a key goal against Weeting Primary. Finally our biggest win of the day was against Little Snoring Primary, 10-0, Adelaide scored two, Luke scored two, Justin one, George one and Finlay scored four. So we qualify for the next round on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

By Adelaide, Paige and Sandie.

**NAMING CLOTHING** – We collect lots of lost property which we cannot return to children as it is not named. Please name everything clearly!

**COFFEE MORNING** – Please join us for coffee and a chat in the Hall on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 8:50 to 9:50am. Miss Hinde will be on hand to discuss any SEN concerns you may have. As parents may wish to discuss sensitive issues please be respectful and do not share information outside this forum. Thank you.