

# Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

## Summer Term 2023

[www.firthmoor.darlington.sch.uk](http://www.firthmoor.darlington.sch.uk)

### Dates for the diary

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Children break up for Half Term  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Training Day for staff - pupils not in school  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Children return to school  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Year 6 photograph  
12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June - Healthy Eating Week  
Wed 28<sup>th</sup>/Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> June - Internal transition (Reception to Year 5)  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Children break up for Summer holidays

### Handwriting competition

We recently ran a class handwriting competition in school where the winner in each class was chosen by their teacher.

Each winner received a certificate from the Headteacher.

Class winners were:

Summer  
Jonas  
Suzie  
Andy  
Isabella  
Scarlett G  
Chloe  
Scarlett D  
El-J  
Kieron

### Visits to Beamish Museum

Recently, children in Miss True's, Miss Trainer's and Miss Murray's classes visited Beamish Museum as part of their studies in History and Science.

They soaked up the History when they visited the old-fashioned motor cycle shop, school room, sweet shop, and court room. They even went down the old coal mine and rode the tram!

As part of their Science, the Y4 children visited the ice cream parlour where they studied 'changing forms', which is when liquid is turned to solid (in this case, milk turned to ice-cream)

The children had a fantastic time all round!



### Farewell to Mrs Willis

This Friday, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Willis, who is retiring after a dedicated 18 years at Firthmoor Primary. Mrs Willis has worked with many, many families in the Firthmoor Community and has helped a vast number of the children in her care to achieve their full potential through her teaching. She will be missed not only as a great Teaching Assistant to her current children, but also as a valued colleague and friend. Mrs Willis, we wish you a long and happy retirement.

### Deacon the Guide Dog

Children recently welcomed a special visitor into school. Deacon the Guide Dog works for RNIB, and he and his humans came in to tell us about the fantastic work they do for the visually impaired.

We enjoyed hearing all about the great work the charity does.



### National Numeracy Day

Y5LJ worked together in pairs to solve some puzzles and problems. Here are some of the children's thoughts:

- "I think it's fun to solve problems but it can be quite tricky!" - Jack
- "The puzzles were hard but because they're fun, it's not frustrating!" - Oliver
- "Normally, I'm not too keen on Maths but this has been fun." - Layla
- "I really liked solving the equations but it was really tricky." - Lucas
- "I think the puzzles have shown how much we listen in Maths because we have had to use lots of different skills to solve them." - Thaila

In Mrs Blagg's and Mrs Howland's class we took part in National Numeracy Day by watching the live stream. We learnt dance moves to Maths vocabulary and we learnt number facts from the quiz. Then we solved Mathematical problems and puzzles.



### Visit to Catterick Farm

The children in our Reception classes enjoyed a visit to Catterick Farm where they had a lovely time petting lots of animals and exploring a tractor!



### Attendance Challenge

Last half term, every child with attendance of 97% or above was able to choose a free book from a fantastic range in the Scholastic Book Fayre.

Good attendance is vital for successful teaching and learning.

Well done to all book winners!

### Darlington Dance Competition

Children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Darlington Dance Competition at the Hippodrome this year. They had been rehearsing to perfect their techniques for weeks beforehand, and they did themselves and the school proud at the event.



### Darlington Mayor's Eurovision Song Contest

Thirteen children from Year 5 and 6 were recently chosen to enter the Darlington Mayor's School Song Contest. After practising for many weeks, the children had a brilliant evening performing to parents, local mayors and other schools at the Dolphin Centre. The theme of the contest was 'colours' and the children performed 'Yellow' by Coldplay. The group sang beautifully and showed great confidence performing in front of a large audience. They truly deserved the huge round of applause they received!



### Fitness Fun at Maidendale

Year 5 & 6 children are attending a weekly fitness fun class at Firthmoor Community Centre gym. They complete circuit training exercises, and they are learning the skills used in boxing. Everyone, including the teachers, has great fun whilst keeping fit!



### Netball

We have recently been fortunate to be able to welcome into school a Netball coach from the club 'Headlanders', organised by Mrs MacRae. Selected year 6 children practise weekly, and due to the recent good weather have been able to play outdoors.

### Next Academic Year Calendar (September 2023 to August 2024)

2023	July	August	September	October	November	December
Mon			4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Tues			5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Wed			6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Thurs			7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Fri			1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Sat			2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Sun			3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31

2024	January	February	March	April	May	June
Mon	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Tues	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Wed	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Thurs	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Fri	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Sat	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Sun	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30

2024	July	August	September
Mon	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	
Tues	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	
Wed	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	
Thurs	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	
Fri	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	
Sat	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	
Sun	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	

#### Teacher Training Days

Monday 4th September 2023  
 Friday 27th October 2023  
 Monday 18th December 2023  
 Tuesday 19th December 2023  
 Tuesday 23rd July 2024

■ Public Holidays  
■ School Holidays  
■ Staff Training