

# Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2023

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

## Upcoming Dates Reminders

Week commencing Monday 13 November 2023 - Anti-bullying Week

Friday 15 December 2023 - Break up for Christmas holiday

Wednesday 3 January 2024 - Return to school

Friday 16 February 2024 - Break up for half term

Monday 26 February 2024 - Return to school

## National Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 7 December, we are inviting all pupils to wear a Christmas Jumper for National Christmas Jumper Day.



This ties in with the children's Christmas lunch in school, where they will dine at decorated tables.

## Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Challenge

Year 5 were recently visited by PCSO Emily Snowball who introduced them to the Bronze, Silver and Gold challenges. The aim is to allow young people and schools to give a little extra to help the local area become even more safer, stronger and more resilient to crime and anti-social behavior. Although the children have 3 months to complete their challenges, many have already completed their Bronze challenge. Well done, Year 5!

## December Christmas Performances

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> pm - Reception (Mrs Smith)

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> am - Nursery (Mrs Attwood)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> pm - Mrs Morrow, Mrs Coad, Miss Heslop & Mrs Irwin

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> pm - Mrs Blagg/Howland, Miss True & Miss Jamieson

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> pm - Miss Trainer, Mrs Walker & Miss Murray

*Further information to follow nearer the time (ie start times)*

## Children's Christmas Parties

Monday 11 December - pm - KS1

Tuesday 12 December - pm - KS2

Wednesday 13 December - am - Nursery

Wednesday 13 December - pm - Reception

Children may wear their own clothes. Sensible shoes must be worn as children will be outside at break and lunchtime.

## GOAL in a Day

Mrs Morrow's, Miss True's and Miss Murray's children recently engaged in a day of educational fun, taking part in GOAL (Game of Actual Life).

This is a programme aimed to enhance literacy, numeracy, life skills and communication skills by using 'real life' situations, such as employment, car buying, money lending, mortgages and bank accounts.

## Children in Need

"GO SPOTTY" for Children in Need

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

To raise funds, children can come to school wearing something spotty - £1.00 donation per child would be appreciated



## Parents' Evening

We will be holding parent/teacher consultations evenings on **Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 November** (more details to follow for the online booking) for all pupils from Nursery to Year 6.

## Stay and Play with Bookstart

Nursery were very excited to have our grown-ups come into nursery to enjoy a fun stay and play session.

Our morning included a visit from the library service who led a session of stories, singing and dancing. We were all delighted to be presented with our very own Bookstart pack containing 2 books and lots of activities.



# PE & Sport @ Firthmoor - Autumn 2023



## Cross Country Competition

24 eager children from Year 3 to Year 6 went to Blackwell Meadows to compete in the Darlington Cross Country competition on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. All the children were very excited to be running at a new venue with Year 3/4 children running 1300m, Year 5 children running 1500m and Year 6 children running 1600m (just over a mile). It was great to see the positive attitudes of all children taking part as they tried their very best to complete the course.



## TAG Rugby Competitions

In October, one team of girls and one team of boys represented the school at a TAG Rugby competition at Blackwell Meadows. Throughout the matches, all the children worked hard to keep possession of the ball and aimed to score as many tries as possible. Both teams demonstrated excellent teamwork skills and grew in confidence as the matches progressed.



## Quidditch Smile Day

Children in Year 5 and 6 were treated to a Quidditch 'Smile Day' on 24<sup>th</sup> October. A 'Smile Day' encourages children to take part in different types of sporting activities, with the aim that it will make the children smile and encourage pupils to choose to lead an active lifestyle. On our Quidditch Day, children were divided into four teams (just like they are in Harry Potter). Pupils worked as a team to play two different quidditch type games. All children were fully engaged in the activity and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to learn a new type of sporting activity.



## Outdoor & Adventurous Smile Day

Children in Year 3 and 4 took part in an outdoor 'Smile Day' with Mr Hall (an outdoor specialist coach). Throughout the session, pupils learnt many skills, for instance: how to protect themselves, how to camouflage, how to successfully complete an evacuation drill and how to rescue an injured person. Despite the fact that it was a very wet day, all the children gave their best and listened carefully to instructions given. Mr Hall was so impressed that he told Mrs Dixon that Firthmoor Primary School was one of the best schools he has ever been in and the children demonstrated excellent teamwork skills and showed a great deal of resilience.



## Swimming

Year 6 children have had the opportunity to learn how to improve their swimming strokes and learn about water safety this half term. After the 6 weeks course, 22 children have gained the expected level for a Key Stage Two pupil. Well done.

