



## Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

**Date: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather is starting to get a little colder now so please make sure you send your child to school with a coat for playtimes. I have received some feedback from parents regarding the layout of the newsletter so I have made some changes to ensure it is accessible to all. There is a list of dates for your diary at the end that you can use to keep you up to date with things that are happening this half term.

### Reminder

We will be sending newsletters out electronically from now on. I hope you are all able to access this newsletter as it will be emailed to you once a fortnight, uploaded to the school website and put on Facebook in order to ensure that everyone can see it. If you do require a paper copy, then please notify the school office so that this can be arranged. Please can you keep an eye out for information on all school events.

### Breakfast Club for Reception Pupils



Reception children will be able to access a free Breakfast Club from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The breakfast Club will be **in the hall** and starts at 8.20am each day. We have spaces for up to 15 children and this will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. Please speak to a member of the admin team if you would like a place for your child.

Next term, parents will be able to book online via our SchoolCloud booking system. More details will be sent out in the coming weeks.

### Fruit for snack Key stage 2

Children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 can bring a piece of fruit for a morning snack if they wish. This should be a piece of fruit only and not a packeted item.



### Harvest Festival - Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (date change from previous newsletter)



Our children (including Nursery) will be celebrating Harvest with a whole school assembly this year. We will put on two performances so that all parents are able to come along. There will be a morning performance at 9.15am and an afternoon performance at 2.15pm. We will need parents to reserve a seat so that we can ensure we have room for everyone. Please contact the school office. Initially, we will be restricting seats to 2 seats per family to ensure fair access (we will review this nearer the time). There will be a raffle at each assembly with the money raised going towards subsidising our Pantomime visit in December so please bring some change along if you can.

We will also be collecting donations on behalf of the local foodbank at Firthmoor Community Centre. We will welcome donations into school of tinned or packeted items from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### Halloween Disco – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October



We will be having a Halloween disco for pupils and we will be selling tickets. The money we raise from this event will go towards subsidising our planned trip to the pantomime for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 in December and to subsidise the cost of a visiting show for our nursery and reception pupils in school.

**Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils can attend the disco from 3.30pm**

**- 4.45pm**

Pupils in Reception can come to school dressed in their Halloween outfits as they will be taking part in Halloween themed activities throughout the day. Pupils in Year 1 and 2 can either leave school to get changed at home or bring their costumes to get changed in class. We will need to know who is staying in school nearer the time.

**Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils can attend from 5pm – 6.30pm**

Tickets cost £2 per child which includes a drink and a cupcake.

There will also be sweets on sale and the money raised from selling the sweets will also go towards subsidising the pantomime visit.

Our Nursery pupils are invited to come to school in their Halloween outfits for a Halloween themed day on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**.

### Pupil Attendance

We would like to remind parents that holidays in term time will not be authorised and may result in a fine. I have attached the guidance as a reminder to parents of the changes to school attendance which took place in the summer.

We will be reviewing our attendance policy over this half term, and we want to encourage all children to attend school on time every day. We will be putting plans in place to support this with class attendance awards in addition to the current attendance rewards system.



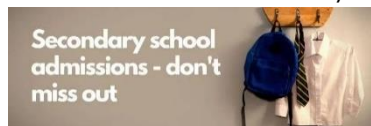
### After School Clubs

There are a range of after school clubs on offer for pupils. Letter have been sent home for the clubs and places allocated.

Day	Club
Monday	Y6 Maths Booster Key Stage 2 Science Club Y5 Sporting Futures
Tuesday	Y2 Games Club with Go Well
Thursday	Musical Theatre Club for KS2
Friday	Y6 Games with Sporting Futures

## Year 6 – Applications for Secondary School Places

Please remember that you need to apply for a secondary school place for your child by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**. There is a link to a guide for parents which also contains information about Open Events that you may want to attend:



[Secondary Guide for Parents \(darlington.gov.uk\)](https://darlington.gov.uk)

## Applications for Reception Class – September 2025

Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 are eligible to start school in Reception in September 2025. There is a link to a guide for parents below. The closing date for applications is the **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

[Primary School Admissions Guide \(darlington.gov.uk\)](https://darlington.gov.uk)



## Sports Update

### Autumn 1 – PE Kit Days

Here are the days that your child will be taking part in PE lessons in **Autumn 1**.

Year Group and Teacher	PE Days
Year 1 Mrs Morrow	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 2/3 Mrs Irwin	Monday and Tuesday
Year 2 Miss Heslop	Thursday and Friday
Year 3 Mrs Blagg and Mrs Howland	Monday and Thursday
Year 3/4 Miss Trainer	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 4 Miss True	Tuesday and Friday
Year 5 Miss Jamieson	Wednesday and Friday
Year 5/6 Mrs Walker	Monday and Wednesday
Year 6 Miss Murray	Monday and ( <b>Swimming on Tuesday</b> )

If PE days change in Autumn 2, we will inform you nearer the time.

### PE Kit

Pupils should wear a plain red t-shirt, plain black shorts, leggings or tracksuit and trainers.

No jewellery to be worn on PE days. Earrings need to be removed for PE.

Children in Year 2 to Year 6 can come to school dressed in their PE kits on their specified PE days.

Children in Reception and Year 1 will continue to change into their PE kits at school. Please bring kits in a school drawstring bag.

## Reception and Y1VM – Move with Max SMILES Day



On **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September** all Reception pupils and pupils from Y1VM will have the opportunity to participate in a special 'Move with Max' SMILES Day. Please can all pupils come to school in their PE kits for this day.

### **Y4MT – TAG Rugby Festival**

Pupils from Miss True's class will be attending a TAG Rugby development festival on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**. Pupils will be transported to and from the event, which takes place in school time. Pupils are asked to wear their school PE kit but also wear plain black tracksuit bottoms over their shorts in case of cold weather. Pupils must bring a warm, waterproof coat in case of poor weather too. Pupils will be provided with a Firthmoor hoodie to wear on the day.



### **Music Lessons**

Violin lessons will take place on Tuesdays in school.

### **In2 Project**

The Y6 children will be taking part in exciting activities again this term for the sixth year running. Hopefully, this will continue through the whole year, if funding allows. A timetable of activities for this term has been sent home this week.

### **Nursery Stay and Play**

Nursery will be having a 'story-time' stay and play session on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 11am-12pm**.

### **Reception Phonics Meeting**

Parents of Reception children are invited to attend a meeting **on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** to learn about our phonics program and how you can help your child throughout the year to develop their phonological awareness in preparation for reading and writing. Parents will need to come to the **Nursery** door which will open at **2pm** for a **2.30pm** start. Refreshments will be available.

### **Trustee Vacancy**

We will be looking to recruit a parent trustee to our board of trustees in school. More information on this will follow but I wanted all parents to be aware that there is currently a vacancy and to think about whether this is something that you may be interested in. If you are a working parent then some companies do support this volunteer role in school so it may be worth finding out from your employer whether this is the case.

**Diary of Events:**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Parents Invited</b>
Reception Phonics Meeting	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Reception	Yes
Move with Max – wear PE Kit to school	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception and Year 1- Mrs Morrow	No
Nursery Story Time Stay and Play	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 11am – 12pm	Nursery	Yes
Tag Rugby – wear PE kit with tracksuit bottoms and waterproof coat	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4 – Miss True	No
Harvest Festival Assembly	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October AM – 9.15am PM – 2.15pm	Nursery to Year 6	Yes
Early Years Halloween Day – Come dressed up if you like!	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery and Rec pupils	No
Halloween Disco	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Rec, Y1, Y2 – 3.30pm – 4.45 Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 – 5pm – 6.30pm	No
Pantomime at Darlington Civic Theatre	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 to Year 6	No

**Term Dates:**

**FIRTHMOOR SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**2024 - 2025**

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

2025	January	February	March	April	May	June
Mon	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Tues	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Wed	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Thurs	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Fri	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Sat	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Sun	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29

2025	July	August	September
Mon	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 30
Tues	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23
Wed	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Thurs	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Fri	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Sat	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Sun	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28

**Teacher Training Days**

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024
- Friday 20th December 2024
- Friday 21st February 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025

- Public Holidays
- School Holidays
- Staff Training



## Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools **after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

### Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

### National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

For example: a 5-day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

### Second Offence

(within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.