 **Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter**

**Date: Friday 18th October 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to a busy week next week as we will be holding our Harvest Festival Assembly which parents are invited to. We will also be having a Halloween Disco on Thursday evening (more information in the newsletter on both of these events). Our Y4 pupils enjoyed the rugby festival and our Y5 pupils enjoyed their trip to Grinton despite the weather.

There are lots of events in school so please take note of the events list at the bottom of this newsletter. The weather continues to be cold and wet. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly to be outside at playtime.

**Staffing Update**

Mr Woodward will be leaving us to pursue his career in the armed forces. We would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication during his time with us and wish him every success with his future career.

**No mobile phones in school**

This is a reminder that children should **not** be bringing their mobile phone into school. If on an occasion they need it after school, then it should be turned off and handed to the office or class teacher at the beginning of the school day.

**Harvest Festival - Wednesday 23rd October**

****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. The performances will be the same with the exception of Nursery performing in the morning assembly. 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 21st October.**

**Halloween Disco – Thursday 24th 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 show for our nursery and reception pupils.

**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 – 6.15pm**

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. **No phones should be brought to the Halloween disco.**

Our Nursery pupils are invited to come to school in their Halloween outfits for a Halloween themed day on **Thursday 24th October**. A voluntary contribution of £2 per child is requested.

**Pupil Attendance**

A reminder that there has been changes to the attendance guidance to schools by the DFE. There is a link to guidance for parents below:

[DfE external document template (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)](https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2022/12/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance.pdf)

**If your child is absent then please remember to make a phone call to the school office every day that your child is absent from school.**

**Year 6 – Applications for Secondary School Places**

****Please remember that you need to apply for a secondary school place for your child by **31st 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://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/21675/secondary-guide-for-parents-2025-2026.pdf)

**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 **15th January 2025**.

[Primary School Admissions Guide (darlington.gov.uk)](https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/21676/primary-guide-for-parents-2025-2026.pdf)

**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 (**Swimming on Tuesday**) |

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.

Our Uniform Guidance can be found on our website in the school prospectus.

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.

**Music Lessons**

Violin lessons will take place on Tuesdays in school.

**Birthday Celebrations**

A reminder that parents can make a payment of £2 to the school office if they wish to have their photo taken with 2 friends next to the birthday flag. They will need to let the school office know in advance so that we can arrange to have the flag raised. Children can bring sweets in for their class if they wish to on their birthday. These must be in sealed packets that can be sent home with the child (e.g. mini rolls, haribos, fun size chocolates).

**Trustee Vacancy**

We are looking to recruit a parent trustee to our board of trustees in school. We have attached the information in a separate document. 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. If you have any questions around the role then please contact the school office who can arrange for you to speak to the Head Teacher or the Business Manager about this.

**Darlington FC**

This is a reminder that we have a school season ticket for Darlington FC which was donated to us by the football club. This is for one adult and one child to attend. It is worth noting that children aged 12 and under do get free entry, so the child season card could be used for an older sibling. If you would like to add your name to the list to use the season ticket then please contact the school office.

**Diary of Events:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date** | **Year Group** | **Parents Invited** |
| Harvest Festival Assembly | Wednesday 23rd October AM – 9.15am PM – 2.15pm | Nursery to Year 6 | Yes |
| Early Years Halloween Day – Come dressed up if you like! | Thursday 24th October | Nursery and Rec pupils | No |
| Halloween Disco | Thursday 24th October | Rec, Y1, Y2 – 3.30pm – 4.45  Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 – 5pm – 6.15pm | No |
| Pantomime at Darlington Civic Theatre | Friday 13th December | Year 1 to Year 6 | No |

**Safeguarding Information for Parents**

Please see below some links to useful websites with safeguarding information for parents.

Mobile Phones - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones>

Roblox - <https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/roblox-checklist-new.pdf>

Reporting Online Concerns - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/>

**Term Dates:** 

