



Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

Date: Friday 22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all the families who showed their support for our Poppy Appeal and Children in Need. It was also wonderful to see so many parents in school to find out about their child's progress this week. If you didn't manage to get an appointment then please contact the school office. We are three weeks into to a very busy and very festive half term with lots of dates for your diary below. 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 frosty. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly to be outside at playtime.

Please remember that our newsletter is sent via email and is on facebook and the school website.

Firthmoor Open Event for prospective parents for Nursery or Reception on Saturday 23rd November between 10am and 12pm.



We will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 23rd November for parents of children who are thinking about nursery or primary school places for their child. This will be an opportunity to have a look around our Early Years environment (Nursery and Reception) and to also have a look around the whole school building. We will have a visit from Peppa Pig and George, a bouncy castle (for younger children) and refreshments. Please let any relatives or friends know, who may be interested, know about this event.

Nursery to open for full days

From January our nursery will open in line with our school day, 8:45am – 3:15pm to offer 30-hour places for children as well as providing parents the opportunity to purchase additional hours. Further details will be sent out separately but if you would like to apply for extended hours please speak with a member of staff.

The Hullabaloo Theatre trip Tuesday 3rd December: Nursery and Reception

The children will be going to see 'Cloud Man'. We have raised money to subsidise the cost of the theatre ticket and the coaches. The cost will be £5 per pupil to attend. If you require financial support with this then please contact the school office. Pupils can take a bag of sweets and a drink with them to watch the show. Please do not send fizzy drinks.

Pantomime Visit to Darlington Hippodrome on Friday 13th December: Year 1 – Year 6

The children will be going to see 'Sleeping Beauty' at the theatre. We have raised money to subsidise the cost of the theatre ticket and the coaches. The cost will be £5 per pupil to attend. If you require financial support with this then please contact the school office. Pupils in Year 6 have had their ticket and coach price funded by the 'In2 Project' so no contribution is required. Pupils can take a bag of sweets and a drink with them to watch the show. Please do not send fizzy drinks.

The coaches will be expected to arrive back at school between 4:45 and 5:00pm, depending on traffic but we will provide updates on the day.

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 \(darlington.gov.uk\)](http://darlington.gov.uk)

Key Stage 2 Milkshake Sale Friday 29th November.

The Young Citizens Club are running a milkshake sale on Friday 29th November. Milkshakes will be on sale during morning play time at the year 3 door on the yard for Year 3-6 children. Milkshakes will be 50p and a milkshake and cookie will be £1. All funds raised will be donated to school to support our future educational visits.

Book Fair – Week beginning: 3rd December 2024

We will be holding a book fair in school from December 3rd where books can be bought after school each night from 3:15-4pm. The book stands will be displayed in the school entrance so after you have collected your child, please do come in and buy a book or two. **This will be a cashless process.** If you would like to purchase a book, there will be a QR code to scan on your phone before you will be asked to input your bank details. In order to prevent overcrowding, we have devised a timetable for parents and children in specific year groups to attend on a different night. Obviously if you have children in different year groups, you only need to attend once if you wish.

Tuesday 3rd – Early Years and Y1

Wednesday 4th – Y2 and Y3

Thursday 5th – Y4 and Y5

Friday 6th - Y6

Christmas Craft Sessions in December

We would like to welcome parents and carers into school to take part in creating some Christmas crafts with their child. School will provide the resources and ideas if parents/carers can bring the enthusiasm. It would be lovely if an adult could attend for each child but we appreciate that this is a busy time of year and we will ensure all children take part. If you have children in sessions in different classes, then we can group the children together to make it easier. Please just let a class teacher know and they can organise this. The dates for the Christmas Craft sessions are below. There is no need to book just come along on the day.

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day on Thursday 12th December



CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY

All children can come to school in a Christmas decorated jumper/t-shirt/shirt. They can be homemade and do not have to be shop bought. If you have Christmas jumpers that your children have outgrown that you would like to donate to school for other children to wear then please send them into school by Monday 9th December. If you would like a preloved Christmas jumper for your child then please let the school office know and we will see if we can help.

If your child normally has a packed lunch on this day and you would like them to have a school lunch then please let us know by Friday 29th November at the latest and make payment via ParentPay if you would normally pay for your child's meals.



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://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

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.

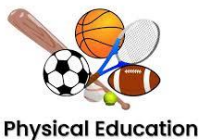
Sports Update

Autumn 2 – PE Kit Days

Here are the days that your child will be taking part in PE lessons in **Autumn 2 – Please note some classes have changed their PE day.**

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	Tuesday 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	Thursday and Friday
Year 5/6 Mrs Walker	Monday and Wednesday
Year 6 Miss Murray	Monday and (Swimming on Tuesday) and Thursday (Aut 2 only)

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



Physical Education

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.



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 School Events:

Event	Date and Time	Year Group	Parents Invited
Milkshake Sale 50p for a milkshake and £1 for a milkshake and a cookie	Friday 29 th Nov during morning playtime	Y1 - Y6	No
Book Fair in the School Entrance	3.15pm – 4pm Tuesday 3 rd Dec– Early Years (Rec and Nursery) and Y1 Wednesday 4 th Dec– Y2 and Y3 Thursday 5 th Dec– Y4 and Y5 Friday 6 th Dec- Y6	Whole School	Yes

Diary of Christmas Events:

Event	Date and Time	Year Group	Parents Invited
Christmas Craft Session	2.15pm on Tuesday 3 rd December	Mrs Irwin Y2/3 Class Miss Trainer Y3/4 Class Miss True Y4 Class Mrs Walker Year 5/6	Yes
Hullaballoo Theatre Trip to see Cloud Man	9-11:30am on Tuesday 3 rd December	Early Years (Nursery + Rec)	No
Christmas Craft Session	9am on Wednesday 4 th December	Mrs Morrow Year 1 Miss Heslop Year 2 Mrs Blagg and Mrs Howland Year 3	Yes
Christmas Craft Session	2.15pm on Wednesday 4 th December	Miss Jamieson Year 5 Miss Murray Year 6	Yes
Christmas Craft Session	2.15pm on Thursday 5 th December	Mrs Smith Reception Mrs Coad Rec/Year 1	Yes
Christmas Performance	9.15am or 2pm	Year 1 Mrs Morrow Year 2 Miss Heslop	Yes please reserve seats

Morning or Afternoon Performance	Wednesday 11 th December	Year 2/3 Mrs Irwin Year 3 Mrs Blag and Mrs Howland	
Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day	Thursday 12 th December	All children	No
Nursery stay and play	Following performance on Thursday 12 th December	Nursery	Yes
Reception and Nursery Christmas Performance	9.30am on Thursday 12 th December	Reception Mrs Smith Rec/Year 1 Mrs Coad Nursery Mrs Attwood	Yes please reserve seats
Pantomime at Darlington Civic Theatre	Friday 13 th December	Year 1 to Year 6	No
Christmas Performance Morning or Afternoon	9.15am or 2pm Monday 16 th December	Year 3 4 Miss Trainer Year 4 Miss True Year 5 Miss Jamieson Year 5/6 Mrs Walker Year 6 Miss Murray	Yes please reserve seats
Christmas Party	Tuesday 17 th December	Year 1 Mrs Morrow Year 2 Miss Heslop Year 2/3 Mrs Irwin Reception Mrs Smith Reception/Y1 Mrs Coad	No
Miss Trainer's Theatre Club Performance	Tuesday 17 th December 3:45pm.	Children who attend Miss Trainer's theatre club on a Tuesday night from KS2.	Yes for the parents of children who attend this club. No reservation required.
Christmas Party	Wednesday 18 th December	Nursery Year 3 4 Miss Trainer Year 3 Mrs Blagg and Mrs Howland Year 4 Miss True Year 5 Miss Jamieson Year 5/6 Mrs Walker Year 6 Miss Murray	No
Toy Day and Sweet Shop	Thursday 19 th December	Children can bring a non-electronic toy to school to play with. Please do not send anything precious or valuable as we cannot accept responsibility for lost/broken items. Children can bring in some money to buy some sweets from our sweet shop to raise	No

		money for our summer beach visit.	
Christingle	2:15pm on Thursday 19 th December	Whole School	No

Safeguarding Information for Parents

Please see below some links to useful websites with safeguarding information for parents and carers:

Online Sexual Harassment - <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/>

[StopItNow](#) – Preventing harmful sexual behaviour in children - Stop It Now provides a guide for **parents, carers** and professionals to help everyone do their part in keeping children safe, they also run a free confidential helpline.

[Action against abduction](#) - Building children’s confidence and abilities rather than simply warning them about all strangers and [Clever never goes](#) – the new campaign that teaches children how to stay safe from abduction whether they are outside or online.

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 19th 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'.