 **Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter**

**Date: Friday 6th December 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see so many of you in school for our Christmas Craft sessions. Our Nursery and Reception children enjoyed their theatre trip this week. Thank you for supporting our book fair in school as the school benefits from any purchases made. 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.

**Reminder: School closes on Thursday 19th December for the Christmas holidays and re-opens on Monday 6th January.**

**A Huge Thank You**

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support this term. It has been busy and I have enjoyed getting to know you all. It has been lovely to see so many of you at our school events. I would like to say a special ‘thank you’ to the parents who have helped with Christmas preparations and I hope that we can build on that support in the new year to benefit our children. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the staff for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. They have been supportive of the changes in school and this has enabled us to deliver a fantastic extra curriculum offer in addition to our normal school day. I would also like to thank our trustees who volunteer their time to provide support and challenge to the school. I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! I hope you enjoy this special time of year with your families.

**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.

**Reception and Year 1 visit to Hopetown Wednesday 18th December**

Our children have been invited to meet Santa at Hopetown Darlington this year between 10-12noon. The historic Carriage Works has been transformed into a fantastical forest of magical trees and woodland creatures. The children will hunt for clues to find all the reindeer so Santa can get on his way for his most important journey from Christmas eve into Christmas day. They will then meet Santa Claus himself and talk about their Christmas plans this year. Every child visiting Santa will receive an early Christmas gift. Please return forms to let staff know if your child is bringing their own packed lunch.

**Bikes**

Please can we remind parents and carers that children are to push bikes and scooters out of the school grounds. This is to keep our school site safe for everyone.

**Change of Collection at Home Time**

Please notify the office if somebody other than those named on your parents contact forms will be collecting your child. Without this we will need to contact you directly to confirm who is collecting your child and this will cause a delay at home time.

**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)

**Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day on Thursday 12th December**

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.

**Christmas Parties:**

**Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 – Tuesday 17th December**

**Nursery – Wednesday 18th December**

**Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 – Wednesday 18th December**

Children can come to school wearing their Christmas party clothes. They will enjoy festive activities and hopefully a visit from Santa if they have been good this year! Please can you ensure that children come to school dressed appropriately (no strappy tops, hot pants, very short skirts). Children will need to wear sensible footwear that they can wear for playtimes and games.

**Christmas Carols**

Y4MT will be visiting Roxby Court Care Home on Tuesday 10th December and the Dementia Day Care facility on Thursday 17th December. The children will be singing a selection of both traditional and more modern carols to entertain the residents at the is special time of the year. All visits will be in school time and a letter will be sent home giving more details. We would like to say a special thank you to Procters Coaches, who are providing the transport free of charge.

**Toy Day and Sweet Shop on Thursday 19th December**

****On our last day of school, we will have a sweet shop that children can visit to purchase sweets and drinks. The money raised from this will go towards subsidising our school visits. 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.

**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.**

**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.**

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| --- | --- |
| **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.

**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.

**After School PE Clubs**

Here are the dates for the last session of the current PE clubs on Monday, Thursday and Friday. These clubs stop this term and a new set of children will be invited to the sport clubs that begin in January. Further details of which children will be involved and the dates they will commence, will follow shortly.

**Year 6 Friday PE club – will finish on 6th December**

**Year 5 Monday PE club – will finish on Monday 9th December**

**Year 3/and 4 Gymnastic clubs – will finish on Thursday 12th December**

**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 Christmas Events:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date and Time** | **Year Group** | **Parents Invited** |
| Carol singing at Roxby Court Care Home | Tuesday 10th December  10am | Y4 Miss True | No |
| Christmas Performance  Morning or Afternoon Performance | 9.15am or  2pm  Wednesday 11th December | Year 1 Mrs Morrow  Year 2 Miss Heslop  Year 2/3 Mrs Irwin  Year 3 Mrs Blag and Mrs Howland | Yes please reserve seats |
| Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day | Thursday 12th December | All children | No |
| Nursery stay and play | Following performance on Thursday 12th December | Nursery | Yes |
| Reception and Nursery Christmas Performance | 9.30am on Thursday 12th December | Reception Mrs Smith  Rec/Year 1 Mrs Coad  Nursery Mrs Attwood | Yes please reserve seats |
| Pantomime at Darlington Civic Theatre | Friday 13th December | Year 1 to Year 6 | No |
| Christmas Performance Morning or Afternoon | 9.15am or 2pm  Monday 16th 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 17th 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 17th 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. |
| Santa at Hopetown Darlington | Wednesday 18th December | Reception and Year 1 | No |
| Christmas Party | Wednesday 18th 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 |
| Carol Singing at Age UK | Thursday 17th December  11am | Y4 Miss True | No |
| Toy Day and Sweet Shop | Thursday 19th 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 money for our summer beach visit. | No |
| Christingle | 2:15pm on Thursday 19th December | Whole School | No |

**Safeguarding Information for Parents**

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

Game Consoles - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/games-consoles>

Snapchat - <https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/snapchat-checklist.pdf>

Apple Screen Time - <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT208982>

**Term Dates:** 

