 **Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter**

**Date: Friday 10th January 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to everyone after our Christmas break. I hope you all enjoyed Christmas and New Year with your families and are looking forward to the new year ahead. The weather is still very changeable so please ensure that you send your child into school with coats, hats scarves and gloves as playtimes can be very cold.

There are lots of events in school so please take note of the events list at the bottom of this newsletter.

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

**Reminder: School closes on Thursday 20th February for February half term holidays and re-opens on Monday 3rd March.**

**Staffing Update**

We would like to offer a warm welcome to our newest members of staff who joined us on Monday. Daisy Kerr, Lucy McDonough and Hope Walker. They are providing additional support in the school office and also additional support in classrooms. We hope our new staff will settle in quickly and enjoy their new roles. Mrs Morrow (Deputy Head Teacher and Year 1 teacher) has left the school. Mrs Shaw (Teaching Assistant) moved on to a new role at the start of term. Miss Pratt and Miss Lee will continue as class teachers until a permanent appointment has been made.

**Parking and manoeuvring outside of school**

We have had complaints from residents that there are cars reversing onto their private driveways and damaging their property as a result. There is CCTV evidence of this. Please be considerate of residents and their properties when dropping off and collecting pupils from school. If possible, please park a little further away to reduce congestion outside of the main gates.

**Fun Food Day on Thursday 16th January**

We are working with our school food provider ‘Chartwells’ to hold a special lunch with Burgers or Chicken Goujons, chips, beans or sweetcorn. There will also be a Jacket Potato option. For dessert, we will have the Ice Cream Factory with chocolate or toffee sauce. There will also be Shortbread or Flapjack crumble. Alternatively, there will be fruit. If your child normally has a school meal, then they will receive the ‘Fun Food Menu’. If your child normally has a packed lunch but you would like them to take part in this special lunch, then please make payment on ParentPay or speak to a member of the admin team.

**After School Clubs**

Year 6 after school Maths will continue to run on a Monday as it has previously.

Miss True and Mrs Coad will be running a singing club and letters for this will go out week beginning the 13th January. The club will start on Monday 20th January.

Miss Trainer is running a dance club which will be in preparation for a performance at the hippodrome. Auditions have taken place this week and letters have been sent out.

Miss Blagg will be running a board games club which will take place on a Monday after school. Letters will go out with more information.

**Valentines Disco (Rec – Y6) – Wednesday 19th February 2025**

On Wednesday 19th February, there will be a Valentines Disco for the children to attend. Mrs Smith (Rec), Mrs Coad (Rec/Y1), Mrs Pratt (Year 1), Miss Heslop (Year 2) and Mrs Irwin (Year 2/3) pupils will attend from 3.30pm – 4.45pm. Reception pupils to come to school in disco clothes as they will be having a friendship themed day.

Miss Trainer (Year 3/4), Mrs Blagg/Mrs Howland (Year 3), Miss True (Year 4), Miss Jamieson (Year 5), Mrs Walker (Year 5/6) and Mrs Murray (Year 6) pupils will attend from 5.00pm until 6.15pm. Tickets will be £2 and will include a cake and a drink. This needs to be paid online via ParentPay from next week. Children can bring money to buy sweets from our sweet shop (please put this in an envelope with their name on). The funds raised from this event will go towards subsidising our planned end of year beach trip.

**E-Safety Assembly – Thursday 20th February – 9.15am and 2.30pm**

Parents are invited into school to find out about the e-safety work that has been happening this half term. The same assembly will be shown on both the morning and the afternoon so that everyone can get the opportunity to watch their child. Nursery pupils will take part in the morning assembly only. Please contact the school office to reserve a seat.

**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)

**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**

**SPRING 1– PE Kit Days**

Here are the days that your child will be taking part in PE lessons in **Spring 1 – Please note some classes have changed their PE day.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Year Group and Teacher** | **PE Days** |
| **Year Reception Mrs Smith & Mrs Coad** | Friday |
| **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** | Monday and Wednesday |
| **Year 4 Miss True** | Tuesday and Friday |
| **Year 5 Miss Jamieson** | Tuesday and Friday |
| **Year 5/6 Mrs Walker** | Wednesday  Tuesday (swimming) |
| **Year 6 Miss Murray** | Monday and Thursday (Spring 2) |

**Please note – all children in Y5/6AW will be swimming throughout the Spring term (Tuesday)**

**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 1 to Year 6 can come to school dressed in their PE kits on their specified PE days.

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

The Harvey McWilliams Foundation is a registered charity that supports young people in developing their interest in football by providing football boots, shin-pads, socks and training strips to those in need. They also receive donations. The charity is situated at 5 Whessoe Road, Darlington. More information can be found on their website: www.theharveymcwilliamsfoundation.org.uk

**After School PE Clubs**

We have two new PE/Sport After School clubs starting this half term. Letters for those children who have successfully secured a place will be sent out on Friday 10th January.

**Year 4 Monday PE club – Year 4 starting on Monday 13th January**

**Year 3 Friday PE club – Year 3 starting on Friday 17th January**

**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 Events:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date and Time** | **Year Group** | **Parents Invited** |
| Valentines Disco | Wednesday 19th February 2025 – After School | Rec – Y2 3.30pm - 4.45pm  Y3 – Y6 5.00pm - 6.15pm | No |
| E-Safety Assembly | Thursday 20th February 2025  9.15am and 2.30pm | Nursery morning only  Rec – Y6 Morning and afternoon | Yes |
| Toilet Training Workshop. | Thursday 6th February 2025  The Hub  9am - 10am | Nursery and Reception | Yes |
| Nursery Valentine’s stay and play | Friday 14th February 2025 10:45-11:45 | Nursery | Yes |

**Safeguarding Information for Parents**

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

Tablets - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/tablets>

Making A Report - <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/how-to-make-a-report/>

Radicalisation - <https://actearly.uk/>

**Term Dates:** 

