



Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

Date: Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are over halfway through our first half term. We have the Harvest Festival and Halloween Disco to look forward to this half term. More information on these events is below.

A reminder that newsletters 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. Please can you keep an eye out for information on all school events.

Peppa Pig Open Day – Saturday 3rd October 2026 10am to 12 noon



Do you have a child who will be ready to start nursery or school soon? Do you have friends or family who may be interested in looking at our Nursery or School setting? We welcome you to our open day where you can bring your child to look around our school. Peppa and George will also be there to meet and greet children along with a bouncy castle to keep little ones entertained.



School Site Reminders –

Respectful Clothing on the School Site

We kindly ask all parents, carers and visitors to be mindful of the clothing they wear when coming onto the school site. As a school community, we strive to create a positive, respectful and child-friendly environment for all our pupils. We would therefore appreciate your support in ensuring that clothing displayed on site does not contain offensive, inappropriate or potentially upsetting language, images or slogans. Thank you for helping us maintain a welcoming and respectful atmosphere for everyone in our school community.

A Reminder About Cough Sweets

We kindly ask parents and carers not to send cough sweets, throat lozenges or medicated sweets into school with their child.

Whilst we appreciate that children may have coughs, colds or sore throats, cough sweets can present a choking risk, particularly when children are active, playing or moving around school. In addition, some products contain medicinal ingredients which school staff are unable to administer without the appropriate procedures being followed.

If your child is unwell and requires medication during the school day, please contact the school office for advice on our medication procedures.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep all children safe.



Harvest Festival – Thursday 22nd October 2026 9.15am or 2.15pm

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. 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 19th October**.



Halloween Disco – Wednesday 21st October 2026

We will be having a Halloween disco for pupils and the tickets are on sale via arbor. 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.

Our Nursery pupils are invited to come to school in their Halloween outfits for a Halloween themed day on **Wednesday 21st October**.



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 2027**. There is a link to a guide for parents which also contains information about Open Events that you may want to attend: [Darlington BC - Starting secondary education](#)



Pupils starting primary school

Children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 are eligible to start school in Reception in September 2027. There is a link to a guide for parents below. The closing date for applications is the **15th January 2027**. [Darlington BC - Starting primary education](#)



Pupil Attendance

We need to safeguard all pupils in school so when a pupil is absent, and we have not heard from the pupil's family for 3 days then we will call out to the home to check that the pupil is fit and well. If we are not able to make contact, then we may refer this to the local authority safeguarding team. If you are on holiday, then please let the school know so that it does not become a safeguarding issue.

Uniform

Thank you also for your support with ensuring our pupils attend school in the correct uniform. If anyone needs any additional uniform, then please let the school office know as we have lots of spare second-hand jumpers.



Sports Update

Autumn 1 – PE Kit Days

Here are the days that your child will be taking part in PE lessons in

Autumn 1

Nursery- Friday

Reception- Friday

Y1CB – Tuesday and Friday

Y12HI – Tuesday and Friday

Y2TH – Thursday and Friday

Y3NT - Monday and Wednesday

Y34SBRH – Wednesday and Friday

Y4MT – Tuesday and Friday

Y5DG– Tuesday and Thursday

Y56AW – Wednesday and Friday

Y6LJ – Monday and **Tuesday (swimming)**

Please note that pupils in Miss Jamieson's class (Y6LJ) will be swimming on Tuesdays throughout the Autumn Term. A letter has been sent about further swimming day details.

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.

All children should come to school dressed in their PE kits on their specified PE days. **Please note, this now includes children in nursery and reception to help maximise PE times.**



Water bottles

This is a reminder that children are encouraged to bring a water bottle into school to have in class. It is important that children stay hydrated throughout the day, especially in warm weather which hopefully is not over yet! This must be water and not juice. We don't bring large water bottles into school as we don't have space.



Grapes

Please can you ensure that grapes are cut from top to bottom if you are sending them in packed lunches for pupils. This is because they can pose a choking hazard for children. Further information can be found in the link below.

[What age should you stop cutting up grapes? | Child Accident Prevention Trust](#)

School Bags

Please can you ensure that children bring a book bag or small alternative bag instead of large rucksacks to school. We don't have the space in school to keep larger bags.

Diary of Events:

Event	Date and Time	Year Group	Parents Invited
Nursery Stay and Play	Tuesday 6 th October	Nursery : AM group 10:30-11:45 PM group 2:00 – 3:15	Yes
Halloween Disco	Wednesday 21 st October	Rec, Y1, Y1/2 Y2 – 3.30pm – 4.45pm Y3, Y3/4, Y4, Y5, Y5/6, Y6 – 5pm – 6.15pm	No
Harvest Festival	Thursday 22 nd October	Nursery – Year 6	Yes
Early Years Halloween Day – Come dressed up if you like!	Wednesday 21 st October	Nursery and Rec pupils	No

Safeguarding Information for Parents

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

Laptops - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/laptops>

Tik Tok - <https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/tiktok-checklist-2021.pdf>

