Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

Date: Friday 20th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week in school. We have added the Christmas dates for your diary at the end of this newsletter.

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.

Children in Need



Many thanks for your kind donations – we raised a total of **£98.26.**

Parent Consultations

The cancelled parent appointments with Mrs Blagg will be re-arranged as soon as we have a new time and date.

Christmas concert seats

You will have been notified via Arbor of how to order seats for the upcoming Christmas productions. You can order these via the school shop on Arbor. If anyone needs support - please call into the office or give the school office a ring.

School Meals

Can we remind parents that Arbor accounts for school meals should always have credit on to enable the meal to be paid for.

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.

After School Clubs
Tuesday - Singing Club will continue with Miss True and Mrs Coad
Tuesday - Mrs Heslop's art club
Tuesday – Mrs Irwin and Miss Bijuara Maths club
Tuesday- Mrs Blagg craft club
Thursday - Miss Jamieson Maths club

Wraparound Care
A reminder that school runs a wraparound club straight after school until 6pm Monday to Friday during term time.

Costs:	£3.00	3.15pm to 4pm	
	£7.00	3.15pm to 5pm	(including snack and drink)
	£11.00	3.15pm to 6pm	(including snack and drink)

If your son/daughter would like to attend and they haven't before – then please complete a registration form available from the office.

Bookings are taken via Arbor – if anyone needs support with this please contact the office.

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.

Sports Update

<u>Autumn 2</u> – PE Kit Days

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

<u>Autumn 1</u>

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 Spring 1, we will inform you nearer the time.

<u>PE Kit</u>

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.



<u>Grapes</u>

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

<u>School Bags</u>

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 /Class	Parents Invited
Christmas Crafts	01.12.26 9.15am-10.15am	Miss Bujara/Mrs Irwin/Mrs Heslop	Yes
Christmas Crafts	02.12.26 9.15am – 10.15am	Mrs Blagg/Mrs Howland /Miss True	Yes
Christmas Crafts	04.12.26 10am-11am	Mrs Gibson and Miss Jamieson	Yes
Christmas Crafts	04.12.26 2pm-3pm	Miss Trainer and Miss Walker	Yes
Christmas Journey	04.12.26 9am-11am	Mrs Heslop class to St Matthew and St Luke's Church	No
Christmas Theatre performance in school	07.12.26 Time to be confirmed	Nursery am and pm children together. No pm nursery on this day.	Yes
Christmas Performance	09.12.26 9.30am and 2pm	Miss Bujara, Mrs Irwin, Mrs Heslop, Miss Trainer	Yes
Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner	10th December 2026	All school	No
Reception Christmas Performance and Christmas Crafts	10th December 2026 9.30am	Nursery and Reception	Yes
Christmas Performance	11.12.26 9.30am and 2pm	Miss Blagg/Mrs Howland/Miss True/Mrs Gibson/Mrs Walker/Miss Jamieson	Yes
Carol singing	14.12.26 10-11.30am	Choir singing at Age UK	No
Christmas Party	14.12.26 1.30pm-3pm	Miss Bujara/Mrs Irwin/Mrs Heslop	No
Christmas Pantomime Visit	15.12.26 9.45 am	Year 1 – Year 6 Darlington Hippodrome	No



Event	Date and Time	Class/Year Group	Parents invited
Christmas Party	15.12.26 during session times	Nursery am and pm	No
Christmas Pantomime	16.12.26 1pm - 3pm	Reception at Darlington Hullabaloo	No
Christmas Party	16.12.26 1.30pm-3pm	Miss Trainer/Mrs Blagg/Mrs Howland/Miss True	No
Christmas Party	17.12.26 1-3pm	Reception	No
Christmas Party	17.12.26 1.30pm-3pm	Mrs Gibson, Mrs Walker, Miss Jamieson	No
School Christingle	18.12.26 2.15pm-3.15pm	Year 1 to Year 6	No

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

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