Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

Date: Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of our autumn term. This is always a busy time in school with lots of dates for your diaries as we prepare for Christmas. Thank you for your harvest festival donations and joining us for our assembly. The foodbank at Maidendale were really grateful for the donations.
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.

Parking Considerately Around School
We would like to kindly remind all parents and carers to be considerate when parking around the school site.
Several residents have raised concerns about vehicles being parked across driveways or on private property during drop-off and collection times. Please ensure that you do not block access to residents' homes or park on driveways, even for a short period of time.
We are fortunate to be part of a supportive local community, and we ask everyone to help maintain positive relationships with our neighbours by parking responsibly and respectfully. If parking spaces close to school are limited, please consider parking a little further away and walking the remainder of the journey.
Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and support in helping to keep our children, families and local residents safe.

Year 3 and Year 4 Residential Visit - PGL Newby Wiske – 24th and 25th March 2026
If you have missed the deadline for reserving a place and your son/daughter would like to attend– please ring the school office
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Children in Need – Non uniform day – Friday 13th November 2026
Children can come to school in non-uniform and make a donation to Children in Need through the link below:
Donate to BBC Children in Need 6

We will be having a special menu of:
Chicken Goujons in a bun
Veggie Burger in a bun
Jacket Potato.

Due to the special menu being served on Friday – Friday's ordinary menu of Fish Fingers/Quorn nuggets and JP will be served on the Thursday.

Parent Consultations – Week beginning: 16th November 2026
Parents are able to book a slot to speak with the teacher via Arbor from tomorrow at 9am. Please note appointments for Miss Trainer's class will take place in Spring Term.

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
Singing Club will continue with Miss True and Mrs Coad
Miss Jamieson will be running a maths booster club on Thursday 3.15-4pm
Mrs Blagg will be running a crafts club on Tuesday 3.15-4pm
Mrs Heslop will be running a craft club on a Tuesday – more info to follow



Sports Update
Autumn 2 – 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 Spring 1, 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.

School Pantomime visit
Children from Year 1 to Year 6 will be visiting Darlington Hippodrome to see Beauty and the Beast on Tuesday 15th December. All information has been sent via Arbor. This trip has been subsidised through fundraising and we request a voluntary contribution of £7 for each child.

Dressing up clothes
If you have any spare dressing up clothes for Nursery, Reception and KS1 age children that you no longer require – school would grateful to receive these.

Dates for your diary "Christmas Events"– will be sent out separately on Monday.**

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