



Attendance %

Catkins: 100 **WELL DONE**
Willow: 94.75
Beech: 94.75
Holly: 94.63



Staffing

Mrs Julie Ashdown our School Bursar has decided to resign from her post to continue to develop her own business in Health and Beauty. Mrs Ashdown has been at Firle Primary School since 2008. She has had extended leave after the birth of her daughter and returned to school in 2015. We are currently organising her replacement and will inform you of the appointment in the next newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Ashdown for all she has done at Firle Church of England Primary School and wish her success in the future growth of her own business. Her last day will be on Friday 10th February.

CENSUS DAY THANK YOU!

As you know on Thursday 19th January was census day when we record the number of children on roll for each year group and how many take school dinners. We asked as many of you as possible to support us by having a school dinner to help us with funding for the school. We would like to say a huge thank you for your support because we had 72, that is the highest uptake for school dinners since Colette became our cook – thank you!



Breakfast Club

Thank you those of you who have indicated an interest in Firle having a Breakfast Club. We have had 5 responses to this enquiry. If you are interested and have not yet informed us via email at office@firle-school.e-sussex.sch.uk, please do so by next Friday 3rd February.

Parent Forum

We would like to thank all those who contributed by e-mail or in person to our parent forum on Monday. It was really good to hear your views and ideas.

The forum will run at least termly and minutes of the meeting will be shared with all parents and carers. The discussion points at this meeting were homework, environment and attendance.

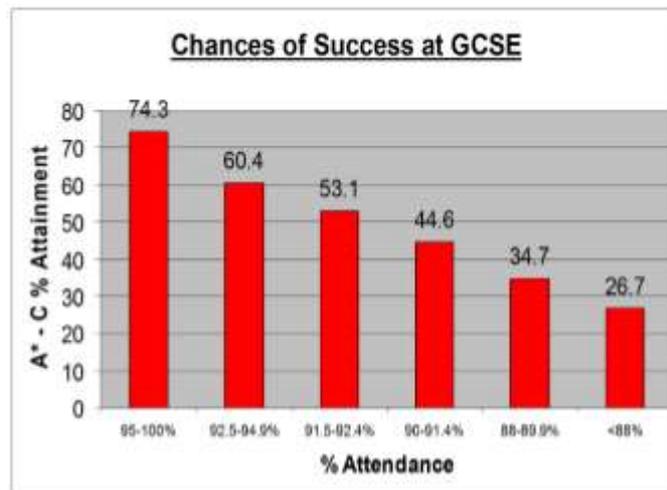
The actions were to clarify the expectations of homework and ensure consistency in approach throughout the school. In light of this staff will review the homework policy taking into account issues raised and clarify through termly topic maps when it will be set and timescale. We will also be introducing opportunities for parents to come in to some lessons to see how subjects are taught so that they are able to support their children more at home. The first set of these will be diarised for term 4.

The school has asked for support from Friends of Firle in developing the environment and ideas were shared regarding use of space. We would like to set up a rota for parents to sign up to in the summer terms so that more access to the field can be timetabled for all classes.

Attendance is still an ongoing issue for the school as whilst the overall % is up we do have some children who frequently arrive late to school or have poor attendance.

It is really important for your child to attend school as the following statistics state.

<p>What is good attendance? 175 days for family time, holidays, shopping etc 190 days for learning</p>					
190 days	180 days	178 days	163 days	161 days	143 days
100%	95%	94%	86%	85%	75%
Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	



Thank you!



Punctuality

It is really helpful when children are at school and in their classrooms by 9am each day, ready to begin the first lesson.

Unfortunately each day quite a few children are getting to class after 9am and this means they are late for school. This has a double impact. Firstly the daily accumulation of minutes missed does add up and is lost learning time. Secondly late arrivals delay the start of the first lesson and so disrupt the learning of the other children in the class.

We would like to thank parents who get their children to school in good time each morning.

We do appreciate that on occasion there are exceptional circumstances which cause lateness e.g. the icy conditions at the start of the week, however on all other days we would urge you to make every effort to get all the children to school ready to start at 9am.

If there are individual circumstances which make arriving at school by 9am challenging, then please contact us to see if we can support you in some way.

Thank you.



Working in Partnership

The teachers of Firle and Laughton held a shared staff meeting to discuss and plan together for English lessons using good quality texts to develop the key skills of reading, spelling, grammar, punctuation and extended writing.

The teachers from Firle have also been attending joint moderation meetings for English and maths with other schools in and around Lewes. This is very beneficial as it helps us compare standards across schools and ensures our standards remain in line with other schools.

R.E./Art Competition

The Diocese of Chichester is holding a Schools' Art Competition to celebrate 'The Year of the Bible'. The children can choose from a selection of bible related topics, using a varied range of media such as photography and video as well as textiles, ceramics and sculpture. All entries should be given to the office by Friday 24th March, and we will send them to the Diocese.

A Message from our School Meals Provider

Due to adverse weather conditions in Spain our supply of fresh vegetables has been severely disrupted. When we are unable to source these we will substitute with either fresh carrots or frozen peas and sweetcorn. The two crops most affected are Broccoli and cauliflower.

As soon as the situation changes we will switch back to using the fresh alternatives.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 7th February: Chinese New Year Celebrations

Thursday 9th February: Firle Factor Talent Show
 Last day of Term 3: Friday 10th February
 Return to School: Monday 20th February
 Parent Evenings: 28th February and 2nd March
 Red Nose Day 24th March

Friends of Firle Film night

Thank you to Friends of Firle for organising the Film Night last Friday – the children had a great time and really enjoyed the film.

“It was great! The film was ‘The Secret Life of Pets’. It was about a dog called Max. His owner called Katie brings a bigger dog, the dog was called Duke. They got into some trouble together. One day they went out for a walk and..... I don’t want to tell you too much because it’s called ‘The SECRET Life of Pets’. (And we don’t want to spoil it!)” ~ by Felix M

“I thought it was brilliant, because of the salt and sweet popcorn. The film was called ‘The Secret Life of Pets’ and it was great! The film was about a group of animals who try to save a dog called Max. Everyone brought their onesies, pyjamas, pillows, duvets and blankets” ~ by Lucy A

30th March NSPCC Safeguarding morning for parents and children
 March 30th: 2pm Easter Service
 March 31st: INSET Day and start of Easter holiday for pupils
 Next Parent Forum Term 4 – date to follow
 8 – 11th May 2017 KS2 SATS (please don’t book any time off during this week, thank you)

Further information about all these events will follow.

Children mentioned in our Golden Book and in Celebration Assemblies:



DATE: 19th January

Catkins: River, for making such good progress in her reading
 Hopi, for always being fair and kind to others

Willow: Dolly, making amazing progress with her reading, lots of practice!
 Georgie a ‘have a go’ attitude in all areas of school

Beech: Felix, second time in a row but very, very deserved. Felix has shown many qualities this week: tolerance, compassion, patience, resilience..... and working hard in maths

Edie has been wonderful this week, particularly in maths! Edie has really started to enjoy learning in maths and puts lots of effort in! She listens carefully and follows instructions well



Holly: Jorgi and Liberty for writing. Making great improvements in handwriting and use of language
Jake C for settling in really well and working hard in class

DATE: 26th January

Catkins: Lily and Charlie for being resilient and aspiring and persevering with their writing; they have enjoyed the challenge and made great progress.

Willow: Lottie for always being fair and kind – looking after others in the class
Flynn – working hard on the presentation of his work.

Beech: Connor, for being resilient this week making our dreamcatchers
Ami, for an excellent effort in maths, fantastic independent work

Holly: Noah P, excellent all round attitude in class
Mali, progress in spelling and applying her learning in her writing

A photograph of the children mentioned in the Golden Book and Celebration Assemblies is on display in the main reception. If you would like a copy of the photo, please ask at the school office.