



Attendance

Catkins: 100 %
Willow: 98%
Beech: 95%
Holly: 95%



Well done!

Message from Miss Noble

Miss Noble has asked that a message be passed to the children and parents of Firle School wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Poppy Appeal

We have been informed by the Royal British Legion that we raised £38.66 by supporting the Poppy Appeal in November. Well done Firle School!

Big Christmas Fair THANK YOU from Friends of Firle School

What a fantastic day! From the many, many amazing activities, to the fun of the pop-up Christmas shop, the spread of delicious food and the wonderful atmosphere created by the brilliant musicians. Everyone had a wonderful time, including Father Christmas, and we have to say thank you to all those beautiful people who helped in any way at all and are too numerous to mention individually.

We had our biggest Christmas raffle ever, with over 40 prizes, which helped us achieve our highest fundraising total yet at just over £1000. This will go towards enhancing the experiences of all our children at Firle School and we can't thank you all enough. Special thanks, however, should go to Mr. Fox-Wilson, who even managed to put up a stage in the school hall after we had finished that evening!

Happy Christmas everyone and see you in the new year when we are hoping to be able to run our talent show, Firle Factor again in February. If you think you might be able to help, please, please let one of us know as previous organisers are unavailable.

One more thing: the music on Saturday came courtesy of Luis Wood and friends from band The Woodville, who have a new single out in 2017 so keep an eye out for that, too

Friends of Firle xx

The Big Sing

Last Wednesday evening lots of children in Holly Class took part in the Big Sing at The Winter Gardens in Eastbourne. They had spent some weeks running up to the event practising the songs and also had a member of the East Sussex Music Service come into support them. Congratulations to all of the Holly class children who took part, they were amazing and a credit to the school. Thank you to all those parents and carers who supported this event.



Nativity

Thank you to all the parents, carers and grandparents who came to see our wonderful Nativity performed by Catkins and Willow children. We know how much you enjoyed the performance from comments made after each show. Well done to all the children, teachers and TAs involved. The children sang beautifully throughout, remembered their lines and the actions, as well as speaking clearly as an actor or narrator. They reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas - and made us smile!

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day!

Yesterday the whole school had Christmas lunch together in the hall. Collette and Wendy, our wonderful cooks, worked really hard and created a delicious meal. Mrs Filtness, Mrs Sison and Mrs Horan set the tables, (including Christmas crackers!) and arranged the hall and music so it was a really festive occasion. All the staff helped to serve and clear the meals and everyone worked hard to make sure the children had a happy time. We were really pleased to have Reverend Pete join us and lend a helping hand too.

By wearing Christmas jumpers and tops etc. and paying a pound we raised £61.10 For Save the Children. Thank you everyone!

School Activity Dates for your diary:

Christmas Dates

December 20th 6pm Christmas Church Service

December 21st Last day of Term 2

January 3rd INSET Day

January 4th Return to school to begin Term 3

February 10th Break up for Half Term

20th February Return to school for Term 4

March 30th 2pm Easter Service

March 31st INSET Day and start of Easter holiday for pupils

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.

Christmas Carol Service

We hope you can join us for this service, at 6pm on Tuesday 20th December. Please ensure all children arrive by 5.45pm for the Carol Service, with CATKINS ARRIVING AT 5.30PM.

Thank you for your support!

Spare pants!

Our stock of spare pants and socks has run out so if you have any clean pants or socks in good condition that you could donate to the school, they would be very welcome. We need all ages for boys and girls. Please drop into the school office, thank you.

PE Kit

We would like to include a polite reminder about the need for children to have a full school P.E. kit in school. It is a requirement of the curriculum that children participate in P.E. lessons in the same way as they do for English etc.

If children do not have the full P.E. kit on the correct days it causes a lot of disruption to the rest of the class because children are not allowed to do P.E. without the correct kit. This means the teacher has to make alternative provision for them and this takes time. While this is happening the rest of the class will be kept waiting.

Each class does P.E. on the following days:

Holly - Wednesday and Friday

Beech = Thursday and Friday

Willow = Under review, to be confirmed in term 3

Catkins = Under review, to be confirmed in term 3

The P.E. Kit should include a plain white T-shirt and plain dark shorts, with plimsolls or trainers. As the weather gets colder each year children should bring sweatshirts and tracksuits in school colours.

MDSA

Please be aware that we are **STILL** advertising for a midday supervisory assistant to work for one hour each lunchtime, supervising the children in the dining hall and the playground. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this position please ask them to contact the school office.



Children mentioned in our Golden Book and in Celebration Assemblies:

2nd December

Catkins: Willow, Bea and Lily working with others, these three girls have been working hard at learning and playing with different groups of children.

Elias - Trying so hard with learning his numbers.

Willow: Freya - Always having a smile and a positive attitude to learning and school.

Leon - Working really hard on his maths- solving tricky division problems.

Beech: Iliana- For being brave this week after hurting her face. No fuss, she got on with her work and tried hard! Good resilience!

Annabelle - For excellent effort at the church 'Coming of the light'. Sang beautifully and acted responsibly.

Holly: Lucy -Excellent detail and presentation in all written work.

Scarlett - For settling in so well at Firle.

9th December

Catkins: Harry, Buzzy, Ollie and Charlie - respecting our environment by always tidying up after themselves.

Willow: Leon - Working hard for our Christmas show and being brave enough to sing a solo.
Monty M - Working very hard on his lines for the Christmas show at home and school.
Henry - Writing an amazing postcard from an elf independently.

Beech: Connor and Maisy for their impeccable behaviour yesterday at the carol service. Both children were responsible, sensible, listened carefully and carried themselves with pride. They were excellent representatives for our school.

Holly: All those who attended the Big sing on Wednesday 7th December. They all worked so hard to learn the songs and sing beautifully. The behaviour was excellent.

We will be displaying photos of the children mentioned in the Golden Book in the entrance hall from now on. If you would like a copy of the photo with your child in, please ask at the office.

Governor News Term 2 2016-17

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another productive term and year the governors wanted to share with you an insight into the work that we have been focused on over the past few months.

Ms Annie Noble:

First and foremost, I need to relay that Ms Annie Noble (the School's Head Teacher) continues to be unwell and absent from school. As Chair of Governors I have attended regular meetings with Annie and in those meetings she has asked to convey her thoughts and well wishes to the pupils, staff and school community as a whole, and I have likewise assured her of our hope that she returns to work as soon as possible.

Interim Leaders:

The Governors are very pleased with the interim leadership arrangements for the school in Annie's absence and would like to thank both Rachel West and Kathleen Swaine for their dedicated hard work over this period for our school.

Governor Work:

Part of the work of the Governor Body is to monitor the output of the school and satisfy itself that every area of the schools strategic focus is being adhered to. One of the most vital ways of achieving this is through Governor Monitoring Visits to the school. Since September there have been Governor Visits in the areas of Maths, Safeguarding, Christian Distinctiveness and

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Pupil Voice as well as the regular meetings of the Standards Committee (which holds the remit of pupil progress and inclusion) and the Strategic Committee (which holds the remit of Finance, H&S and Staffing). These Governor visits have validated the excellent work that teachers are delivering and pupils are receiving, and substantiate the significant improvements that have been made over recent weeks.

Governor Retirements:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jonathan Bailey for his energy and commitment as a Parent Governor over the last 4 years, Jonathan contributed specifically to the health & safety issues concerning the school, while also contributing to the successful strategic direction of the school overall.

I would also like to thank Hugh Barnes who has been a long standing governor and friend of the School and supported it enormously over many years of service and repeated terms of office as a Foundation (Church) Governor. His expertise and insight will be missed, but I am sure he will continue to support the school in every way possible.

Governor Elections:

As you know we have recently been recruiting for a Parent Governor to join the Board of Governors and I very much hope that people have been encouraged to stand for election and that an announcement can be made in due course of who your new governor is. If you have any queries related to the work of the governing body or questions regarding any aspect of the school I would warmly encourage you to contact me at:

DMooncie@firle-school.e-sussex.sch.uk

In closing, I wish you all and peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Damian Mooncie | Chair of Governors