

**Attendance: Year to Date %**

Catkins: 98.56%

Willow: 97.78%

Beech: 93.15%

Holly: 95.23%



Well done Catkins and Willow.

As this is our last newsletter of this year the staff at school would like to wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas break.

**Measles Outbreak**

Please see information attached

You may have heard that there are currently confirmed measles outbreaks in Liverpool, Leeds and the West Midlands. There are also several large measles outbreaks across Europe and there is a continued risk of imported cases, highlighting the need to maximise efforts to achieve 95% uptake of two doses of MMR to prevent spread. In the South East there is a confirmed outbreak in Surrey in a range of age groups, and the majority have not been vaccinated. People with possible measles (a rash and a fever) should be isolated away from communal waiting areas to protect others.

**Parent Forum**

We had our Parent forum on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you to all those that could attend. We looked at the parent view Ofsted site and went through some of the questions. Please see minutes attached.

The issue of safeguarding on trips was raised as we often send out texts to see who can help. We would like to reassure you that all staff and regular volunteers in school undergo a DBS check and no volunteer works away from the teacher responsible for them. On school trips any helpers remain with the school member of staff and should not be supervising children away from that member of staff.

We can only provide opportunities to use the field, go on trips and attend church if we have volunteers so are very grateful to those that can help. This is just to assure those have concerns about who has responsibility.

Also we have a number of visitors in school for a range of reasons including new parents, school advisers, teachers from other schools, consultant's etc. Sometimes we are able to tell the children beforehand but not every time. We have told the children in assembly that we do have visitors in school and they will always have a visitor badge or be with a school member of staff depending on what their visit is regarding. If your child is anxious about new people please can you also reinforce with them that different people need to visit our school to either help us in making it better or because they might like their children to come here.

We also wanted to let you know that our entry system has a camera so we can see all those that we allow in!

### New IT @Firle

We are delighted to have received a very generous donation from Glynde Estate which has enabled us to purchase 14 iPads and a sync trolley for the school. These have already been set up for the children to use and a range of apps will be put on for the New Year so that they can be a resource for spelling, grammar, maths practice and other activities.

It is great that we can provide the children with the resources they need to keep them up to date in this digital world.

We would like to express a huge thank you from all the staff and children at Firle C of E Primary to the Trustees of Glynde Estate for making this possible.

### Friends of Firle

#### Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to our amazing Friends of Firle for putting on such a lovely event on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. There was a range of activities to do and over £1000 was raised towards equipment and experiences for the children in school. We are really grateful for your generosity. Thank you to all those who helped make it possible.

### R.E. Day

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December each class focused on an aspect of the Christmas story:

- Holly Class - comparing and contrasting the different versions in the Gospels
- Beech Class - Christmas around the world
- Willow Class - the importance of the angels in the Christmas story
- Catkins - how does the Christmas journey teach us about our Golden Rule, 'Try your hardest and don't give up'?

Learning was led through a variety of activities: research, art, drama and written tasks and the progression of learning throughout the school was evident.

Catkins enjoyed the opportunity to explore and learn alongside Holly Class.



### Nativity Play

Well done to all the children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 for their amazing performance of Born in a Barn. The children spoke out clearly and sang and danced with great enthusiasm.

Many thanks to all the staff involved in providing the set, choreography, drama and singing.

'I liked singing Born in a Barn and the Kings song the best. We practised two times in costume and the children came and watched it in school first, then we showed the adults. My favourite bit was in the middle of it.' (Lily)

### Lunch Money

Please pay your child's lunch money in advance. If you would like to pay up until half term the cost is £58.80 and until Easter the cost will be £119.70.



### Carols at Selmeston

'After lunch on Tuesday we came into the classroom and got packed up. We were waiting and waiting because we didn't see the bus at the gate! When we got there we had a man that came to guide us to the stage. Soon we got ourselves ready for the show and we sang lots of carols. At the end we had a drink and a biscuit.' (Oliver)

### Club Letter

You will notice that there have been a couple of price increases in our club costs. Please note that all fees are payable in advance.

### Carol Service Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm St Peter's Church, Firle

We are hoping that all children can attend our end of term Christmas celebration. Catkins, please arrive at the church at 5.30pm and everyone else at 5.45pm. There will be a collection of non-perishable food items for the Newhaven Food Bank.

All children to wear school uniform.

### Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

The children paid £1 to wear their Christmas jumpers: the money raised will go to Starfish Malawi. All the staff and children would like to thank Collette and Wendy, our cooks, for our outstandingly delicious Christmas lunch. They both worked so hard preparing turkey, Quorn, vegetables, crispy snow bars and shortbread.



### NEWSPAPER PLEASE

We will be needing newspaper for our WWO (Working with Others) designing and making task on Tuesday. Please send in any old newspapers to the office.

### Found in the Shed!

A black lady's suit has been found in our shed. It may have come from the Friends of File Bags2Schools, but it seems unlikely. Please let the office know if you have misplaced it.

### Friends of Firle

Massive thanks to everyone for making our Christmas Fair on Saturday 2nd December such a brilliant event. 🎄🎁🎅🎄. There was a wonderful festive atmosphere with some amazing crafts and stalls and absolutely delicious food, plus our fabulous raffle with almost 30 really impressive prizes. Please support all of our donors who were so generous this year.

The final total is still being totted up but we will have certainly raised over £1000! We are a small school so that is a fantastic achievement and brilliant news for our kids! Our fair is focused on providing entertainment and creativity and having a good time with family and friends, but we still need to make money and every one of you contributed to that. THANK YOU!!!

Already this year we have bought new bookcases and displays in classrooms, new IT equipment for children to use, and the beautiful singing in church would not be possible without the piano accompaniment which we have paid for.

Our next event will be Film Night on Friday 19th January, followed by our ever-popular Firle Factor talent show on Thursday 8th February, just before half term, so get practising those brilliant act

Merry Christmas from Friends of Firle School and thank you for all your support.

## Dates for your diary.....

### December

18<sup>th</sup> Carol Service 6pm

19<sup>th</sup> Break up for Christmas holiday

20<sup>th</sup> INSET Day

### January

2<sup>nd</sup> INSET Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Return to school

### Children mentioned in our Golden Book and in Celebration Assemblies:

#### DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

- Catkins:** Chloe and Beau - for following our Golden Rule, try your hardest and don't give up, and making progress in all your learning
- Willow:** Amber - for working really hard on her phonics  
Bea G - doing amazing writing and always working hard
- Beech:** All the Beech Class children who read the prayer at Church at our Festival of Light Celebration
- Holly:** Fantastic attitude and behaviour both at the Big Sing on Tuesday and working with Catkins on Monday, well done to you all!

#### DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

- Catkins:** All of Catkins for being such great angels in our production of 'Born in a Barn'
- Willow:** All of Willow Class are in the Golden Book for an amazing performance.
- Beech:** Jarron, Jay, Ami and Noah - for working really hard on handwriting  
George - for trying really hard to follow our Golden Rules
- Holly:** Amani - for excellent progress in maths - keep up the hard work  
Mali - for her standard of descriptive writing. She is using excellent vocabulary and her spelling continues to rapidly improve, well done

