

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy 2 weeks, which you will see from the reports in this newsletter and we still, have lots going on for the remainder of this term. Please make sure you check the diary dates opposite.

It was so lovely to see so many of you at our Coming of the light service on Wednesday. We are hoping that we can still have our end of term service but this will depend on local infection rates.

Sadly, we have had to cancel the Christmas Fair but as always, the Friends of Firle have an alternative plan to create a fun event for the children. Details of this are in their report later in this newsletter.

Please continue to test regularly with lateral flow tests as this has helped reduce our risk of infection in school.

Thank you.



**ATTENDANCE** Well done Holly Class, you achieved the highest attendance 2 weeks running!

## GOLDEN BOOK

### W/C 22<sup>nd</sup> November

**Cherry** Abeni for amazing writing, remembering conjunctions and adjectives

Edelyne fantastic thank you letter writing

**Beech** Arthur and Shea for their excellent column subtraction work. They both came up with their own worded problems that required column subtraction with exchange

**Holly** Eva beautiful description work and creative writing  
Lani consistently high level of homework and hard work in class

Tabitha outstanding descriptions

### W/C 29<sup>th</sup> November

**Cherry** Edward for being really brave in church.

Orson for amazing singing in church with a big smile

**Beech** Dahlan for the huge effort he put into drafting, writing and performing his coming of the light prayer

Fletcher for his excellent work in maths. He is always focused and regularly volunteers to share his thought process when working on problem solving activities

**Holly** Harry raised over £80 for children who do not get Christmas presents. All his own idea and planning

Lily H for incredibly insightful RE work/reflections

| <u>Diary</u>     |  |
|------------------|--|
| December         |  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Home clothes day for tombola contributions   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | KS1 Nativity<br>9:30 a.m and 11:00a.m<br>Save the Children<br>Christmas Jumper Day |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas lunch  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Church service 6pm   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Last day of term   |

## KS1 NATIVITY

Our infant Christmas performance this year is 'Away in a Manger' and we will perform it for Cherry Class parents on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> December. To ensure social distancing, we are doing 2 performances; the first at 9.30a.m. and the second at 11.00 am. We will only have 25 seats out for each performance so we have to limit the number of seats to, at the most, 2 per family. Seating plans for you to sign up on will be on a board by the classroom ramp at each home time and will be on a first come first served basis. If you can't get into school to sign up, then contact the office or Mrs Fitzpatrick and it will be done for you. We also ask that you wear a face-mask during the performance. Thank you.

## RINGMER POOL

From Ringmer Parish Council - Members of the Parish Council are putting together a more formal group i.e.: Ringmer Community Pool, to attempt to get the Pool repaired and opened for the long-term benefit of the community. It is a long journey that may come to nothing, but they want to try. If you are interested, the first step is to please email your name, address, and contact details to ringmercommunitypool@gmail.com so they can count you in as a member. This will help them firstly to register the Pool as an Asset of Community Value, which, if successful, will give them a time to build a strong business case. NB they need at least 21 members! So please don't be shy.

## CARS

Cherry Class need some more toy cars, if anyone has any, as ours are very battered! Thank you

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Don't forget to book your child's Christmas Lunch, please make your payment (KS2 only) on ParentPay. The children may accessorise their school uniform with something festive for Christmas Lunch.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS



We are delighted that our post box will again be in the foyer this year for the children to post their cards to each other. Please be mindful that as a school we support recycling whenever possible, so it would be lovely to see some homemade cards, made of recycled paper and card.

## READING ARMY

A huge thank you to all our Reading Army volunteers who have started coming in, we still have space for more!



### SCHOOL LIBRARY

Are any of you able to help for a few hours on Tuesday next week? We have arranged for a school librarian to visit our library on 14<sup>th</sup> December to review and edit our library books. It would be really helpful if some parents could also come in on the day to lend a hand. Please let Mrs Horan know if you can help.

## LATENESS

Please make sure that your child has arrived at school **before 9 a.m. via the back gates**. We have a number who are coming in at the front of the school due to being late and each time they arrive someone has to come and meet them, which takes them away from the roles they should be doing. Your child can come into school from 8:45am, so please try to make sure you allow plenty of time to get here. Many thanks.



### BAKE SALE

Huge congratulations to Harry! He raised £80.40 selling the delicious cakes that he made (maybe with a little help from his Mum). Well done.

"Thank you everyone who came to my bake sale last week. We made **£80.40** which I will use to buy Christmas gifts and food for families in need. We will be delivering them to the foodbank at the end of next week" Harry.



Please don't feel you must, but if anybody would like to donate items for the gift boxes, please bring them into school on **Monday 6th December** and Harry's Mum will collect them at the end of the school day. With your help we would like to make as many boxes as possible for children, adults and families.

### SUGGESTED ITEMS TO DONATE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**Treats:** Selection boxes, sweet treats, biscuits, tea, coffee, crackers and any other seasonal treats.

**Children's toys/books:** Bath toys, teddies/dolls, skipping ropes, football with pump (deflated to fit in the box), small puzzles, trump cards, mini board games, playing cards etc...

**Toiletries/Cosmetics:** Toothbrush, face cloths, small toiletries gift sets, small cosmetics gift sets, hair accessories etc.

**Stationary:** Pens, note pads, colouring books, crayons and felt tip pens

**Other:** Hat, Scarf, Gloves, socks etc

We ask that you only donate if you are in a position to be able to do so. Items should be new and unopened, with a good shelf life over the Christmas period. Please be mindful of plastic and packaging to minimise any unnecessary waste. Thank you for your support.

### **SCHOOL GROUNDS**

You will have noticed that we have some lovely new fencing and gate. This does however; make the main entrance to our school look a little shabby. We would love some parents to volunteer to tidy the entrance up a bit and perhaps plant some bulbs, shrubs and climbers. If anyone could donate some plants, we would all be really grateful.

### **POPPY APPEAL**

We are so proud of the children who raised £197.67 for the Poppy Appeal; yet again, we have shown how thoughtful and generous our pupils are.

### **CHILDREN IN NEED**

A huge well done to our School Council who planned our fundraising event for Children in Need last week which consisted of a wear your own clothes day and a lunchtime film viewing.

Thanks to everybody that supported this event, we are delighted to say that Firle School raised **£158.10** for Children in Need! Well done to everybody!

### **CROSS COUNTRY**

A huge congratulations to our children who took part in the Cross Country race in Hailsham on Tuesday. Tabitha came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the girls' race and Finn 6<sup>th</sup> in the boys' race. Well done everyone.

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL COLLECTION**

Brighton City Mission have sent us a certificate in gratitude for our collection for their foodbank. We collected 107KG of donations!

### **COMING OF THE LIGHT SERVICE**

This is one of my favourite services as it is so special when the whole school is holding a lit candle and singing 'Stir my Heart of Lord'. The children were incredible in their singing, readings and prayers. They sang in class groups so really had to work hard to fill the church. Thank you for all your support with this.



### **PLAYGROUND PROJECT**

We are delighted to get ourselves in the Sussex Express to ask for funding towards our new playground. Please see the link below.

[Sussex village primary school raising money for new playground | Sussex Express](#)

### **INCLUSION STATEMENT**

We have reviewed our vision for inclusion, please see our new federation statement:

As a federation, we work hard to ensure that every member of our school community – pupils, parents, carers, staff and visitors – feel safe and included. We pride ourselves on the fact that both Laughton and Firle are inclusive schools that place children at the heart of everything we do. Every child, whatever their individual abilities or needs, is equally valued and welcome as an integral part of The Oaktree Federation. Our intention is that our whole school community share and support our inclusive ethos.

We believe that inclusion is a universal human right. The aim of inclusion is to embrace all people irrespective of race, gender, disability, medical or other needs. It is about giving equal access and opportunities and moving away from discrimination and intolerance.

In both our schools, 'inclusion' describes the right of children to access mainstream education alongside their peers. Inclusion is about providing equality of opportunity for all children. This means that all groups and individuals have the same rights. Sometimes children may behave in ways that we find difficult to understand. In particular, children with additional needs and/or disabilities may present with different and sometimes

challenging behaviour. We provide specific resources to support individual children to access school alongside their peers, in order for them to receive the same opportunities. Every decision we make is tailored to the needs of individuals to help them succeed and make progress. Inclusion is about valuing everybody and respecting the differences that make us all unique. We celebrate the diversity of our amazing school community, as we all learn with and from each other.

## **LIBRARY SERVICE**

Over the Christmas holidays East Sussex Libraries Service will be running Christmas Code and Craft with seasonal games in Scratch, Christmas design projects and kids can learn more about what is on offer in their local library.

Sessions will be held in Newhaven and Bexhill Libraries, booking is required.

See below leaflets for more information.

<https://escc-govuk-backoffice.azurewebsites.net/media/isqlyp0h/haf-newhaven.docx>

<https://escc-govuk-backoffice.azurewebsites.net/media/kl4hp1qb/haf-bexhill.docx>

## **MESSAGE FROM EARLY HELP 0-19 SERVICES**

**There are some fantastic courses for parents and carers here on really useful topics**

'Please find attached our new guide which outlines all the programmes we have available to support parents and carers (and, thereby, yourselves) all ready for the new year and whatever it may bring! This guide contains all the course information, dates and how to book. In fact, we've gone all high tech this time and you will see each course has a QR code with it. Just using a QR code reader or camera on a phone will take you directly to the booking forms. Please share this with parents/carers in either its electronic format by email, by adding to your website or newsletter or, if you wish to, print it out to hand to parents. Here at 'Open for Parents', we can offer help and support directly to the parents, free of charge, as part of East Sussex's Early Help 0-19 Services provision. We provide a variety of online parenting courses, each with specific tips to help them deal with the most common behaviour problems. This service is all run online, so parents and carers can join in from the comfort of their own home. All they need is a laptop, tablet or phone and internet access.'

## **GRAPEVINE**

The Eastbourne, Wealden & Lewes Family Grapevine Winter 2021/22 issue is now available online! It is a one-stop directory of things to do for family with children from bump to teen. The magazine lists activities, places to visit this winter & events taking place in the run up to Christmas. It also feature 5 fantastic competitions to enter from family days out, panto to book, toy and more! The magazine is available to view online and to download here: <https://thefamilygrapevine.co.uk/eastbourne-wealden-lewes/see-a-copy/>

## **CLASS+**

CLASS+ works across East Sussex to support families/carers of young people with ASD. Their aim is to provide guidance and training that enables families/carers to build their understanding of the strengths and challenges faced by children and young people with Autism and so to develop greater confidence in how to support them.

The team is part of the CLASS service.

### **They offer**

- Weekly advice line
- Signposting
- Coffee mornings - support groups and schools
- Training for parents
- Short pieces of home based support (for school aged children)

### **How can parents/carers access support from CLASS+?**

If you think you or someone you know could benefit from CLASS+ support then please use the contact details below for more information.

- [CLASS@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:CLASS@eastsussex.gov.uk)
- Message them on their [Facebook page](#)
- Call 01273 336887



## A MESSAGE FROM FRIENDS OF FIRLE SCHOOL

We're aware that with all the changes made to the Friends of Firle Christmas events it's become a bit confusing about what is happening and what you need to do! We've outlined all the information below aiming to be as clear as possible.

### **SCHOOL FAIR - 14th DECEMBER** In school time:

- Each class will have a set time to go into the hall with their teacher and take part in different Christmas themed activities
- Children can bring home clothes to change into for the party

### **At home time:**

- Christmas bake sale and hot chocolate inside the school gates. Please bring money for your child if you wish to purchase items at the bake sale or ensure your child has money if they take the school bus. Items are either 50p or £1

### **PRESENTS**

Friends of Firle are donating Christmas presents to the children. This will be a present from Father Christmas and a present from Friends of Firle. These will be given out in the last week of term by the school to link in with their other Christmas celebrations.

### **FUNDRAISING**

Our primary aim for these activities is for the children to have fun. Every child will be able to take part in all the activities at no cost. For those that are able, we are suggesting a donation of £5 to help cover our costs and if possible, raise some funds for the school! If you are donating, please give the money to the school office or via this link <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsoffirleschool/index.cfm?event=dashboard> If you have already purchased an activity bag online, we will take this as your donation towards the party activities.

### **RAFFLE**

Raffle tickets went home with children on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Please continue to sell the tickets and return your stubs to the school office by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. The draw will still take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> December online, live on the Friends of Firle Charity Facebook page. Winners will be notified the following week.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

#### **We need your donations:**

- There is a home clothes day for children on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December** when children can come to school in their own clothes in return for donations of:
  - A small prize for the tombola
  - A decorated jam jar filled with anything you like (sweets, lego, hair clips etc)

**WE ARE NO LONGER REQUESTING HAMPER ITEMS AS NOT ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THEM UP.**

- Baked goods for the Bake Sale on **9<sup>th</sup> December**:
  - Donations of sausage rolls and cakes (nut free please) to be dropped off at school on the **14<sup>th</sup> December** to the school office.

#### **We need your time:**

- 6 helpers to run the stalls on **14<sup>th</sup> December from 12:30-3:30pm** in the school hall. You will need to wear a mask throughout if you are helping.
- 4 people to help run the bake sale on the **14<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm-4pm** in the playground
- 1 person to wrap the Father Christmas presents
- 1 person to wrap the Friends of Firle presents

#### **Place your orders for tea towels and calendars**

All the children have drawn a self-portrait for the school tea towel £5 each or 3 for £13. A school calendar with pictures of children in and around the local villages are on sale for £9.99. You can place your orders in Firle and Glynde shops, bring your money into the school office or order online

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsoffirleschool/index.cfm?event=dashboard> Orders need to be placed by 4<sup>th</sup> December and will be given out the last week of term.

**We cannot do this without your help. Whatever time you can spare will go towards making this possible for our children and without you, it cannot happen.**

**If you can help with any of these things, PLEASE message Helen on 07789 112721 by 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Kind regards Mrs Rachel West and Mrs Vicki Brown