

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you enjoyed the Bank Holiday weekend, it's hard to believe we are in May already!

It has been a busy week in school and despite the cold weather we have still managed to have our worship, lunches and many lessons outside. Here is a picture of Dan who is great at getting the children singing on a Friday morning. It is so lovely to hear singing again in school. Thank you Dan.

Please make sure your child has a coat in school each day, even when it is sunny weather, thank you.

We had our school adviser visit this week. This is when an appointed person from East Sussex comes in to check on school standards. They have mainly been carried out remotely this year, so we were delighted that this term they were able to come into school (after following all the necessary checks). Mrs Wood was able to view the teaching in all classes and met with subject leads and a small group of children from Beech Class to discuss returning to school. She thoroughly enjoyed her day and complimented us on our return arrangements. She judged our teaching to be good with some elements of outstanding (in particular lessons) and she felt that the children's attitudes to learning were outstanding. This is very rewarding for our staff and children that work so hard, well done everyone.

Please note that our Friends of Firle have been very busy and there are attachments detailing their up and coming events with this newsletter. We have a meeting in the school playground on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm which you are all welcome to.



#### ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to **Cherry Class** for their 94.34% attendance. We are going to celebrate the highest attendees in our newsletters from now on and will share the classes' attendance termly instead. Thank you for your continued effort to arrive promptly at school before the gate shuts at 9am.

#### GOLDEN BOOK

##### Week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

<b>Holly</b>	<b>Jimmy</b> for his politeness and efforts this week. I am so impressed <b>Tabitha</b> for her constant kindness and helpfulness as well as great homework
<b>Beech</b>	<b>Willow</b> for her hard work and focus in all areas. I have also noticed her to be a particularly and caring thoughtful and caring talk partner. <b>Buzzy</b> for his cheerful and positive attitude. He tackles every task with gusto and gets great results.
<b>Cherry</b>	<b>Albert</b> , fantastic work in PE, working hard on throwing and catching <b>Bacchus</b> , working very hard at everything in class - super maths and handwriting

<u>Diary</u>	
<b>May</b>	
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	Forest School -Beech Class
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	Forest School -Beech Class
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	Bikeability training all week- Holly Class
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	FoF meeting 2p.m playground
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	FoF car wash 10-3
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	Last day of term- FofF Frozen Friday after school
<b>June</b>	
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	Children return to school

##### Week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

<b>Holly</b>	<b>Bea</b> amazing science questions <b>Henry</b> such a great work ethic
<b>Beech</b>	<b>Ida</b> for her boundless energy and enthusiasm. She always works hard and this shows in the work she produces. <b>Lowen</b> for the thought and care he puts into all of his work. He wrote a fantastic poem last week
<b>Cherry</b>	<b>Abeni</b> for amazing reading and great enthusiasm for all we do in class <b>Ruben and Fletcher</b> for amazing work on telling the time

## **FIRLE HORSE TRIALS 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> MAY**

Please, please can you help Friends of Firle School, they need to fill four more slots. There are two jobs to be done in shifts Dressage Running - taking scores to judges. Arena - lifting up poles in the arena. Both suitable for 2 adults and children if supervised (wearing wellies). Please see the attached sign up form. This is a unique fundraising opportunity and we would hate to miss out just because we are a few people short!

## **PE KITS**

Please can you make sure that your child has a PE kit in school every day, with pumps or trainers. It is really important for them to get changed for physical activity and is safer in allowing much more freedom of movement. Thank you.

## **SELF-HARM:**

### **PARENT AND CARER BESPOKE LIVE ONLINE SESSION**

There are a number of workshops available through East Sussex to support mental health. Please see the flier attached regarding one they are hosting for parents and carers of children who self-harm. Please feel free to pass it on to anyone you think it may be helpful for. Many thanks.

## **PROJECT PLAYGROUND**

We now have lots of ideas for our play areas from the children's designs and staff input. We have asked some providers to come and carry out a site visit, as to what is achievable. If you are interested in design or would like to be involved in this project then please let the school office know. Thank you.

## **BIKEABILITY**

Our Bikeability training starts on 10<sup>th</sup> May so if your child is in year 5 or 6 and taking part, please remember to have their bike in school every day, thank you.



## **GOVERNOR VACANCY**

We still have a vacancy on our governing body and would be keen to hear from you if you are interested in this role. For more information please contact the school office or speak to Debra, our Chair.

## **YEAR 6 PATINA WORKSHOP**

Our Year 6 pupils will be visiting Laughton Primary School on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> May for a Patina Workshop. We will be working collaboratively with Laughton CP so that we can hopefully, parade in the event in term 6

## **CONGESTION IN THE BOSTAL**

We have increasing safety concerns about parking on the Bostal, please be aware of local residents and visitors to the Downs. A number of people are stopping to chat after school on the road and this is causing some congestion.

## **PLAYDATES**

Just a reminder that children should not be in each other's houses for playdates, it is fine for the rule of 6 in the garden but please refrain from inviting children into your house until the government restrictions are lifted. Many thanks

## **BEECH CLASS GREEN MAN CREATIONS**

In their Forest School lesson with Mrs Sison, Beech Class recreated sculptures of the Green Man or Jack-in-the-Green, a traditional participant in May celebrations and May Day parades.



### **Census Day and UIFSM – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021, it is national School Census Day and in an effort to increase the uptake of the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) on that day, the menu theme will be a taste of America: **Beef burgers or veggie hot dogs**. There will also be a jacket potato on offer on this day. Please see the attached menu for your information.

Census Day is when the Local Authorities collect information electronically from every school in their area, partly to guide them in planning and funding. They collect details such as pupil numbers, numbers of pupils with Special Educational Needs, entitled to Pupil Premium funding, entitled to Free School Meals, attendance information and so forth. One thing in particular they are looking at this term is the number of children taking the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM), to provide schools with appropriate funding for this service such as utility costs.

To maximise our potential funding, we would encourage all families with children entitled to UIFSM to enjoy their free meal on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, rather than bringing a packed lunch that day.

It is the number of children in Key Stage One **eating** the free meal on the actual day's lunchtime that informs our funding, rather than meals ordered for that day or children attending school. Pupils who bring a packed lunch from home unfortunately are not able to be included, nor are children who normally take UIFSM, but who are absent on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Once again, we encourage as many as possible to commit to eating the UIFSM on Thursday that week; this will record those children as having eaten on Census Day and therefore count towards the total Government funding that will be allocated to our school for UIFSM for a whole year.

Hopefully it will also create some enthusiasm amongst the children who don't normally take the meals and lead to more of them eating over the rest of the school year.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **HELP OUR TREES TO GROW!**

As some of you know, we have a very special little woodland starting to grow by the playing field, called the Millennium Wood. Some of you had a brilliant time planting your own tiny trees with your name on - and they are doing really well! Now we need your help to keep them growing big, strong and healthy. In the nicer weather, they need lots of water. We have put some water butts next to them, collecting all the rain. It would be wonderful if you could water the trees when you are playing in the woodland, walking home from school, or maybe during Forest School? Just think - when you are all grown up, you can come back and discover that your little sapling has grown into a beautiful big tree, full of birds and wildlife.

**Firle Community Tree Initiative**

Kind regards

Rachel West and Vicki Brown

