

Newsletter – Term 2 11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,



This is the last newsletter of the term and I would like to say a huge thank you for your cooperation in helping us through these first 2 terms. It makes a massive difference when we support one another and to have all the children return to school and engage in learning is a great feat. We have also been incredibly fortunate that we have not had to close a group/ bubble. We appreciate that this could happen at any time and are ready to provide online learning the following day should we need to do this.

We have an exciting last week planned for the children with lots of learning through a Christmas theme. They also have a virtual panto to watch and some classes are having a Christmas party as they have either filled their marble jar or are just getting into the festive spirit, details for these will come out via the class teachers.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, stay safe and have fun. We will start our new term on Tuesday 5th January

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Cherry for their attendance of 93.77% this week. 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. Please note that any children self-isolating do not affect our attendance as they are recorded as learning from home.

GOLDEN BOOK

Week commencing 30th November

Holly Fin and Noah – fantastic group work multiplying 2 digit numbers. They learned from their mistakes and worked together until they were able to do it independently

Beech Willow and Zelda for both always working hard, using their best presentation and being great role models.

Cherry Izzy, Bacchus and Jacob for working hard on learning their lines
Alecks for amazing writing

DIARY DATES

December

18th Last day of term

January 2021

4th **INSET day**
5th Children return to school.

Newsletter - Term 2 11th December 2020

Week commencing 7th December

Cherry The whole class for doing an amazing Christmas performance

Beech Beau for his enthusiasm and determination!

Hopi for her hard work and enthusiasm. Hope is always doing the right thing!

Holly Matias for having fantastic manners and trying his best in everything he does

Isabel for her outstanding effort in Maths this week

Tabitha for behaving so responsibly and showing that she can be relied upon for help in an emergency!

Finn and Noah for being so helpful to Mrs Brown, offering to tidy the hall after lunch. What great role models!

CHRISTMAS TREE

A massive thank you to Sophie and Dave for donating our beautiful Christmas tree. It has been decorated and looks fantastic in the school hall.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We would like to give a big thank you to Colette, who singlehandedly prepared our Christmas lunch on Tuesday. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal and enjoyed eating together in the class groups. The children all enjoyed themselves, watching a surprise appearance from Father Christmas on Zoom. Each class received a present of playground equipment.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Today we wore our Christmas jumpers to school and made a donation to Save the Children. We collected £43. Everyone looked so festive and help spread joy and fun around school. Thank you all very much for your kind donations.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you so much for all your support with purchasing raffle tickets for the draw today. Thank you to Dan for being the host with the most, during the raffle draw, that took part in the marquee. He was ably assisted by children from each class and the draw was streamed live on Zoom, so we hope everyone who watched, enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to all the lucky winners- there were some great prizes on offer.

Newsletter – Term 2 11th December 2020

BORN IN A BARN



Congratulations to Cherry class who did an amazing job in their Nativity performance of Born in a Barn. The performance was filmed and a link will be uploaded on the learning platform, so parents and carers can watch it at their leisure. The children did an amazing job of learning lines and performed beautifully outside, in spite of the cold. We hope you enjoy watching these superstars in action.

FAMILIES IN NEED

We recognise that this has been a particularly hard year for our families and it has been made even more challenging for those that may have lost income or come upon difficult financial times. We are always here to support you so please let us know if we can help in any way. We would like to ask if either you, or a family you know can be supported by a Friends of Firle Christmas hamper this year to help spread some love and hope.

These will contain some of the items that make Christmas, Christmas e.g. crackers, tree decorations, fairy lights, Christmas pudding etc.

If you are going to find Christmas a struggle then let us know and we can confidentially ensure that you will get one of the hampers to lighten the load a bit. Alternatively if you know of a family in the school that you would like to receive one of these, then please let us know confidentially via an email to Friends of Firle or through the school office. Thank you.

SUPPORT AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We are aware that the impact of Covid this year may have affected many of our families in terms of jobs and money coming in. We are here to offer support if anyone needs anything so please just ask. You can contact the school office and any help or advice can be given in confidence.

Some of you may be eligible for free school meals. This means that your child can receive a free meal at school. You can do this if you receive any of the following benefits:

[Universal Credit](#) - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

[Income Support](#)

Income-based [Jobseekers Allowance](#)

Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)

Support under [Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)

The Guaranteed element of State [Pension Credit](#)

[Child Tax Credit](#) only, if your annual household income (assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) isn't over £16,190. Anyone getting [Working Tax Credit](#) won't get free meals regardless of income

Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



Newsletter - Term 2 11th December 2020

Children eligible for free school meals on or after 1 April 2018 will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2023 even if your circumstances change.

The school also receives additional funding to support your child in their learning and this can be used to help with resources, uniform, trips etc.

The process is not taking very long at the moment and can all be done on online. See link for further information and the application form.

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/>

We hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing break and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!

Kind Regards
Rachel West, Vicki Brown