

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, we hope you had a good half term and managed to get a break. From talking to the children we know that some of you suffered from Storm Eunice's force. There were a number of people who had damage to homes and gardens and also quite a few were without power for a while. We are pleased to see that everyone is safe though and are very fortunate not to have had any damage at school.

The children have started their new topics and you should receive the topic webs shortly to show you what objectives they will be covering.

Mrs Brown is currently self isolating as she has tested positive for Covid, we wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her when she is able to return. In the meantime please speak to your child's class teacher if you have something to discuss or contact the school office to arrange a meeting with myself, thank you.

ATTENDANCE



Congratulations to Holly Class who attained the highest attendance last week and this week.

GOLDEN BOOK

Week commencing 7th February

Cherry Noah and Rowan for fantastic maths work

Isla for settling in to the class really well and having a go at everything

Beech Izzy and Jacob for being so enthusiastic on our Viking day at Laughton! They both joined in with children from Firle and Laughton and helped to make it a great day.

Holly Bracken and Charlie for their amazing partnered work. They make a great team
Monty for his hard work in maths, he has shown great problem solving skills.

Cherry Isla-Rose, Isla and David for coming in to school with a smile.

Beech Chloe for making fantastic progress in her reading.
Stanley for following instructions carefully and being organised in his work

Holly Eva and Dolly for creating amazing imagery and tension in their free writing stories

Diary

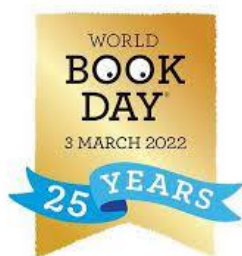
March

1st Yr 5 Swimming
2nd March Yr 5 Forest School
3rd World Book Day
8th Yr 5 Swimming
9th March Yr 5 Forest School
15th Yr 5 Swimming
16th March Yr 5 Forest School
17th Full Governing Body Meeting
18th Red Nose Day
22nd Yr 5 Swimming
23rd March Yr 5 Forest School
30th March Yr 5 Forest School

April

1st Last day of term
1st Easter Church Service 2pm

WORLD BOOK DAY



To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday the 3rd March, we will be having a special day at school to celebrate all of our favourite books. To celebrate this day your child can do one of the following:

Come dressed as their favourite book character (with the book)

Bring a teddy and dressing gown with their favourite bedtime story book

Bring in their favourite book in their normal school uniform

We will be holding a special World book day assembly and doing World book day activities. If any parents or carers would like to come in at some time during the day, dressed as a book character to read to a class, please let me know! Your child

will also receive a voucher for a special WBD book.

For more information on these books and lots of fun activities, you can click on this

link: <https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

YEAR 5 FOREST SCHOOL

Year 5 started their Forest School sessions with Mrs Sison this week by building dens! They will have a session each Wednesday morning until Easter.

HELP FOR UKRAINE

Pearl, in Year 5 has painted a fantastic picture of an eye and entitled her painting 'Rainbow Tears'. As the world is watching the brutal invasion of Ukraine by Russia she would like to sell her prints via Just Giving and for the proceeds to go to the established charity 'British-Ukrainian Aid'.

She was inspired after seeing this advertised in The Times newspaper

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-to-help-ukraine-uk-v8grddrs8?shareToken=1772e130882f9f0319a5ba4a0c47dec2>

If you would like to donate then the link is below

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dan-dwift?utm_term=KGDrEd4q5&fbclid=IwAR1r1XvSjGhUi_4J42RQ5g0d9QL1m1PEnwrNdL63EPPrDWGGzH8YpU3E_ZY



PANCAKE RACES



On Tuesday we will be having our Pancake Races in school. This means that children come to school as normal but parents and carers are welcome to stay and watch the races. These take place straight after register. The children race in their year groups and get rewarded at the end with a pancake. There will be dairy and gluten free pancakes to meet allergy requirements.

If you are free from 9 a.m on Tuesday 1st March for $\frac{1}{2}$ hr please pop along and watch the fun. We need helpers too to donate pancakes and help serve, so please let Terina know if you are available. If we have bad weather then the races will go ahead in the hall with one year group at a time.

FRIENDS OF FIRLE

We wanted to make sure that everyone knows the fabulous work Friends of Firle does and the massive impact they have on school life. Please see below an explanation of their role.

Friends of Firle is about much more than simply fundraising. They exist to provide closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, it's fun too! Each year we run events, some are to raise funds and others are just for fun. Our normal events include a Spooky Disco, a Christmas Fair, Film Nights, Firle Factor, Pancake Races, Summer Tea Gardens, Summer Party and more. The events are a chance to raise funds, for the children to have fun and for parents and carers to meet one another and socialise.

Through events they raise thousands of pounds each year to enhance the children's learning and school environment - it is spent on classroom resources, school trips, technology, playground equipment and support to families in need.

They have a Committee that meet on a regular basis (either in school or at the local pub) anyone can come along, find out what the plans are, share ideas and get involved. they have a noticeboard opposite the school office where you'll find posters, news and updates, then every couple of weeks they share what we've been up to with everyone as part of the fortnightly school newsletters. Finally, if you have access to Facebook, please join our Friends of Firle page. It is a closed group, just for families with children at the school.

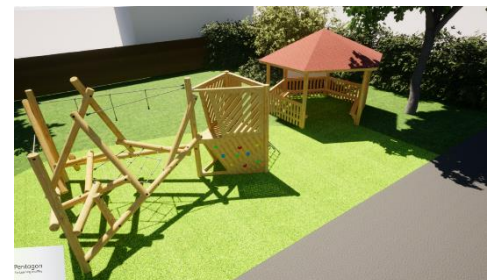
PLAYGROUND PROJECT

I just wanted to update you on our playground project. I have heard that some parents are not sure on why we are doing this so wanted to share why it is so important to us.

Our train has been condemned and the children aren't able to use it anymore and our trim trail needs constant maintenance, so is near the end of it's life too. We would therefore like to replace these pieces of equipment as they are such a huge part of children's time at Firle.

Since Covid we have also sought to extend much more of our learning outdoors and would like an outdoor classroom that can be used throughout the year. These are the key pieces of equipment we are raising money for. We are also hoping to develop our reflection area to raise it's profile on the playground and install some climbing walls to help to build children's upper arm strength.

The cost of all the work is £42 000 before VAT. As a school we claim VAT back. So far we have £20 000 from our Sports Premium, Capital and contingency budget in school and £10 000 from the fabulous fundraising you



have all done in the last few years for Friends of Firle, despite Covid. This means that we have already got a staggering £30 000!

We have the work booked in for mid-May and hope that we can raise the last bit in this time through further fundraising and bids to businesses e.t.c. We have had some very generous donations from individual parents and neighbours to go towards this and are keen to get as much of the planned work done as possible.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Just a reminder that after school clubs resumed this week.

Monday Football (Full), Tuesday Modelling Club, Thursday Fencing and French, Friday Spanish and Street Dance
If you would like a space at any of our after-school clubs, please contact Mrs Horan.

VOLUNTEER WITH FAMILIES

Early Help 0-19 Service are running a free countywide online induction course for anyone who would like to volunteer with families. The course is six sessions over three weeks and topics include Health & Safety, Equality and Diversity and Safeguarding. It's a brilliant way for parents to gain confidence, especially if they are thinking of getting back to work. Flyer attached

East Sussex Parent Carer Forum

East Sussex Parent Carer Forum is holding two events to hear from parents and carers of children/young people with special educational needs & disabilities in East Sussex. Please join us at either event to help shape the services you and your family need.

- ONLINE: Thursday 24th February 12.00 midday - 2.30pm- already gone
- IN PERSON (Lawn Tennis Centre, Eastbourne): Thursday 3rd March 10.00am - 1.00pm

There will be representatives from East Sussex County Council at the events to hear your views and ideas on what needs to happen now and in the future.

Details & how to book

More information and the booking forms are available here:

<https://www.espcf.org.uk/events/>

Themes

There will be four breakout groups and you can choose which one you'd like to be part of:

1. Additional support in schools and attainment gaps
2. EHCP processes
3. Social care and respite
4. Mental health

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch either by phone or email. These events are **open to all parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities living in or accessing services in East Sussex.**

SCHOOL LIBRARY

We are very excited that the first step in our library revamp has taken place. Before half term Michele from the Libraries and Information Service spent a day with Mrs Green sorting through our books. She managed to make space for both new fiction and non-fiction books, throwing away old and damaged books, one from as far back as 1982! Our next step is to arrange for a window seat to be built, any ideas anyone? Then we will be purchasing new books on the recommendation of the Library Service!

GIRLS' FOOTBALL CLUB

Albion in the Community, receive funding from the FA to run the Girls' Football Clubs, which is why they are able to offer them for free. However, as part of this, they need to create reports for the FA to include information such as attendance, sign-up figures and various other criteria. Without the players signing up for the club online, they are unable to evidence our delivery, which could ultimately affect their funding. So please sign up using the following link

<https://bookings.albioninthecommunity.org.uk/soccerschools/courses/courses.htm?coursesSearch=search&clientCode=ASC-FIPS-24>

Kind Regards

Rachel West, Vicki Brown