

## Newsletter – Term 1 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are enjoying the lovely warm weather and are making the most of it while it lasts! It is still a good idea for your child/ren to bring a coat/ jacket to school every day so that they are prepared for all weathers.

We hope you have now had chance to meet your child's class teacher either through the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions or at pick up at the end of the school day. We have parents evening at the end of this term and bookings are done through the school learning platform. If you have not been able to make an appointment to meet your child/rens class teacher for one of these, then please contact the school office who will assist you.



**ATTENDANCE** Well done to Holly who achieved the highest attendance last week and Beech Class this week.

### **GOLDEN BOOK**

**Week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> September**

- Holly** Matias for being a wonderful buddy and for always putting his hand up to answer questions  
Charlie for earning the class a lot of marbles by contributing to our class discussions. A really amazing change of attitude in his learning.
- Beech** Fletcher for always being willing to tackle his tasks independently.  
Ollie for his fantastic effort in all areas of the curriculum.  
Ollie has also been focusing on improving his handwriting with great success.
- Cherry** Albert for trying really hard in maths and phonics  
Maisie and Jacob for working very hard at making the right choices.

**Week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> September**

- Holly** Alex and Tabitha for always offering to help
- Beech** Beau for his mature and positive attitude towards learning  
Izzy for the incredible effort she puts into every lesson.
- Cherry** Bella and Phoenix R for being great role models and helpers.



### **PEARL'S ICE CREAM SALE**

Well done to Pearl who raised £40 for us by selling delicious ice creams after school.  
Thank you very much for this thoughtful idea.

### **CHERRY CLASS WELLY WALKS**

On Wednesday afternoons Mrs Sison, our Forest School teacher will lead a welly walk for our infant children. She will have another member of staff with her and a parent volunteer. The Year 1 and 2 children will go for the first hour and then the EYFS children for the second hour. The children will have the opportunity to explore the local country side and learn about nature. They will complete some further activities linked to the outdoor session, when they are in the classroom. Thank you so much to all the parents who have volunteered to help us out on these Wednesday afternoons.



### **PARENTS' EVENINGS**

Parents' Evening will take place remotely on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 3.30 until 7pm** and on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 3.30 until 5.30pm**. You will be able to book your 10 minute slot on the website from 4pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact the school office if you are having difficulty booking your slot.

	<u>Diary</u>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Macmillan coffee morning
<b>12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	New to EYFS open day - 9:15am & 13:30pm
<b>15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Harvest festival
<b>19<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Parents evening 3.30 – 7pm
<b>21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Parents evening 3.30 – 5.30pm
<b>21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Last day of term
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	INSET DAY

## HARVEST FESTIVAL



We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival in Church on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October**. As in the past we will be donating your contributions to Brighton and Hove City Mission who look after the homeless in Brighton and Hove. They are currently very short of sugar and size 6 and 6 plus nappies. However, any non-perishable food will be gratefully accepted, especially gluten free, vegan and vegetarian products.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are delighted that so many children applied to be on this year's School Council. They had to show their interest by writing a manifesto and then had to canvas their peers for election.

The following children will now form our School Council. We will have a Yr 1 and EYFS vote in term 3.

Congratulations to Y6: Monty, Fin, Tabitha, Y5: Charlie, Yr 4: Emily and Ida, Yr 3: Izzy, Yr 2 Martha and Torren

## MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Many thanks to Friends of Firle School and our new School Council for their help with this event.

The teachers have bought and made cakes and we have had some great contributions from families too. Please come along from 2:15p.m for a coffee/tea and a slice.



## GATES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If you arrive late to school or need to drop something off or collect your child during the day please can you use the **front entrance**. We need to send a member of staff down each time to let people in and it is much quicker for the office staff to get to the front gate. This is for safeguarding purposes as we cannot buzz people in during the school day to come in on their own. Many thanks for your help with this

## CAMPING WEEKEND

The Friends of Firle camping weekend on 11<sup>th</sup> September was a great success and we hope to fit a couple more dates in next year. The Yew Tree were very generous in offering us the space and Friends of Firle raised £300 for having a great time. Here are some lovely pictures of the event.



## FRIENDS OF FIRLE

The Friends of Firle have sent out a booklet highlighting all the fantastic events coming up this year. They will be around at the Coffee afternoon today so please pop along to see how you can support them.

Helen will be stepping down as Co-Chair in December so please contact her if you would like to take on this role. They also we urgently need a co treasurer to work with Laura, all interests welcome.

They are also really keen to support families who may be struggling financially with trip e.t.c.so please make contact with them directly or through the school office if you need any help. Thank you



## SAM MUSIC SERVICE FREE TASTER LESSON

We are now offering a free, no-commitment taster lesson, which will hopefully encourage pupils interested in learning an instrument the opportunity of giving it a try! Parents / carers can enquire by simply visiting [www.sammusicservice.com](http://www.sammusicservice.com) and completing the short enquiry form, or by calling 01273 465122 or emailing [lessons@sammusicservice.com](mailto:lessons@sammusicservice.com).

## STAFFING

This year we have timetabled Mrs Brown to be in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mrs West on Thursdays and Fridays. We will alternate on Mondays and there may be a few exceptions for particular meetings/ courses etc.

Mrs Filtness is at Firle on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Wednesdays. She has been poorly this week but hopes to be back next week.

### RE DAY

For our RE days, Holly Class went to St Peter's Church to investigate how Christians see God, they took photos of candles and the bible.

Beech Class studied the story of creation, they watched a film about God creating the earth and Beau learnt that Adam and Eve were not allowed to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden!



Cherry Class learnt about Sukkot, which is also known as the "Festival of Tabernacles" and the "Feast of Booths." It is one of Judaism's three central pilgrimage festivals, along with Passover and Shavuot and is celebrated this year between 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September. They build their own sukkot in their classroom. Torren remembered that it had to have three sides and David knows that the roof was made of leaves. Willow has actually stayed in a sukkot in the desert!

### PARKING

Please make sure that you park safely in either the village carpark or along the Bostal.

Do not use the staff carpark or the neighbours' parking spaces on School Path as access is needed at all times, thank you.

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

Individual school photos will take place in school on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October** and the order forms will be sent home shortly afterwards. We are allowing siblings photos this year, which will be done before school.

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Laughton school are currently looking for an MDSA and an INA. Please see their website for details on how to apply and please pass this information on to anyone you know who may be interested in applying. Thank you

### OPEN SESSIONS

We are having the first of our Open Sessions for parents and carers with children due to start school in September 2022 on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021**. There will be two sessions, the first at 9:15am prompt, and the second at 1:30pm. In order to monitor numbers, please can you book with the school office on 01273 858260 or email

[firleoffice@oaktreefederation.co.uk](mailto:firleoffice@oaktreefederation.co.uk) where you will also need to confirm who will be attending with you. The session will last a maximum of 45 minutes, and you will have the opportunity to meet with the Executive Headteacher, Rachel West.

Please spread the word if you know anyone who has a child due to start school next year. The other Open Day dates are **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021** and **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. The ESCC closing date for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.



### SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2022 you will receive a leaflet about how to apply. Information can also be found on;

[https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/admissions/secondary\\_school/](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/admissions/secondary_school/)

### CENSUS DAY AND UIFSM – THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 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 will be Fish and Chips. There will also be a jacket potato on offer on this day.

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 7<sup>th</sup> October, 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 7th October.

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.



Kind regards Mrs Rachel West and Mrs Vicki Brown