

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It has been so lovely to see all the children back in school this week and we must congratulate them on how well they have done in returning to school. I think we will all sleep well on Friday night!

It is also important for us to remember that everyone has had different experiences over the last 6 months with some families not seeing anyone outside their family or going into a public place. This is why it is vital to respect social distancing and remember to keep safe, in this still unsettling time.

We welcome all our new Reception children and also Finn, Jacob, Ruben, Dylan and Kalani who have joined us in other year groups.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please let us know by 8:30a.m on each day of absence (unless they have a longer-term illness e.g. Chicken Pox). Vomiting and Diarrhoea requires 48hrs since the last episode. If they have any signs of Covid-19 (high temp, continuous cough, then please keep them at home and get a test as soon as possible.

We have

Our school target this year is 96.5% however, we would like it to be higher! Last year we set our attendance target at 96.5% but unfortunately only achieved 95.6% so we were close but not quite there. Anything under 95% is considered a concern.

If we have any specific concerns about your child's attendance, we will approach you in person and arrange a meeting.

GOLDEN BOOK

Congratulations to all of the children this week for settling back into school and for engaging so positively with their learning. For some it is their first week in school, for some their first week at Firle and for others their first week in a new class. We are so proud of each and every one of them. Our golden book assembly will start virtually next week.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

To keep to our bubbles we have staggered our drop off and pick up times. As school closes for staff at 4pm (for a deep clean) please collect your children promptly to give teachers time to prepare the classroom for the following day.

8.40 am	Holly Class	3.05 pm	Cherry Class
8.50 am	Beech Class	3.10 pm	Beech Class
8.55 am	Cherry Class	3.15 pm	Holly Class

Older children can leave earlier with younger siblings.

DIARY DATES

October

23rd - End of Term

November

2nd - INSET

3rd - Children return to school

Could we please remind you to respect social distancing at school drop off and picks ups. You can help us all by:

- Arriving promptly at the allocated drop off times for your child to reduce congestion.
- Not arriving early to collect children in the afternoon so each class group is kept separate (we will collect older siblings so they can leave together
- Leaving the area by the gate as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child to reduce congestion
- Having one person to come and collect children from the gate to limit the numbers of people in the collection area
- Respecting social distancing of 2m from other people to help us model this to children and respect other people's anxieties at this time
- Keep the area by the gate clear to allow children to enter and exit though the gate freely.

MEET THE TEACHER

Due to Covid guidance, we will not be able to have our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in the same way as before. We have therefore decided to do a socially distanced one this week. Please see letter sent earlier, with further details.

Please contact the school office if you wish to speak to your child's class teacher and they will arrange a phone call, meeting outside or email response.

STAFF ORGANISATION

Mrs West will be at Firle Mon- Wed noon; Mrs Brown will be at Firle Weds noon to Friday and we hope to alternate meeting each week at one of the schools on the Wednesday afternoon. Mrs Filtness will be at Firle on a Tuesday and Friday.

SNACK TIME!

At morning break, the children are allowed a snack. Please can we remind you that the snack should be a piece of fruit or vegetable sticks (cucumber, tomato, carrot etc.) Cherry class and Pips get their fruit free. KS2 children can pay to have fruit for £3 per term. Just let the office know if you would like to purchase fruit for your child and send the money in a sealed envelope.

NUTS

We are a nut free school so this means that packed lunches must not contain any items containing nuts, including peanut butter or Nutella in sandwiches.

FOREST SCHOOL

The children will need to be suitably dressed for their Forest School lessons as we go out in all weathers. This means waterproof and warm clothing, wellingtons if possible but if not at least a change of shoes. As we don't want them bringing too much into school they may wear their forest school clothes instead of uniform, but please remember to send in their school shoes. As we have reduced group sizes we will not need any parent volunteers. This term a group from Holly Class have Forest School on a Tuesday and further information will be sent out about this.

LUNCH BOXES

Please send your child's packed lunch into school in a normal sized, wipeable lunch box. Some children are bringing their lunch in rucksacks, which are too big for the lunch box cupboard and cannot be sanitised after use.

CLUBS

We are hoping to start our after school clubs very soon. They will be until 4pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Further information about clubs will be sent out next week.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Mrs Horan has sent blank data collection sheets out to all parents, please let her know if there are no changes in your contact details and if there are please complete and return the blank form. It is imperative that all information on the contact sheets is correct, particularly current contact phone numbers, in case of emergencies or illness in school.

PARKING

We have had another complaint about parking from our neighbours. Please be considerate of others when leaving your car to collect your children. If another family member or friend is picking up your child please can you let them know not to park on the private road. Many thanks.

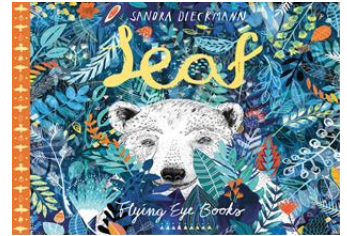
BIRTHDAYS

We will continue to celebrate your child's birthday in school with our birthday stickers and table top badge. Please remember not bring in things to hand out such as sweets, cakes etc. for the whole class as we are trying to promote healthy eating and are also not allowed items to be brought in from home. Many thanks

CURRICULUM

We have adapted our curriculum this year to help the children transition back into school learning and to reflect on any missed learning during lockdown. We are calling this a "recovery curriculum" as it is to regain skills and build on previous learning whilst also recognising skills that were developed at home when the children weren't attending school.

The topic theme is around Sandra Diekmann's book 'Leaf' and all classes across both schools are taking this terms learning from it.



This means that children in different classes will be able to discuss their learning at home with siblings, and at school, staff can share ideas with one another. It will allow us to cater for all children's' abilities as each class teacher will develop their planning around the needs of their class. They can support one another for any gaps in learning from lockdown.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2021 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/

COATS

Now the weather is becoming a little more autumnal and we are trying to be outside as much as possible, please ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day as the weather is very changeable.

YOGA

Yoga will begin next week on Mondays. If your child has any medical condition or sports injury that could be affected by yoga please can you let their class teacher know. All mats will be wiped down between groups.



HOLLY CLASS GEOGRAPHY LESSON



As part of our 'Leaf' topic, Holly class have been identifying the different continents of the world in preparation for researching where Polar bears live. It was lovely to be able to do our atlas work outside!

Regards,

Mrs Rachel West

Mrs Vicki Brown