

### Dear Parents and Carers

We are about to welcome Christmas cheer into school and have had to think differently, this year, on how to do this. Our aim is to keep as much as we can of our usual festivities but they have had to be tweaked to meet Covid guidance. It is really important that we keep this time of year special and we hope the children will enjoy it. There is further information in this newsletter about what is coming up!

### ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Cherry for their attendance of 93.69% last 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 16<sup>th</sup> November

- Holly** Alex, Fin and Noah for outstanding kindness and helpfulness.  
**Beech** Emily for consistently making the right choices in class and for all her hard work this week  
Arthur for amazing handwriting!  
**Cherry** Marley for remembering to put his hand up when he wants to say something.  
Jacob for being so caring with the younger cherries.

#### Week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> November

- Cherry** Phoenix R for being really polite and kind to everyone.  
Winter for slowing down and taking care with her writing.  
**Beech** Mabel for showing kindness and for being a brilliant friend  
Ollie G for brilliant progress in Maths.  
**Holly** Henry and Flynn for speech based on Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech.  
Henry because it was so heartfelt and selfless  
Flynn because it was so passionate and descriptive

### DIARY DATES

#### December

- 4<sup>th</sup> Non uniform day for raffle  
8<sup>th</sup> Flu nasal spray  
Christmas Lunch  
11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumpers  
Christmas Raffle  
18<sup>th</sup> Last day of term

#### January 2021

- 4<sup>th</sup> INSET day  
5<sup>th</sup> Children return to school.

### RECYCLING

Don't forget we recycle crisp packets, biscuit wrappers and batteries so please give a bag full to your child to bring into the office, once you have a collection

### THIS IS ME

This week the children from Years 1-3 brought home a copy of 'This is Me 2!' the result of the children's and role-models' combined efforts during lock down. We would like to extend our thanks to everyone involved, from those behind the initial idea, the role models themselves and to local printers Chilli Graphics. Both Laughton School Association and Friends of Firle School Association kindly donated funds for the design and printing of the booklets, so our thanks are of course extended to them also.

We hope these booklets serve as a positive reminder of what the children and role models achieved, despite the challenges of 2020. Should any member of the school community and beyond wish to obtain copies of this booklet, please contact the school office, the cost of these booklets are £3.00 each.



## **PACKED LUNCHES**

As a healthy school we would encourage everyone to have a school dinner if possible, especially those in KS1 who are entitled to a free school meal. These meals are designed to be nutritionally balanced. If your child does bring a packed lunch to school, please try to make sure that it is a balanced meal i.e., pasta, meat or fish, cheese and fruit and veggie sticks. Please do not include sweets or chocolate bars (from the confectionary aisle)

## **FRIENDS OF FIRLE SHOP**

Our amazing FOF have set up an online shop and already have made over £800. The deadline for ordering tea towels and calendars is December 4<sup>th</sup>. The link is available here and on our school website.

## **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.

## **GRANT FORMS**

If anyone would like to give a couple of hours up to write a funding bid/grant form for our school then please contact Helen who can let you know further details. We do apply for a number of grants to help with school projects; our plans to develop the grass area for use across the whole year will need lots of financing so any help, will be gratefully received.

## **CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

We know that sometimes children like to make a card/ gift for their teacher or give them something at Christmas. There is never any expectation from staff to receive these and we hope you are all aware of this. We do know however that despite saying there is no need to give them anything some people will. We would therefore like to ask that if you did want to pass anything on to your child's class teacher that it be clearly labelled and put in the box by the front door so that we can quarantine passing it on. Many thanks

## **BAGS2SCHOOL**

As we await a clothing bank in Firle (we are 50<sup>th</sup> on the list for the charity), Friends of Firle have organised a Bags 2 School event. Please drop off any unwanted clothes, bedding etc. in bin bags on 4<sup>th</sup> December at the Reading Room in Glynde, (for collection on 7<sup>th</sup>) someone from FOF will be at school to collect if people cannot get to the Reading Room.

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Our Christmas Lunch menus were sent home this week. The children can choose from turkey or roasted vegetable and cranberry slice which is the vegetarian option.

Please return your child's choices by Monday so Colette knows how many turkeys to order!



## **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December we will be supporting Save the Children by wearing Christmas Jumpers to school with a voluntary donation of £1.

## **NO SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December is a no school uniform day, in return for a hamper item for the FOFS Christmas raffle. We will let you know, at the start of next week, what kind of items to bring in for the hampers.

### **CRAZY HAIR DAY**

Thank you everyone, we raised a massive £40 for Friends of Firle School, and the hair was certainly crazy. The hairstyles were judged by a number of different adults and we are delighted to announce the winners and runners up for each class. Well done to all the children for their creative ideas- don't they look fantastic?

**Cherry- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Phoenix H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Marley**

**Beech- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mabel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ida**

**Holly- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Tabitha, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Alex**



### **Holly Class writing**

The children in Holly class have been writing their own speeches inspired by the whole school topic. They are fantastic, full of careful thought and consideration.

I have a dream

I have a dream that all people, young and old, would have a right to clean air for all generations to come, free of pollutants and chemicals.

I dream that the majestic rainforests will stand tall in the sun for many centuries yet to come.

I dream that the hooting gibbons and the swinging orang-utans will live many generations unhindered in the towering trees. From the giant pandas of Eastern China to the mysterious tapirs of South America would all live on this beautiful planet forever and ever. I dream that the diverse and beautiful forests would not be forced to give way to straight and orderly palm oil plantations or sprawling mines.

**By Flynn**

I have a dream to help homeless off the streets. I have a dream to help homeless people get a home. I have a dream that no one will be homeless. I have a dream that everyone will have a job, and earn enough money to live on. I have a dream that everyone will be safe in a house. I have a dream that no one will be hungry.

**By Henry**

### **PANTOMINE**

Although this year is a bit different, we are pleased to say that the children will still get to enjoy a pantomime. We have booked an online pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk that the whole school can watch in their own class

Kind Regards

Rachel West and Vicki Brown

