

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

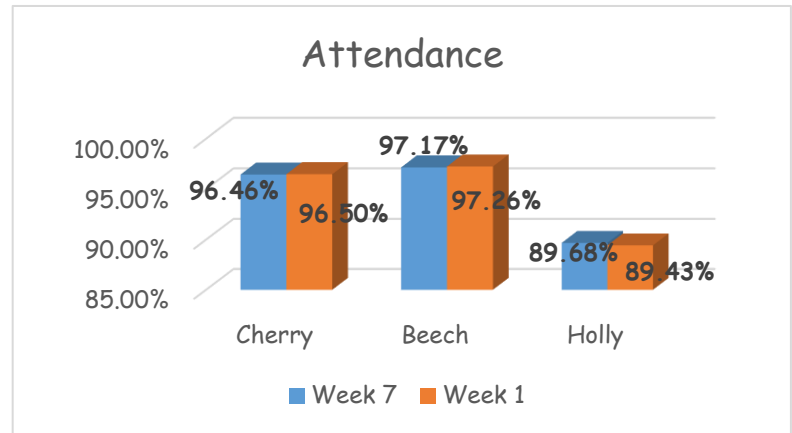
Thank you so much for the gifts before Christmas, particularly from our Amazon wish list, as the staff and children are really enjoying their new equipment and resources.

You will have received your child's topic map this week, with the objectives they will be covering this term. They have been very enthused by them already.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations Cherry and Beech Class.

Our school target this year is 96.5%. Please can you make sure that your child is in school for 9am as a late registration affects their class's attendance figures. Thank you.



GOLDEN BOOK

Congratulations to the following children, who have been mentioned in our Golden Book, which is shared in our Celebration Assembly.

9th January 2020

Cherry **Alex** -for being fantastic and completing some brilliant independent maths work.

Kiki- for being an amazing friend and helping a new class member settle in.

Beech **Willow** -for fantastic work in maths! Brilliant contributions and explaining her understanding of new skills.

Alex- for his positivity and good decision making in school. Amazing hard work!

Holly **Alice**- for settling in really well, really trying her best and for putting up her hand in class.

Illiana and Phoebe for their kindness in looking after Alice.

PARENT FORUM

We will be having a parent forum on Monday 27th January at 2:15p.m. Our last one was on behaviour and unfortunately, no one came along so we are leaving this as an open session so that we can encourage more people to join us and raise any ideas or questions they may have. We hope we can then set the themes for the remaining terms.

DIARY DATES	
January 2020	
14 th	Yr 3 Forest School
15 th	Cherry Class Welly Walk
20 th	Healthy Eating Week
21 st	Skipping Workshop
24 th	Whole School Sharing Assembly
27 th	Parent Forum
30 th	FGB meeting
February	
11 th	Parents Evening
12 th	Parents Evening
17 th - 21 st	Half Term
24 th	INSET DAY

NEW STAFF

We will be welcoming Mrs Martina Moss as an additional teaching assistant to support in Holly Class for the remainder of this academic year. She has previous experience as a teaching assistant and has also had a career in acting. We hope she will enjoy her time with us at Firle.

NUTS

Please remember that we are a nut free school. This means that children must not bring nuts of any kind into school, including Nutella.

PE KITS

Could we please remind you that the children should have their full PE kit in school all term, in a labelled PE bag. Please wash the PE Kits during the school holidays.

LOST PROPERTY

We have an increasing pile of unclaimed and unnamed items in lost property. Please check our lost property pile, anything unclaimed will be disposed of at the end of January!

PARENT PAY

Please could we ask parents to ensure that any outstanding balances for lunches on Parent Pay are cleared as soon as possible. Parent pay accounts should be credited with funds to cover school dinners being ordered to ensure that records are up to date. If outstanding debts are not cleared then Chartwells will ask that children have packed lunch until the system is credited.

ECO GROUP

Mrs Sison is starting an Eco Group and the information has been shared in Worship this week. All those interested have been given a form to fill out, to state why they would like to be an Eco rep. These forms need to be returned to school by Monday 13th January. Mrs Sison will then select, from their applications, who will be in this year's group and they will have that position until the end of the year. We will then appoint a new group the following year. We are impressed with the amount of children who have already shown an interest and completed their applications in school. We will let you know who our Eco group members are in the next newsletter. Please see the application form attached.

RELAUNCH OF SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are relaunching our School Council and this was shared in Worship this week. The children who are interested in becoming a School Councillor have collected a manifesto sheet and need to fill out the different parts. These will be displayed in the hall and each class can anonymously vote for 3 members of their class to be their School Council rep. These children will hold the position for the year. The staff are going to run the School Council on a rota basis and we look forward to hearing the new Council's ideas on how we can improve our school further. Mrs Groves will be leading this to start with.

The manifestos all need to be returned by Friday 14th January so that they can be displayed in the hall and voting will take place the following week. If your child wants to take a form they are in the school office. Forms are also attached to the newsletter.

WELLY WALKS AND FOREST SCHOOL

Mrs Sison, our Forest School teacher, will be starting lessons next week for year 3 pupils, on Tuesday afternoons. She will also be taking Cherry Class on their Welly Walks on Wednesday afternoons (parent helpers needed please). Please make sure that your child has suitable clothing for a visit to the woods!

YOGA



We will be starting yoga again next week with a new teacher called Josie. Josie was previously a dance teacher at the Brit School whilst training as a Yoga instructor and also works with the Rambert Dance Company. She has a wealth of experience in the practice of yoga. We hope the children enjoy getting back into the practice, although Cherry Class

have continued with daily Cosmic Yoga!

HEADLICE

Please, please make sure that if your child's hair is any longer than shoulder length or can be tied up, that it is tied up. We have had so many cases of head lice recently that we must try anything to eradicate them. Ongoing, regular combing and conditioning your child's hair is still the most effective and harmless way of preventing and controlling headlice; however if you prefer to use a treatment your pharmacist will advise you on choice, suitability and methods. www.onceaweektakeapeek.com

CENSUS DAY

On Thursday 16th January 2020, 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 and Jelly and Ice cream. 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 16th January, rather than bringing a packed lunch that day.

It is the amount 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 16th January

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.

MUSIC LESSONS AT FIRLE

We are very lucky to be able to offer a range of music lesson here at school. There are slots available for guitar or keyboard lessons as well as singing lessons. (See Attached Flyer)

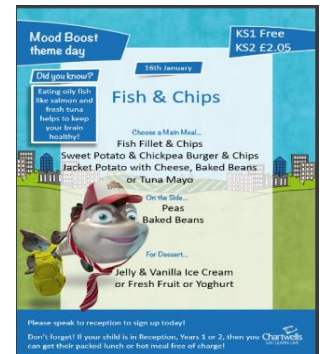
SKIPPING WORKSHOP VISIT & ROPE SALE

I am pleased to inform you that we have invited 'Skipping Workshops UK' to run a skipping workshop on 21st January 2020. The day will involve your child's class taking part in a skipping lesson. The gymnastic speed ropes will be on sale after school on Tuesday 21st January. Payment is by cash only.

GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT

We are seeking new governors and would like to know if either you or someone you know may be interested in joining our governing body.

Being a school governor requires commitment but is a hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference and give something back to your local community. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system as there is plenty of training available. We need and benefit from a range



of professional knowledge on the governing board including education, finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, property and estates management, and organisational change.

We meet as a whole group six times a year and we have smaller working groups to focus on specific areas. Individual governors are also 'link governors' with specific responsibility for areas of the federation improvement plan. You can find out more about the work we do and our key objectives for each year on the school website. If you're interested in finding out more please contact Debra Vice Holt, our Chair at d.viceholt@oaktree federation.co.uk

THEMED LUNCHES

On Thursday 16th January Colette, our cook, will be preparing a special 'Mood Boost' lunch, comprising classic fish and chips and on Tuesday 28th January to celebrate Chinese New Year she will be cooking a Chinese style meal.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Kim from Glynde for a donation of some lovely books

CLUBS

Our afterschool and lunchtime clubs start next week! Please complete and return forms if you wish your child to take part in a club. All of our after school clubs begin at 3.15pm and end at 4.15pm.

Friends of Firle update

We had a superb start to the academic year with fundraising, thank you ... we need to keep it up as we need to raise around £5000 before the end of July 2020!

Lego Fire Walk - 31st January - Do you have your sponsorship forms printed and ready to go? Keep collecting, this will be a great event with lots of locals signing up too!

We need volunteers for cooking and running the bar please. Sign up on the board at school!

Valentine's Day film night- 14th Feb- We need volunteers for food and bar, sign up on the board at school - more info to follow

Christmas present gift amnesty- drop any unwanted gifts to the school office - we can use them for future raffles and tombola

Party box sewing kindly being done by Rosie N so will be ready to hire very soon - watch this space

Firle Factor - can you help set up/ cook / bar / clear up sign up on the board at school Date tbc very soon!

Second Hand school uniform is always available - just ask your class rep for details

Have you all signed up for easy fundraising? If not it's easy and just takes a couple of minutes (we cannot see what you buy!)! <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/firlecoeps/>

Please take a look at the attached info sent out last term... could you help at all? Can your business or work match donations?

Bag2school Please keep hold of any old clothes, material etc for the bag2school collection date to be confirmed.

Next FOF meetings - please come along, we have plenty of things to get involved in this term and need to start planning for next term too!

Wednesday 15th January 9am at school, 21st January 7pm at Helen's house (Glynde Station)

Best wishes

Helen and Lucie

friendsoffirleschool@gmail.com

