



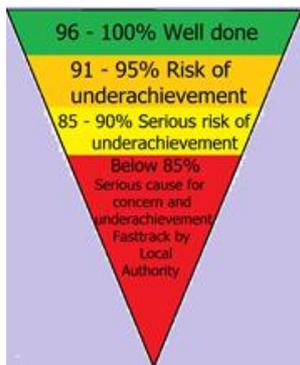
Firs Estate Primary School



Send your child to school every day!

We are really pleased to report that more children are attending school for 100% of the time with 61 children enjoying the 100% Attendance Easter Party and receiving an Easter egg. This is an increase from 47 in the Autumn term. It would be great if we could increase this again this term.

Improving attendance remains a high priority. If children aren't here, they miss out on vital learning leaving gaps in their progress. This makes it difficult for them to catch up - no parent wants their child to fall behind their friends!



Increasing attendance remains a focus for the school as we fall behind national attendance expectations. As a community, Firs children come to school less than other schools and this is reflected in our attainment data. Children who don't come to school don't attain high results in assessments. Please care enough about your child's future to make every effort to get them to school every day. This will give them the best chance of success for their future lives.

Fundraising

We have had a few fundraising events recently. This is what we have raised for charity so far this year; Children in Need - £220.40, Poppy Appeal - £53.82, Comic relief - £182.13

Fundraising events for school including the Halloween Disco, Film Night, Jumble sales and Santa hats/Christmas card sales amounted to £1,052 which we put towards play equipment and subsidising school trips.



Help please!

Living next to a school where almost 400 children attend is not easy and our neighbours are very tolerant of us. They also support us by keeping an eye on Firs Estate during weekends and school holidays and for this we are very grateful.

Unfortunately, they have had a couple of reasons to feel unhappy over the last couple of weeks.

In order to help us maintain good relationships with our neighbours, please could you make sure of the following couple of things:

- If your child gets out of a car when they are being dropped off or collected, please make sure they don't bang other cars with the door. We have had a couple of damaged cars because of this in the last few weeks. In order to keep your children safe, please ensure they get out of the car on the school side so they do not have to cross the road.
- Try and prevent your child from going into the gardens of our neighbours. We had it reported that a child picked up stones from a neighbour's garden and threw them at her car. This is not acceptable behaviour.
- We have also had it reported that children are cutting through the accommodation for elderly residents on Boyer Street. While the residents don't object to children cutting through and indeed many of them enjoy seeing the children, we ask that children show respect to them by not making too much noise or staring through the windows of people's homes.

Thank you in advance for your help with this. We do not want children at Firs Estate getting a reputation they don't deserve because of the inconsiderate behaviour of a few.

Are You A Good Neighbour?



Staffing news

We are very pleased to welcome back Mrs Chittenden into Cheerful Cherries.

Following the retirement of Mr Roach, we had planned for Mrs Goldstein to take over Aspiring Acers. Unfortunately, Mrs Goldstein is unwell and is currently absent from school. We now know that this will be for an extended period of time so Miss Heer will be teaching Aspiring Acers for the foreseeable future. As our teachers plan in teams, she will be supported by the other Y3/4 teachers and our KS2 Leader, Mr Etchells.

Finally, we are currently in the process of appointing a new Deputy Head teacher. We were pleased that we had a lot of interest from people wanting to join the 'Firsy Team'.

Y6 SATs May 8th - 12th

17 of our Y6 children attended school for four days of the Easter holidays to ensure they are as ready for their Y6 SATs assessments as possible. Their enthusiasm and hard work was excellent! Thank you to parents for your support in ensuring they got here every day and were collected.

Y6 children will be invited to come to school early next week for a pre SATs breakfast and any Y6 child who is in school every day will get a trip to the park on Friday for a post SATs treat.



Behaviour

We closely monitor the behaviour of children in school and run daily lunchtime detention sessions for those who behave inappropriately. We are pleased that we are seeing the numbers of children in detention decreasing as behaviour outside is getting better. We also have the facility of the children being able to go into the Orchard if they find playing outside difficult. This is not a punishment but a place where children can practise their social skills. If you have any concerns about behaviour, please make sure you let us know and we will tackle it. Behaviour at Firs is much improved and we want to see this continue to get better.



Amanda Solloway

We will be visited by the Parliamentary candidate Amanda Solloway on Friday 12th May. Amanda will lead an assembly for the children and will then visit classrooms. We feel honoured that Amanda is taking the time out of her busy election campaigning to come and visit the children of Firs Estate.

Visitors

We had two important visitors to Firs Estate last week. The first was The Bishop of Derby, Bishop Alistair Redfern who was welcomed into the classrooms by the children who showed him their work. He was very impressed and sent an email thanking us for his visit and commenting on the lovely, friendly atmosphere at Firs Estate.

Our second visitor was the School Improvement Officer who came to look at the quality of teaching and the progress the school is making. She was very impressed by the changes we have made to teaching and learning and sent a report which commented that;

"Expectations of the teachers about the pupils' capabilities have risen dramatically since September in terms of their academic skills and behaviours."

and;

"Lessons observed were well resourced and prepared."

and;

"Higher standards of learning behaviour are being seen across the school. Pupils are more engaged as the quality of teaching and learning rises."

We are delighted that the work we are putting in and the changes we are making are beginning to pay off and that this is recognised by those who come to monitor the improvement of the school.

Miss Bailey has been working hard to get more information on our website. You will find information and policies on there so please take time to have a look:

www.firsestate.derby.sch.uk