



Firs Estate Primary School

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Autumn 2017

Staff, pupils and governors wish all



What a term!

The autumn term is always the longest with the nights drawing in and the preparations for Christmas keeping everyone busy and excited.

However, it has been a lovely term with the new children in all year groups settling well and plenty of exciting events having taken place including trips out and visitors to school. Our pupil numbers are the highest we have ever seen - almost 400 children attend Firs and we are pleased to say that less children have moved from Firs to new schools during this term. Mobility of pupils is the main challenge we face to improving our data.

We have a new teacher joining us in January - Mrs Addai is moving to Derby from London and will be teaching Splendid Spruces alongside Mrs Skillington who has been teaching them this term. We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Addai to join our Firs Family. **Children return to school on Wednesday 3rd January.**

Firs Primary School - part of DDAT family of schools

When we return in January, the school will be an academy with a new name - '**Firs Primary School**'. We will have a new logo and will be changing our uniform to navy blue. There is no need to go out and buy new uniform for January but next time you do buy a jumper, please buy navy blue rather than green. Once we have sorted our new budget, we are hoping to be able to provide all children with a new school jumper, providing we can afford it. We will keep you posted regarding this.



100% Attendance

Having 100% attendance, or as near to this as possible, is vital if our children are to achieve the very best they can - in terms of their friendships, happiness in school and academic achievement. Children who are here most make the most progress and get the most from school.

We were therefore delighted to take 85 children to see a pantomime as a 'Well Done' for being in school every day. They had a lovely time, and were beautifully behaved.

Please do everything you can to get your children in to school. We cannot express how important this is for your child and their future. It is really difficult to make up for missed learning time and children who are regularly absent fall behind their friends. We all want the best for our children's future so please make it a New Year's Resolution to get them to school every day, unless they are really poorly.

Fundraising for Charity and School

Thank you for supporting all our fundraising events this term. Together we have raised;

£55.10 for the Poppy Appeal

£88.50 for Save the Children by having a Christmas Jumper Day

£190.09 for Children in Need by having a non-uniform day, photographs with our special visitor, Pudsey Bear and a run around Stockbrook Park.

For our children we have raised over £1,000 from the Halloween Disco and the Christmas Fair. This money has been used for a visiting pantomime treat for all children, Christmas parties and a Christmas gift for every child which will be delivered by Santa at their parties.

A couple of our parents have really helped with fundraising in school so a huge thank you must go to Toni Martin, Rebecca Rothwell and Nigel Damant who have been absolute stars this term.

Appointments

Please try and make any doctors, dentist, opticians and hospital appointments out of school hours whenever possible.

If you do need to take your child out of school for an appointment please bring the appointment card or letter to the school office before the date of the appointment. Please note school will not authorise a full day absence for such appointments, we expect you to bring your child to school before / after an appointment.



Food in School

Children must only bring healthy snacks to eat a break time such as fruit and vegetables. **NO** chocolate, crisps or chewing gum allowed. This helps ensure your children get one of their recommended '5 a day' and keeps them healthy. Healthy children catch fewer bugs and can be in school more.

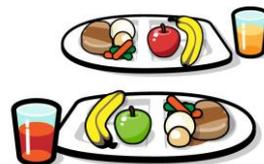
Breakfast Club

Our FREE Breakfast Club will continue after Christmas. If you wish your child to have breakfast, please arrive between 8.20-8.30am.



School Dinners and Dinner Monies

Please remember dinner money should be paid on Monday morning at the school office or given to your child's teacher in a named envelope. School meals cost £10.00 per week. Children must have the same meal choice every day per week - school dinner or sandwiches. If they would like to change please give 1 weeks' notice at the school office.



School Policies and other information

Just a reminder that many school policies and information about school are available on the website - www.firsestate.derby.sch.uk



Holidays / Leave of Absence

All holiday requests are approved or declined by the Headteacher and the School's Education Welfare Officer. **No** holidays will be authorised unless there is an exceptional circumstance. Renewing passports and visiting ill relatives are not exceptional circumstances. Please ensure you do not take your holiday during term time as you may be issued with a penalty notice (fine). Term dates are on the school website or pick up a copy from the office. If you have any queries please see Mrs Leslie at reception.

