



Firbeck News



Part of the NOVA Educational Trust

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning.

Working hard and aiming high.



25th April 2017

18.4.17 School reopens for first day of Summer term.

21.4.17 Drama workshop for some Yr 5 & 6 pupils

25.4.17 Support offered for Early Years Pupil Premium applications

27.4.17 Signing Choir at St John's Primary in Colwick

1.5.17 May Bank holiday

3.5.17 Visit from Royal School for the Deaf – Derby

8.5.17 – 12.5.17 KS2 SATs week

18.5.17 Governors' Meeting 4.30pm

29.5.17 – 2.6.17 May Half term

9.6.17 Primary Parliament – Yr 5/6 School Council @ Council House

27.6.17 Viking visit @ University – Year 5

30.6.17 INSET day (no children in school)

1.7.17 INSET day (no children in school)

5 & 6.7.17 Secondary transition days

11.7.17 e-Safety family sessions

26.7.17 Last day of term

Dear Parents/Carers and Community,

My apologies first and foremost for not getting a newsletter to you before now. It is not that there has been nothing to report, it has just been a hectic few months - so many good things have been happening.

The first thing that I would like to draw your attention to is the fact that our NUSA Trust has become part of something bigger and better – **The NOVA Education Trust**. There are currently around 15 schools in the Trust, with broadly equal numbers of primary and secondary schools. These schools are both within Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County. While on a day-to-day level you will notice very little change in terms of the values we hold dear, it will mean that as a school we have access to many more resources and skills that can only improve the quality of education your children get.

Secondly I would like to invite you to join our governing body as a parent governor. Currently our Local Governing Body is made up of 4 types of governor: sponsor, parent, community and staff. They perform a really interesting and vital role in terms of making sure the school runs effectively. If you are interested please contact the school office for more details.

It looks to be a busy, interesting and fun-filled time ahead and I look forward to working with you and your children in what I hope will be a beautifully sunny summer term!

Kind regards,

J Osprey

As always I would like to remind all parents who drive to school that the area outside the school entrance can be a real challenge in terms of keeping children safe. This is due to two things: Parking illegally and completing a U-turn outside the school gate. Because of the dangerous nature of these there are times when photos are taken of offenders, which may be shared with parking enforcement.





School Council

School Council have had a busy and productive year so far.

In November they supported Friends of Firbeck to help raise funds for Children in Need by selling Pudsey pin badges and wristbands.

Recently they have been thinking of a new way to raise money and promote healthy eating. They came up with the idea of selling fresh fruit cups at morning playtime.

The children wrote a shopping list of different fruits, then on the day chopped and prepared the fruit for the cups. They sold for 50p each and quickly sold out!

After taking out the cost of the fruit, the money raised was £18.00 – a great start to their fundraising project. The money will go towards new playtime equipment.

What has been happening?

On the 29th March we had an **Arts WOW day** at Firbeck. It had a Spanish theme and was led by the University of Nottingham. Activities were focused around music, language, culture and art. The children and staff had a brilliant time and the staff and students from the university complimented our children on their engagement and behaviour.

On the 15th March the University of Nottingham again visited our school, this time with an **Inflativerse** - A fantastic blow-up tent that allowed the children of Year 5 & 6 a brilliant perspective of the night sky.

I would like to thank Mrs. Lawrence for coming into **Reception class and cooking with our children**. Some lovely gingerbread men were made as well as Easter nests. It is always great when we can use the skills of our parent community to help with the children's lessons.

Shiver me timbers! Year 1 and 2 had a pirate invasion in the Spring term and a motley crew they were indeed! The **term topic was pirates** – we learned about the real ones such as Blackbeard (real name Edward Teach), and the fictional ones, such as Captain Hook. It has been a fascinating topic, which covered all areas of the curriculum and completely enthralled the children (and staff!).



'Bits and Bobs...'

Can I just ask everyone to please have their **PE kits** at school on PE days at least? We are very lucky to have a specialist PE teacher, a dance instructor, PE lunchtime clubs and a football mentor working in school. It is a real shame when children miss out on these activities and opportunities because they do not have their PE kit at school. Please refer to our school website for correct kit.

Once again we are collecting **Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers**. These are a brilliant way of getting equipment for our PE provision, as well as equipment for playtimes and lunchtimes. If you have got, or do get any we would really appreciate if you could give them in to the class teacher or school office. Thank you.

You may have noticed the **Friends of Firbeck** have been busy over recent months. Most recently they held a

cake sale after school at the end of the Spring term. Please contact the office, or Mrs. Johnstone if you would like to be involved.

Finally our **eco-greenhouse** is all but finished and looks brilliant. Thank you to all those people who sent in plastic bottles and thank you especially to Rotary who have provided the money and the labour to make this project possible. I can't wait to see some fresh fruit and vegetables growing in it.

Forest Schools

Procedure for emergency closure



On the 27th March the Firbeck Forest Schools graduation was held. It was a celebration of many of the amazing things that happen during our Forest Schools sessions. Things like:

- Knot tying
- Shelter building
- Team work
- Fire safety
- Being nature smart

A new group from Year 3/4 Silver Birch will be starting on the 25th April.

Fir Tree Club (after school childcare)

Since the Autumn term Firbeck Academy has operated an after school club provided purely for childcare reasons. The club has been available from 3.30pm until 5.30pm with a range of activities and including a snack. The point of the provision was to support those parents who, for whatever reason needed affordable childcare after school – this we did for the very reasonable rate of £5 for the 2 hours. Unfortunately the demand for this club has not been enough to allow us to continue it. **As a result I need to inform all parents that the last time this club will be offered will be Friday 26th May.** My apologies to those parents that this may be an inconvenience for. Firbeck Academy will continue to offer a range of clubs for the final half term – more information to follow.

Every effort is made to keep school open and maintain normality for our children and families. We realise that when schools close unexpectedly, often for weather reasons but not necessarily, it has a major impact on parents and families that are forced into a situation where they have to organise childcare. Consequently it is only ever done as a last resort.

However what I do need to do is let everyone know that if we did ever have to unexpectedly close we would:

- Notify BBC Radio Nottingham 95.5fm, and their website
- Put it on our own school website www.firbeck.org.uk
- Put it on our Twitter feed @FirbeckPrimary
- Text parents directly

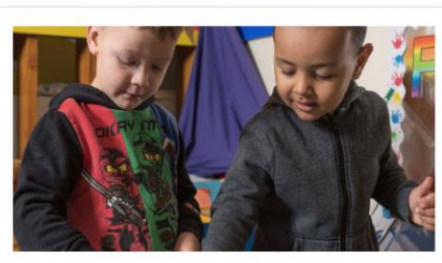
If children were in school before the closure we would look after them until a family member was able to collect them. If you needed to contact school you would ring the school office 01159155739 as usual.

Nursery places

We still have a few Nursery places available for September 2017. The morning session runs from 8.30am to 11.30am and the afternoons are 12.40pm to 3.40pm.

If you would like to secure a place please call the office on 9155739.

Please refer to our school website for the admissions criteria:
<http://www.firbeck.org.uk/page.php?p=transfer>



Above - S'Vell and Jada, very happy having made Easter nests in Year 3/4 Silver Birch last term.



Above - Our Year 6 pupils loved the Inflativerse and learned so much about the night sky.

Finally...

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Liz Nelson (a literacy volunteer here at Firbeck) unfortunately passed away at the end of March. Mrs Nelson had been volunteering across the school for the last 10 years. Her smile and caring manner brought out the best in everyone she worked with. She will be sorely missed.