



Firbeck News



Part of the NUSA Trust

Sowing the seeds for lifelong learning.

Working hard and aiming high.

7th June 2016



- 22.6.16 Transition day – NUSA
- 24.6.16 Friends of Firbeck picnic
- 27.6.16 Speedkick challenge day
- 28.6.16 Class photos
- 29.6.16 Yr1/2 trip – Manor Farm
- 29.6.16 Transition day – NUSA
- 1.7.16 F of F picnic pp
- 5.7.16 Nottingham city Secondary transition day – Yr 6
- 5.7.16 New class day
- 6.7.16 Nur/Rec trip: Manor Farm
- 6.7.16 Bluecoat Beechdale transition day
- 7.7.16 Governors' meeting
- **8.7.16 Reports to parents**
- 11.7.16 Yr 3/4 Sports day (pm)
- 12.7.16 Year 6 Performance 10 – 10.40am
- 12.7.16 OPTIONAL parent consultation meetings 3.45 – 6pm
- 13.7.16 Yr 5/6 Sports day (pm)
- 14-15.7.16 Y2 Camp – Sutton Bonnington
- Y6 Performance 6.30 – 7.30pm
- 19.7.16 Whole School Potted Sports afternoon
- 20.7.16 Sports Day pp
- 25.7.16 Leavers' Assembly
- **26.7.16 Last day of school before Summer Break**

Dear Parents/Carers and Community,

We are on the final stretch of what has been a busy, productive and rewarding year. As you can see from the calendar to the left there is still a lot to do, so do please keep an eye on communications from school and on the school website.

You should have received the results from the parent survey from earlier in the year. Thank you to those people who took the time to fill this out and return it to school. If you did not see the results you can find them on the Firbeck website, parents' section. As I said in the reply to the survey if you have any issues with school, please make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher, or subsequently myself.

Last half term one of our younger children had an accident in the playground before school. While his grandmother was watching him at the time (sometimes accidents just happen), can I impress upon all parents and carers the need to make sure children are supervised before they are released into the school's care when they go into class at 8.50am.

Finally I would like to thank all those parents who when faced with an issue or question regarding school seek to resolve it with the school. We appreciate this as a way of communicating, as it is something we can actually deal with, rather than just talking about things on the playground.

Kind regards,

J Osprey

Parking & Traffic...

I'm sure people have noticed Mr. Sansome (site manager) and myself placing cones out on the double yellow and zigzag lines before and after school. For the most part this is helping to remind people of the need to be careful and considerate when parking and driving around school. Thank you to those people who are abiding by the parking and traffic regulations that are designed to keep our children safe.



Building update

As you can tell from the photo above, every day brings a new and improved part of the school building.

Excitement is growing as the process moves on and we are making the disruption that comes with this process work for us, as most teachers are currently in the middle of a building topic/theme. Already Year 3 and some Nursery children have been welcomed on site where Mr. Relton (site manager) has been talking to the children about what is happening and about building in general. The children have even had to wear their very own 'high vis' vests and sit in a fork lift.

As we have begun to see windows and doors appearing on our new building, we are incredibly excited about what is coming next!

Building is still on track to be completed around about the end of this academic year – end of July. Children will begin the 2016-2017 academic year in their brand new classes and rooms.

Holidays, school policy and the news...

I'm sure many of you will have seen a recent item on the news about Jon Platt who successfully challenged in court a fine for taking his daughter on a term-time holiday.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-36277940>

This court case highlighted the fact that at Firbeck Academy we have a proportionate, measured and 'common sense' approach to attendance, which can be seen in our Attendance Policy on our website:

<http://www.firbeck.org.uk/policies/>

Basically the school cannot authorise a term time holiday that has been submitted by a parent. However it is only when there is a pattern of absence that further action may be considered, as detailed in our Attendance policy.

Music Festival

On the 22nd March 2016 both Firbeck Academy's Singing and Signing Choirs took part in the 16th Annual Schools Music Festival, organised by the Wollaton Park Rotary Club.

The festival consisted of choirs from Fernwood Primary, Fernwood Comprehensive, Nottingham Girls' Academy, Brocklewood Primary School and ourselves.

13 children, from Firbeck were involved. Their performance in both the singing and signing was outstanding and well received. The unique skill we have of being able to sign as well as sing often captivates an audience and provides us with an opportunity to promote Deaf awareness to a wider community.

Our children did Firbeck proud and were fantastic representatives of our school.

We were presented with a framed certificate and a cheque for the amount of £60 kindly donated to us from the Rotary Club.

Miss Potter

"Bits and Bobs..."

I would like to take this opportunity to wish **Stacey Parkes** every success and happiness as she leaves Firbeck for a new challenge. Stacey has been an incredibly supportive member of the Firbeck team for over seven years now and will be sorely missed. Her role as Family link coordinator is an important one that has helped both parents and teaching staff alike. We wish her all the best for the future.

At the Firbeck **Governing Body meeting** on Thursday 19th May we were delighted to welcome Mrs. Louise Nicholson as a parent representative on the governing body. There is still one place available for a parent governor. Please feel free to contact the office if you would like more information.

For those of you that don't know Miss Parkes runs a **family cooking club** on Mondays after school. This

group made some cakes recently and sold them after school, raising £65 for school. Thanks to all of those involved.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter school had an **ICT Wow day** on the 17th March. The University of Nottingham have written an article about the event. I have attached a copy of it on the back page for the interest of parents.



After school provision

Due to an inability to find a provider willing to take on an after school club (childcare) this year, all I can do is signpost parents and families to the ones that I know are in the area.

The biggest issue in securing an outside provider has been making sure there are enough numbers on any given day to make it financially viable for them. This being said, I am looking at the potential for a different provider beginning when we come back in September.

Little Hands Day Care
2 Burnwood Drive, Wollaton,
Nottingham
NG8 2DJ
Tel: 01159137064

This is a local child care provider that I know is within our immediate area. There is another local provider due to start at the Birchwood Community Centre and when it is Ofsted registered and up and running I will include details about it.

Please note that Firbeck Academy does not necessarily endorse any private childcare providers. If you know of any other (Ofsted registered) providers, I am happy to list them in this newsletter.

Friends of Firbeck

One of the best ways to build a sense of school community is to have an active PTA or 'Friends of...' group within the school. On the 18th May a meeting was held to discuss the future of the Friends of Firbeck group and any possible events before the end of this academic year. I am pleased to say that the group has at its core a strong group of people that will ensure the school is supported well. Miss Cheetham (Year 4 teacher) has kindly agreed to represent the school staff within the 'Friends' group.

One of the ways Friends of Firbeck intends to support school is with a picnic on Friday 24th June. Gates will be opened at 4.30pm for parents and families to come into school grounds with a picnic and enjoy a real community event. 'Friends' are organising stalls and other things to make it a really lovely afternoon. More detail to follow



Thank you to Miss Potter, Miss Godwin and all the wonderful children who have been doing so much great work as part of our Forest Schools.



A very special congratulations and well done to all our Year 6 pupils who have worked so hard over the course of the year and have recently finished their SATs.

You can all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved, as we are.

Well done also to all the other children who are working and have worked so hard across the year groups to achieve the very best that they could.



Puzzles, robots and Raspberry Pi – Computer Science activity day at Firbeck Academy

In March, a team from the School of Computer Science ran a computing activity day at Firbeck Academy in Wollaton.

For the third year, academics and students from the School of Computer Science went out to the school to put together fun computer science activities designed to get the children excited about programming, technology and computing. The whole school got involved, with pupils spending the day taking part in each activity. Each year a new set of activities are set up and run by a mix of academic staff, researchers and students. This year, activities included:

- **Computer Science Puzzles** with Dr Andy French: exploring some challenging ideas in computer science, and why we need computers and coding to help make sense of them. Pupils looked at why you need computers to help plan routes around cities, and to solve puzzles like a Rubik's Cube
- **Making Noise with Raspberry Pi**: PhD student Amy Dickens and undergraduate third year student Richard Davies introduced the pupils at Firbeck to the marvels of Raspberry Pi Zero (a small personal computer that can fit in the palm of your hand). Pupils helped Richard and Amy by learning how to connect sensors to the Raspberry Pi that could detect movement and trigger sound using Amy's special code. Students then tried to sneak past the sensors without being detected.
- **The Don't Smile Game with ERISA** with PhD student Andry Chowanda and undergraduate Tjaart Broodryk: the students played a simple game called "Don't Smile", with social game agents which are capable of perceiving the player's emotions. The goal of the game is simple: make the computer smile and laugh with jokes, and funny facial expressions. The first contestant to smile uncontrollably loses. Through the activity, the students also learned about emotions – what are emotions and feelings, how we as humans can perceive those emotions and how a computer can

Other News



The Great Life Cycle Bake Off

Victoria sponge? Cupcakes? Cookies? Whatever your go-to recipe is, we're encouraging you to bake, eat cake [...] [Read more...](#)



Nominate an ESRC Impact Leader

This is the second call for nominations to The University of Nottingham's ESRC Impact Leaders Programme [...] [Read more...](#)

Professional Services

People

Teaching

Research

Environment

Opportunities

Announcements

In the Loop

UoN blogs

Get social

Newsletters

understand such emotions.

- **Scratch Programming** with Research Associate Stefan Mairhofer and PhD student Amy Lowe: pupils built code in Scratch that allows a robot to find its way out of a maze. With each run through the maze, the robot learns more about the different turns, so that it can find a better path the next time. Introducing the ideas of algorithms, and how we can define a set of simple rules to solve a problem

Speaking about the 'Making Noise with Raspberry Pi' game, PhD student Amy Dickens said: "It was great fun explaining how the sensors connected and worked, the pupils were really helpful and had some very inventive ideas about how they could use the sensors for personal room alarms to keep brothers/sisters and parents out of their rooms!"

Firbeck Academy is part of the Nottingham University Samworth Academies Trust, and is a primary academy with a focussed provision for the Deaf.

See a gallery from the day below. To keep up to date with news from the School of Computer Science, visit [their website](#). You can also find them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter.



(Left to Right) Amy Dickens, Richard Davies



Stefan Mairhofer

Tjaart Broodryk



Amy Dickens

(Left to Right) Tjaart Broodryk, Andry Chowanda, Amy Lowe, Stefan Mairhofer, Andy French

Quality Survey

Halls Management celebrates Customer Service Excellence

Dr Bike dates for June