

Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

December 2015

Dates for the diary

Monday 7th December - **Teacher Training Day** - pupils not in school.

Thursday 10th December - KS1 visit to Darlington Civic Theatre to see production of Cinderella.

Tuesday 15th December - KS2 visit to Darlington Civic Theatre to see production of Cinderella.

Friday 18th December - Break up for Christmas holiday

Tuesday 5th January - Return to school

Year 4 visit to Vindlanda

Children from classes 9 & 10 went on a visit to Vindolanda Roman fort and Roman Army Museum. They had a talk from an expert archaeologist who told them about all the interesting things they had dug up from the old Roman fort and village. These objects included ancient treasures, vicious weapons and old clothing. They also had chance to explore the ruins and see old temples, wells and replica forts. They had great fun, learned lots and came back to share their newly found knowledge with everyone at school.

Years 3 & 6 visit to Baltic Arts Centre

Children from years 3 and 6 visited The Baltic Contemporary Arts Centre in Gateshead.

Whilst there, they worked with resident artist, Bethan, on a project linked to their work in literacy. The children took part in workshops which focused on polyblock printing and Year 6 created a set of unique prints of the houses from the 'Blue Town' featured in their class text, 'On a Cloud'. Meanwhile, the Year 3 children made printed envelopes to send to the characters in their class book, 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. It was the first time the children and teachers had used these techniques, but both say it certainly won't be the last.

Year 6 Safety Carousel

Our Year 6 pupils visited The Workplace in Newton Aycliffe for the annual Safety Carousel, where they took part in a series of safety workshops and scenarios to learn about staying safe around the home and outdoors. The event was organised by Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service.

Christmas Lunch

Children will have their annual Christmas lunch on Wednesday 9th December. If you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch, please make payment of £2 at the office if you've not already done so.

Baby joy!

Miss Heslop recently gave birth to a baby boy. We are sure you will join us in wishing Miss Heslop and her family well.

Christmas Theatre Visit

This year, the whole school will have a lovely treat of a visit to Darlington Civic Theatre, to see a performance of the classic Cinderella. Watch out on our website for an update of the visit at www.firthmoor.darlington.sch.uk

Christmas Parties

Please see overleaf for details of your child's class Christmas Party.

Y6 visit to Forum Theatre

Our Year 6 children visited Forum Theatre in Billingham to see a production of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, to support their work on the topic Victorians.

Graffiti at Firthmoor

The children recently had the opportunity to work with Rob the graffiti artist to 'tag' the walls of our playground. Rob taught the children to design and draw their name of choice, either real or 'from the streets' then, colour it bright and vibrant. They first practised their design on a sheet of paper, and then recreated it on to canvas that they could then hang onto the wall in the classroom. Some children were then able to help spray-paint and graffiti the wall in the playground to display some of our school's values in P.E.

Visit to St John's Church

Class 6 will be visiting St John's church to learn about the story of Christmas. They will learn about Mary and Joseph's journey to Nazareth by following the star of Bethlehem, and will have the opportunity to dress up in Christmas costumes to pretend to be one of the 3 kings, shepherds or the Inn Keeper.

MIMA

Our Reception children had a visit from Sarah from MIMA Art Gallery in Middlesbrough. During her visit, she introduced the children to the artist Pablo Picasso and some of his expressive art work. Sarah explained how the artist expressed his thoughts and feelings through shape and colour. We then made our own expressive self-portraits using collage materials. Everyone had a great time learning new things and creating their own masterpieces.

Visit from Dentist

In January 2016, the children will be having a visit from the Dentist, who will talk to them about the importance of good oral hygiene, and show them the correct way to brush their teeth. Consent forms will follow before the Christmas holidays.

Eurovision in Darlington!

Firthmoor Primary will be one of many schools taking part in Darlington's own version of 'Eurovision' on 26th January 2016 at Darlington Civic Theatre. Our school choir will represent the country 'Israel'. Further information will follow nearer the time to parents of those children taking part.

Top attendance

Well done to 7PJ (Mr Jefferies' class) for gaining the highest class attendance for last half term. They won £50 to spend as a class on a treat of their choice. Information on how they spent their prize money will be posted on our website. Keep an eye out at: www.firthmoor.darlington.sch.uk

Class Christmas Parties

Monday 14 th December	Year 6
Tuesday 15 th December	Years 1&2
Wednesday 16 th December (AM)	Nursery
Wednesday 16 th December	Reception
Wednesday 16 th December	Year 3
Thursday 17 th December	Years 4&5

All parties will be in the afternoon on the specific date. Please send your child with party clothes in a bag to change into after lunch. Thanks.