



WINTER WARMERS

With the weather on the turn, please remember that children should have appropriate wet-weather clothing every day. As a minimum, they need:

- A **waterproof** coat (pref. with a hood)

Wellies and/or a spare pair of socks are also useful!

Please ensure all items are clearly marked with names.

JOTTER APP - SCHOOL CALENDAR

The **School Jotter** app includes a **school calendar**. This can also be found on the **website**.

As well as regularly updated dates of upcoming events and reminders of what day KS2 children will need their outdoor kit and recorders, it includes notes with further details for each event.

If you haven't already, search **School Jotter** in your phone's app store and then select Fir Ends School.

AUTUMN PROGRESS EVENINGS

We will hold progress evenings, after the autumn assessments, on **Tuesday 29th Nov** and **Thursday 2nd December**.

This will be an opportunity to discuss how your child is coping post-covid and any ways in which you can support them at home.

Final details to follow; likely to be online and face-to-face sessions for most classes. **Class 3** to be online only.

AIR AMBULANCE

The next PTFE Air Ambulance collection is this **Friday, 5th November**.

Extra bags are available on the school gates or can be sent home with children on request.

COVID - STAY ALERT

Known cases in our community. Asymptomatic cases common.

NHS HOME COVID TESTS

Home Test kits remain available through the school. Simply order via this form and we'll send them home with your nominated child.

<https://bit.ly/FIR-LFD-ORDER>

2021 SCHOOL PLAYS

We can't fully predict the next turn in the Covid saga, but have tentatively set out plans for this year's Christmas performances.

EY and KS1 will prepare short individual nativities this term and perform these separately.

Dates are planned as:

- **EY:** 8th December
- **KS1:** 13th December

Performance times and details tbc but likely to be approx. 2:30pm

Due to various uncertainties and practical pressures, **KS2** pupils will sadly **not** perform this term.

As well as reducing covid-related risks this will limit further losses of curriculum time as we recover from successive lockdowns.

KS2 pupils will perform in the **SUMMER** term instead – at which point we hope Covid will be a distant memory and, if it isn't, we should be able to perform to an outdoor audience far more easily.

ADULT LEARNING – NEXT COURSES

This term, on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:15 courses for grown-ups will be:

8th & 15th November – Skills for listening to readers: for parents to learn how to use positive reinforcement to help children overcome the challenges they experience in reading. Useful right up to year 6 – and ‘qualifies’ you to volunteer in school too should you want to!

22nd Nov – 13th December – Phonics for parents: An introduction to the basics of teaching reading through phonics and getting those sounds ‘right’. Especially useful for parents of EY and KS1.

We can offer a pushchair crèche for babes in arms!

Parents Teachers and Friends of Fir Ends (PTFFE) - CALENDAR

If interested in placing a business advert in the calendar (£40 per ad) please contact Mel Armstrong or ask the office to put you in touch via email.

KIND CUMBRIA

Cumbria Action are promoting a week of kindness across Cumbria in the week commencing 8th November.

We’re going to take part in school, by using some of their ideas and celebrating all the kind things that come naturally to our pupils. You can find out more, and see ideas to promote the event at home and at work here:

<https://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/what-we-do/kind-cumbria>

AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have benefitted from an offer of donated furniture and toys following the closure of the NSPCC children’s services centre in Carlisle recently.

We received fantastic resources for our EYFS class, including a puppet theatre (!) as well as helpful storage and seats for reading corners in KS2. We hope to include the NSPCC in a future fundraising effort to say



NEWCASTLE PANTO

On **Thursday 25th November** we’ll be climbing aboard buses to the city to see **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**.

The PTFFE have kindly funded tickets for all children in Reception to Y6, and the buses.

Consent forms including details of the trip will be coming home this week (paper and/or digital)

If any of the available tickets are unused we will offer these to parents at a significant discount.

There will be an option on the form to indicate your interest in purchasing any spare seats that are available.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The setup is slightly different this year – *browse real books, and then order copies for delivery rather than taking them home on the day* – but the traditional Scholastic book fair will arrive around 18th November and we’re sure it will generate the usual excitement levels!

PLAYTRAIL FUNDRAISING

Our latest count was an awesome

£1975!

We’re taking a break from internal fundraising until after Christmas, when we’ll have a final push towards the target.