



THINGS – WEEK 5

Fir Ends School, Smithfield, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 6AY
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«First_Name» «Surname»

Be the best you can be...

Autumn is upon us, with the leaves and the thermometer on the turn. As the colder days draw in, please ensure that children come to school with appropriate layers – polo shirt, jumper and a black fleece along with a wet-weather coat- so they can manage whatever the weather throws at us.

SCHOOL DATA SYSTEM – TRANSFER BEGINS NEXT WEEK



Over the next week, we will be moving from the Scholarpack data management system to its sister company, Arbor.

Arbor is a more complete data system, which will allow us to move away from ParentPay in future and to offer debit card payments, as well as the ability to pre-book breakfast and after-school clubs.

With the move from Scholarpack, we will also be switching to the Arbor parent app.

The new app includes all the things the current Scholarpack Parents App has but will also allow parents to make progress evening bookings, check a live calendar and access newsletters and reports. This should mean that we can bring many more of the day-to-day communication functions into a central system.

Details of how to connect to this will be sent out after the data transfer. Whilst we get it set up and parents enrolled, we will continue using the Jotter App and SMS messaging to stay in touch.

As part of the data transfer, we will ask parents to complete updated consents this term, covering everything from communication preferences to photography in school and the giving of calpol.

2023 NEWCASTLE THEATRE TRIP

On Tuesday 28th November, children in years R-6 are invited to the Theatre Royal to enjoy Pinocchio. Tickets and buses for the trip have been funded by the PTFE, with support from Hallburn Wind Farm.

Due to a significant change to the theatre's ticketing system, we are sadly unable to invite the wider family this year but may have a handful of seats available for parents who would like to volunteer to help with supervising around 90 children in Newcastle City Centre! Further details to follow after half term.

PTFFE CALENDAR 2023

We'll be taking photographs for the PTFE calendar over the coming weeks. Most children already have consent to be included, but if you would prefer your child not to be pictured, you can opt –out by contacting the office.

Consent forms for pupils new to the school will be sent home in schoolbags this week

FIR ENDS ON FACEBOOK

Though the Arbor app should become the central communication platform in future, we are also planning to use Facebook for more public announcements and celebrations, allowing them to be shared more widely than the school apps allow. You can follow the Fir Ends School page in the usual way, or click the link:

facebook.com/FIRENDSSCHOOL

HALLOWEEN HEADS UP

The first Tuesday back after half-term will be Halloween. The timing is wrong for a disco this year but children are welcome to come to school in their trick or treat costumes that day – making getting ready to trick or treat that evening easier for you too. There will be prizes for the best spooky garb in each class.

Headteacher:

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Business Manager:

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AUTUMN EVENTS

Things to look forward to include:

18th October – Year 4/5/6 Cross Country – Carlisle – team runners

23rd-27th October – Half Term

Year 5&6 - Swim & Gym sessions start

31st October – Halloween Dress up day

6th November – Year 5/6 5-a-side @ Harraby 3G

10th November – Carlisle Remembrance – 3 pupils

21st November – Book Bus visit

24th November – Talkin Tarn Cross country – team runners

27th November – Scholastic Book Fair

28th November – Pinocchio @ Newcastle

29th November – Willow Hide pruning day Robinwood residential (Y4)

?? December – Christmas dinner

18th December (tbc) – KS2 Church Carol Service

Date tbc – PTFE Christmas Fayre (probably a Saturday morning?)

TUESDAY 19th December – end of term

WEDS 3rd January – Back to school

LOOSE PARTS PLAY

After a great response to our call for 'loose parts bits and pieces' we were able to start a great collection of crates, planks and pipes, which children have been enjoying using on the yard this term.

Any other similar bits and pieces gratefully received.



AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS – AUTUMN B

Although the weather is conspiring against them, GLL coaches Katy and Paul are running AFS clubs every Tuesday and Friday evening.

After half term the sports will be handball (Tues) and dodgeball (Fri) – which should be ideal for the dark evenings.

OUTDOOR ED SESSIONS

Forest school sessions continue for another 3 weeks:

18th October - Class 2 – group B

1st November - year 5

8th November - year 6

After this, sessions will run onsite on Wednesdays and in a break from tradition we are going to try extending these to half-day, whole class sessions. A timetable will follow after half term.

UNIFORM REMINDER – BAGS

Thank you to all those who have already replaced bulky non-spec rucksacks with locker-friendly book bags. These ensure that pupils can easily fit all their items inside and locker doors *stay* closed.

If your child **MUST** have a larger bag to keep items that won't fit in the book bag in their locker, such as a change of trousers, then a simple drawstring PE bag or a 30cm x 24cm x 8cm rucksack like that shown below is acceptable and will leave space for other items (e.g. book bag, coat, recorder, swim bag) to fit in the locker too.



**AIR AMBULANCE COLLECTION –
FRIDAY 3rd November
Make space for winter wardrobes**



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