

The Firs, Keeping in Touch!

Thursday 21st May 2020

The Saplings Building Completed!

It is with great pleasure that I can let everyone know that the new Saplings building is complete!

It has been an arduous and difficult journey getting this building finished, with so many obstacles to overcome and setbacks along the way, that we feel there might be a book to write about the project and its many unbelievable twists and turns in the future!

Anyway, despite the problems, it's finished and it's a fantastic purpose built learning environment, perfect for our little Saplings to play and have fun in. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Bennett who deserves a medal for her unstinting efforts to get the project over the line. I also want to thank Mrs Mercer, the Early Years leader and Mrs Sherry the Saplings Leader, for all their very conscientious efforts, which have helped to shape and develop the Saplings provision and prepare for its new home!

I also want to thank all the Saplings staff, who have worked very hard, in what has been a less than perfect temporary setting, to make sure that children have been happy, well cared for and enjoying their play in Saplings.

We still have a huge amount of work to do now to get the empty shell turned into a fantastic and inviting pre-school setting but we are very excited to begin that work!

Welcoming Back YR, Y1 and Saplings

With this Keeping In Touch, there is a letter concerning the re-opening of the school to children in YR, Y1 and Saplings. It also has an update about provision for Y2, Y3 and Y4 children after half term as well. This letter will also be put on our Coronavirus page (in the Parents section of our website) and also in the letters home section.



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Decorating The Hollows

Mrs Stephenson White, Kids' Club Leader, really misses all the children she would normally see before and after school but she is continuing to use the time to plan for its eventual reopening in the future. In the meantime, she has taken it upon herself, with the help of Mrs Higgs, to repaint the Hollows main room... and they have done a great job. Thank you to both of them!

Learning at Home

We hope that the Learning at Home packs continue to be a useful resource for you to help support your child's learning, while children are not in school.

The learning packs for next week will be emailed out tomorrow and the requested printed versions will be available, as usual, outside the school, to be picked up between 8.45 - 15.30. The pack for next week is 'Summer Week 6- week beginning 1/6/20'. They are for after half term, so the next packs will not go out until the end of the 1st week back (the 5th June).



Go Savannah!

I wanted to say a huge well done to Savannah in Year 3 who has been cycling all week to raise money for the school PTA.

She swept past school on Wednesday morning and Miss Hill, Mrs Freeman and I were on hand to give our support and to congratulate her on what is an amazing effort to cycle 100 miles before sunset on Sunday 24th May!

If you want to contribute, there is a 'Just Giving' page...

[Just Giving Savannah](#)

We will let you know in the next Keeping In Touch how she got on and how much she raised!

Year 4 Transition

We are very conscious of the need to try to address the transition needs of Year 4 pupils, despite the challenging circumstances. I said last week that we are keeping in close contact with the other FARM schools and Y4 parents should have received an email from us today, containing some information from Alameda about the transition process. There will be another letter, inviting parents to discuss with their children and record the friends they would like to be with in Y5, coming out shortly.



The Firs says Thank You NHS!

Thank you to both the children at home who sent in pictures and to the children in our Key Worker Provision in school, who created some lovely art work to help us celebrate the work of the NHS and say thank you from The Firs for the amazing way they have cared for people who are ill with coronavirus.

A big thank you to Mrs Eddie for creating such a lovely display in the school hall, to show off the children's work so successfully.

Thank you to the staff

As we come to the end of what has been a very challenging half term for us all, I wanted to say a thank you to the Senior Leadership Team, Mrs Mercer, Mrs Brady, Mrs A'Court and Mrs Bennett, who have worked brilliantly, sometimes under immense pressure, to ensure the best outcomes for children and the school.

I want to say thank you to all the staff who have run the Key Worker Provision and the cleaning team who have made it safe for us to be here! For their hard work, professionalism and the great care teachers and TAs have extended to children, who are dealing with a strange and different experience of school life.



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I want to remember colleagues who are shielding at home but all finding ways to do their bit from a distance and of course, I want to thank all of you, our super parents and carers, who have taken on 'being a teacher' at home and looked after your children through such a difficult time. All together, we have a fantastic community, wonderful children, supportive parents and an amazing staff... we should all be very proud of our community at The Firs!

Half term

I just wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a good half term. I hope that everyone in your family is safe and well.

Take care everyone.

Adam Campbell
Headteacher