

Fir Tree Newsletter



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May 2025 Issue 374

Dear Families,

I hope you are well, as we enter the last few days of the first half of the summer term. You will have, I am sure, seen the recent update from ODST on the changes that will be taking place both here at Fir Tree and at St Nicholas from September 2026. Work will start during the autumn term to develop our existing space into an Early Years phase, comprising of a Nursery class and a Reception class. Further details related to timescales will be shared with the school community as soon as they are established and finalised.

A mention for our Y6 pupils who recently undertook some testing, often referred to as SATs. I am pleased to be able to tell you that they tackled this process with determination, which is what we asked of them. We will get to find out how the tests went when the results are published on Tuesday 8th July.

Parents of children in all of our year groups will receive formal end of year reports on Monday 14th July. We will report to you on attendance, attainment and learning behaviours as well as sharing targets for the coming year.

We are in the process of finalising arrangements for classes for the academic year 2025/26 and aim to communicate these to you in the early part of the new term, which starts for pupils on Tuesday 3rd June (Monday 2nd June is an INSET day). The academic year ends on Friday 18th July at 14.15.

We all hope you manage to relax and recharge next week. We look forward to seeing you at the usual time on Tuesday 3rd June.

Warm regards,

Mr Knight and the school team.

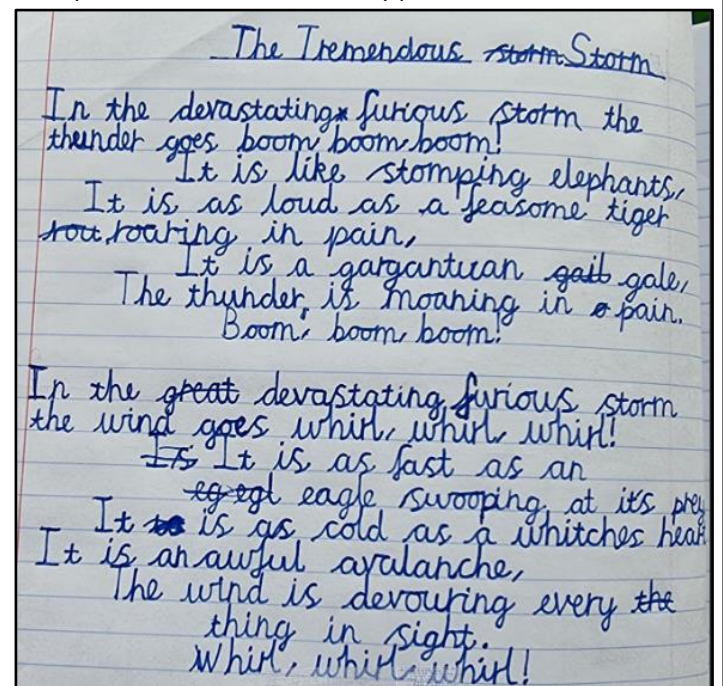
Well done Jesse

Jesse from year 5 competed in the second leg of the 4 nations kickboxing tournament which was the Welsh open and he achieved 2nd place in his category bringing home silver. Next stop Glasgow in August for the 3rd leg.



News from Willow – Year 3

Willow class are enjoying 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare. As part of our project, we have been using the poem, 'The Storm At Sea' by the poet Alexander Rasic as inspiration for creative writing of our own. We have identified many language features in the poem, including onomatopoeia, repetition, similes, metaphors and personification. We brainstormed words to describe the violent tempest at the beginning of the play before rewriting our own version of the poem. Willow class had some brilliant ideas. Below is an example of the fantastic work they produced.



Sun Safety

Please remember to send your child to school with
a sun hat, sun cream and water bottle



News from Ash – Year 4

As part of our Science Unit 'Living Things and Their Habitats' Ash Class have been learning about invertebrates and vertebrates. So far, we have learnt different ways you can group living things and using Venn diagrams/Carroll diagrams to show this information. Last week, we went around the school site on an invertebrate hunt. Everyone was really respectful to the animals, making sure to gently pick them up and return them to their original habitat. When we found a different invertebrate, we made sure to write down on a list so we could sketch our findings in the classroom.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 23 rd May	Term 5 ends – 3:15pm finish
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th	Half term
Monday 2 nd June	INSET Day – School closed
Tuesday 3 rd June	Term 6 begins
Tuesday 3 rd June	Maple class swimming
Wednesday 4 th June	Ash class swimming
Friday 6 th June	Year 6 Photographs
Tuesday 10 th June	Maple class swimming
Wednesday 11 th June	Ash class swimming
Thursday 12 th June	Y2 visit for playtime
Friday 13 th June	PTA Quiz and Curry night
Tuesday 17 th June	Maple class swimming
Wednesday 18 th June	Ash class swimming
Thursday 19 th June	Year 4 Viking day
Thursday 19 th June	Y2 visit for playtime
Friday 20 th June	Non uniform day – PTA raffle donation
Tuesday 24 th June	Maple class swimming
Wednesday 25 th June	Ash class swimming
Thursday 26 th June	Y2 visit for assembly and playtime
Friday 27 th June	Sport's day
Monday 30 th June	Year 6 Production
Tuesday 1 st July	Year 6 Production
Tuesday 1 st July	Maple class swimming
Wednesday 2 nd July	Ash class swimming
Thursday 3 rd July	Changeover day
Friday 4 th July	PTA Summer Event – details to follow
Monday 7 th July	Y2 Parents information session – 5:45pm

News from Cedar – Year 3

Cedar Class have been busy getting into 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare this term. We learnt about the structure of a Haiku poem and the rules. Following that, we related it to what we knew about the story so far. We worked in groups to compose our poems. Over two sessions, we have also explored different techniques in art with watercolours, charcoal and wax resist. This week, we then explored combining these different media to create our own version of a storm or tempest picture at sea. We took some inspiration from 'The Great Wave Off Kanagawa' by Katsushika Hokusai.

The Tempest
Obsidian waves
Deadly seas are powerful
Glowing silver eyes

By Penny, Molly and Ella



This Summer's Attendance Figures

School = 96.2%
UK Average = 94.8%

Well Done Everyone!

Children + Parents/Carers + School = Great Team
Work! 😊

Save the dates

PTA QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT

FRIDAY 13TH JUNE

FRIDAY 20TH JUNE

PTA NON-UNIFORM DAY (RAFFLE PRIZE)

WEDNESDAY 25TH JUNE

PTA HAMPER WRAPPING EVENING – 6PM

FRIDAY 4TH JULY

PTA SUMMER EVENT/FIR TREE'S GOT TALENT

News from Year 6

A huge well done to all of our Year 6 children for their amazing attitude and effort this week. Everyone worked incredibly hard during their SATs, showing resilience, positivity, and a determination to do their best — we couldn't be prouder! We threw a well-deserved party to celebrate the end of a challenging week! The children dressed in their party clothes (including a surprise visit from an alien on the football pitch!), enjoyed delicious treats, and spent a fun-filled afternoon with friends. It was a lovely way to round off all the hard work — well done, Year 6!



WELL DONE!

Tag Rugby

In the world of sports and PE, Fir Tree have celebrated some amazing achievements and victories at some recent tag rugby tournaments.

Firstly, we took two team of Year 5/6 girls to Wallingford Sports Park to showcase their skills against other schools in the local area. Both teams did fantastically well, especially in the very hot conditions with two thin squads. Our A Team players could be spotted anywhere in their pink highlighter kits, and they played some fantastic rugby over the five games that they played. Furthermore, our B Team showcased their skills tremendously and put themselves in good stead to go far in the competition. Our A Team finished 4th overall after the 5 games played, and our B Team went on a storming run, winning every match that they played, which secured them the trophy that they deserved after finishing first! A big well done to all players who took part in the tournament, you impressed all members of staff as well as catching a few of the coaches' eyes with the way you played, well done girls!

The following week, we took a squad of Year 3s and 4s to the sports park in hopes we would repeat the success that the girls did a week prior. This was many children's first invitation to a tournament and their first time representing Fir Tree. Once again, we took two squads. Firstly, a massive well done to our B team who were down two players for the first three matches, playing 5 vs 7 and you held on superbly and played so well between you before finally gaining another player. Finally, a big shoutout to Maisie, she wasn't too sure about the game to start but after watching a match, she soon realised that she wanted to help her team, so well done Maisie you were a great asset to your team and we are so proud that you faced a problem head on! Our B team won two matches, drew one, and lost one match. Well done team you did so well, and we hope you really enjoyed it. Moving on to our A Team, they performed fantastically and all showed what valuable team players and good rugby players they are. They won all of their group stage matches but one, when they drew with Crowmarsh A. They then moved onto a playoff game for a place in the final. In this game they destroyed Benson A by 6 tries to 1! In the final they faced Crowmarsh B, who they had not played yet. However this did not impact their ability, and our A Team won the final 7 tries to 2. Well done to all of our young rugby stars, we hope that you loved every minute of it and want to come to more next year!



Boogie Bounce Day

What an amazing Friday morning we had doing Boogie Bounce in the playground with our instructor, Angela. Each class loved their high energy, dance inspired session because it was such fun. According to one of our Year 3 boys: *'It was the best day of my life!'*



News from Chestnut – Year 5

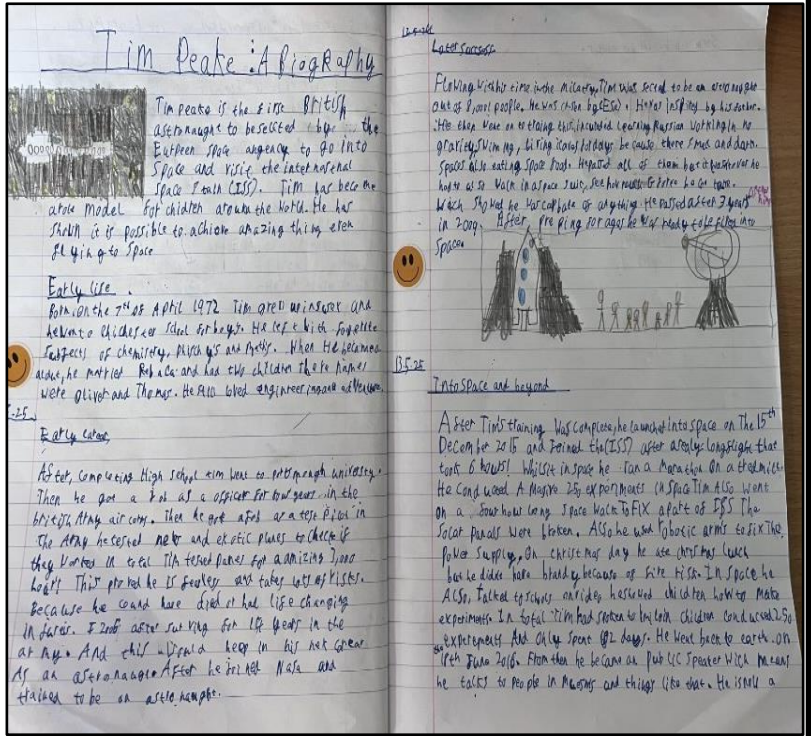
As part of our 'Out of this World' project, Chestnut have enjoyed learning about nebulae; Emily brilliantly described these as "clouds of gas and dust where all of the planets and stars are made".

After we'd learned all about them, we used our art skills to recreate different famous nebulae using chalk pastels. We worked hard to match the shapes, colours and textures of the nebula and we're incredibly proud of our finished pieces!



News from Sycamore – Year 5

Sycamore have had great fun getting stuck into their science project this term. We have explored: the eight planets in our solar system, the life cycle of a star, the phases of the moon, researched notable satellites, supermoons and the life of Tim Peake. In computing, we have started to explore how a crumble kit works and programmed this to carry out a range of outputs in a circuit. In writing, we have written our own setting descriptions of our imaginary planets and created a biography of Tim Peake.



Low cost and free activities for families to enjoy together!

YouMove provides free or low cost activities for families in Oxfordshire who may otherwise not have access to these opportunities to be active together.

Enjoy a fantastic range of activities including swimming, badminton, activity packs, children's holiday activities & so much more!

Find out more here:



YOU MOVE

YouMove is here to offer free and low cost activities for children and their families on benefit related free school meals, refugee children, young carers, and children supported by early help services.