

Fir Tree Newsletter



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July 2025 Issue 375

Dear Families,

What a busy year it's been! It's time for everyone to head off for the summer break to refresh and recharge ahead of September. All best wishes to our Y6 cohort who are heading off to secondary in September. What a delight it's been to watch them develop and progress over the past few years! Miss Jordan, who has been teaching Y6 this year, leaves Fir Tree at the end of term – she will be missed by all of us as she embarks on her travels around South America! Miss Coleman, who supports teachers in Y5 is leaving for a role closer to where she lives – though she joined the team relatively recently, she has played an important part and we wish her well for the future. A big thank you to all our staff who have, as ever, consistently gone above and beyond in doing their very best for our pupils. They are very much looking forward to a well earned break.

As you know, work will shortly commence on converting some of our space into classrooms geared towards younger children. When you arrive onsite at the start of the new term (Tuesday 2nd September) you will not notice hugely significant changes. Some areas of the school grounds will be fenced off, but this will not impact on your entry/exit route – please access the school grounds via the main gate. By the end of October, we expect that the modular building which will host two Y5 classes to be in place. We plan on providing the pupils who will use these classrooms with good opportunities to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings before the date they are scheduled to formally 'move in', which is Tuesday 4th November.

Warm regards for a peaceful summer break.

We look forward to seeing you all safe and well when the new term starts on Tuesday 2nd September.

Mr Knight



Fir Tree's Superstar!

Morgan is incredibly Technology Smart and has an exceptional knowledge of computers and gaming. He loves sharing his expertise and discussing his top tips and experiences of new games. To help his classmates expand their own skills and knowledge, he recently collated his tips into a Powerpoint presentation which he shared with the class. If you need any technical support or gaming suggestions, Morgan's your guy!



Fir Tree Fun Time would like to send a huge 'Thank You' to Morgan for his weekly support with their food delivery. Morgan's help is invaluable and he has become incredibly adept at cataloguing and organising their food items into categories which makes it so much more efficient for them to put away. He does this every week with a smile on his face and they are extremely thankful. We'll miss your help next year, Morgan.



News from Year 3

Last Thursday, Year 3 went on an exciting trip to **Hill End Outdoor Education Centre**, to learn all about the **Romans**. We were all buzzing with excitement as we got on the coach in the morning, chatting about what we might see and do. When we arrived at Hill End, we were greeted by our guide, John, who was dressed as a Roman! He told us we would be stepping back in time to experience what life was like for people living in Roman Britain.

John introduced us to a fascinating range of equipment used by Roman soldiers, carefully explaining the purpose behind each design. One memorable example was the helmet: it featured a deliberate gap around the ears, allowing soldiers to remain alert to sounds on the battlefield — a detail that could mean the difference between life and death. It was clear the Romans had considered every detail, reinforcing why they were one of the most effective and advanced armies in history.

Next, Willow Class stepped into the role of fierce Roman soldiers, donning traditional tunics with Owen leading as their commander. Meanwhile, Cedar Class transformed into 'Smelly Brits', led by the formidable Queen Boudicca (played by Ivy). As Romans, Willow Class practised sparring — an essential skill for combat readiness — while Cedar Class took part in everyday tasks like grinding wheat and tanning leather. We discovered some fascinating (and slightly gross) facts during our visit, such as how urine was used in the tanning process and animal dung helped soften the hides. Both classes threw themselves into the experience, enthusiastically training, learning battle formations, and preparing for a mock conflict. To add a strategic twist, each camp even deployed spies to scout for information from the opposing side!

After lunch and copious amounts of water drunk, we went into the forest to hone skills in archery, axe throwing and spear throwing. The canopy of the trees was very welcoming. We re-enacted a couple of short battles, complete with beating drums and a trumpet sounding. (Eliza made a loud and terrifying sound on the trumpet so the enemy must have been scared!) The trip to Hill End was amazing and we learned so much about the Romans. We had lots of fun and it helped bring our topic to life. We can't wait for our next adventures in Year 4.



News from Maple – Year 4

This term, Maple Class have been learning about shape and symmetry in maths, exploring how lines of symmetry work and creating symmetrical patterns of their own. The children have enjoyed using practical resources to identify and sort 2D and 3D shapes, as well as applying their knowledge in creative ways.

In English, we have been having lots of fun with poetry! The children wrote their own limericks, filled with humour and rhythm, and explored kennings—poetic riddles that describe objects or people in imaginative ways. Their creativity and wordplay have been brilliant!

Our art lessons have taken us back in time to the Viking era. Inspired by Viking shields, longships, and runes, we have created themed artwork using a variety of multimedia techniques. The children experimented with texture, colour, and layering to produce some striking pieces.

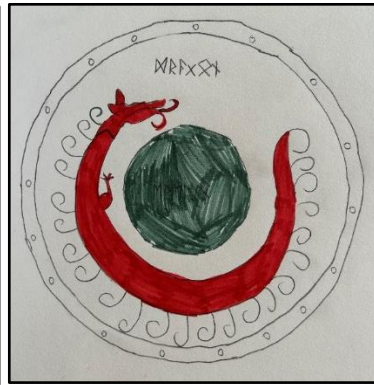
In our French lessons, we've been learning how to talk about items in the classroom. Children have been practising asking and answering simple questions, using prepositions to describe where things are. It's been lovely to see their confidence grow as they learn to speak in full sentences.

Well done to everyone in Maple Class for a fantastic term of learning!



News from Ash – Year 4

In Ash class, we have been learning about Vikings' daily life. We have learnt how and why the Vikings came to England and have begun exploring their battles. As part of an art and Design Technology project, everyone has designed their own shield.



Music at Fir Tree

Three Year 4 pupils, Tailtha, Tristan and Gaius, recently undertook grade 1 ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal School of Music) exams. Tristan and Talitha played on clarinet and Gaius on saxophone. I am delighted to announce that they all passed with flying colours which made their woodwind teacher, Judith Atkins, and us, incredibly proud. We look forward to hearing about their progress next year, too. Feyinti has also started learning. If your child is interested in learning clarinet, saxophone, or building on recorder learning, please contact Judith Atkins at judith.musicteacher@gmail.com for further information.

Flute, Keyboard, and Brass lessons (cornet, trombone, tuba, French horn) are also available from Oxfordshire County Music Service; more details can be found here: [Music Service | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Create Music will be continuing to offer guitar lessons in groups of 6 in our school. So if you are interested, find out more here [Create Music](#)



NSPCC
Worried about a child?
0800 136 663



Silver Birch



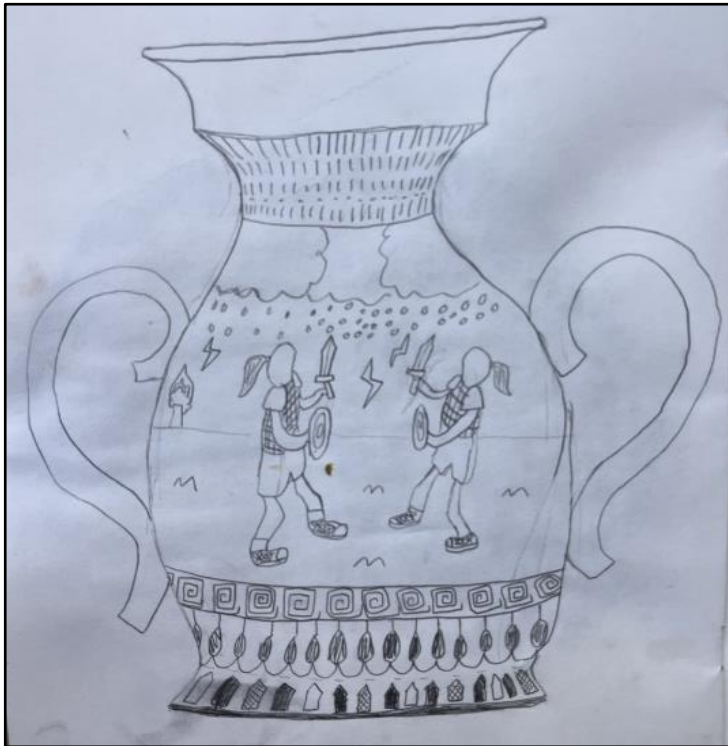
Cherry

It's been a busy and exciting term for Year 6. Our production of *Shrek* was a huge success, with incredible costumes, outstanding acting and singing, and impressive props and technology that brought the story to life. Since then, we've been hard at work preparing for our leavers' assembly, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. We then changed into our party clothes and headed off for a fun-filled day of bowling and a celebratory meal at Oxy Restaurant.



News from Sycamore – Year 5

This term, we have been exploring the Ancient Greeks. So far, we have looked at two Greek myths and sequenced key events in each. We have used these to create our own stories as well as make inferences from poetry. In addition, we have been looking at the variety of Ancient Greek gods and how these influenced the lives of many Greeks in different city states. Our current writing is about to entail a debate between Sparta and Athens where life was very different. As a class, we will decide which state we'd prefer to live in and why. In art, we have been exploring Ancient Greek vases and their purposes. We have started to recreate our own by designing intricate patterns which we will later use with oil pastel and acrylic paint to create a relief artwork. We will scrape away our paint in our pattern which will make a beautifully, colourful pastel designs underneath.



Sport's Day

Thank you to all parents who attended this year's Sports Day and huge congratulations to our winning teams: Australia, Italy, Argentina and Sweden.



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2025

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

ANGUS STEAKHOUSE Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm	LAS IGUANAS Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App
ASDA Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend	MARCO PIERRE WHITE Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend
ASK ITALIAN Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays	MORRISONS Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend
BEEFEATER Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer	PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm
BELLA ITALIA Children eat for £1 with any adult main	PREMIER INN & TRAVELODGE 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
BILLS Kids Eat Free weekdays, 21st July - 29th Sept	PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult
BREWERS FAYRE Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer	PUREZZA Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal
BREWDOG 2 Kids eat free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August	SA BRAINS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays
BURGER KING From 28th July - 31st August, Kids Eat Free (via app)	SIZZLING PUBS Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm
CHIQUITO Kids eat FREE Daily Until August 31st	TABLE TABLE 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult
DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch	TESCO Kids Eat FREE with a 60p spend until Aug 31st
FRANKIE & BENNY'S Kids Eat Free from 14 th July - 31 st August 2025	TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)
FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal	THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend
GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day	TOBY CARVERY Kids eat for £1 all day (weekdays) until Aug 29th
HARVESTER Kids eat for £1, Mon - Fri via the App	WHITBREAD INNS 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
HUNGRY HORSE Kids eat for £1 on Mondays	YO! SUSHI Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays
IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am	ZIZZI Kids eat free this summer holidays (ex Saturdays)

FREE Active Communities Summer of Fun

23 JULY - 29 AUGUST

Free activities across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse including:

- New Age Kurling
- Football
- Boccia
- Family Dance Parties
- Cricket
- Rounders

and more.



SCAN ME



For more information and to book, visit southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities or scan the QR code

[/ActiveCommunitiesSouthandVale](https://www.facebook.com/ActiveCommunitiesSouthandVale)



Football frenzy!

Well done to all the staff who came to play and support the teachers v year 6 children football match. The children put up a great fight but the oldies have still got it!

