

[www.firslower.co.uk](http://www.firslower.co.uk)

**Chair of Governors:** Sarah Walker

**Governors:** Jade Brown, Joseph Burton, Adam Campbell, Grant Chaney, Suzi McIntosh, Amaritpal Uppal, Hannah Wadsworth and Claudia Wallis

Dear parents/carers,

## Year 3 Ancient Egypt Wow Day

On Monday 6th October the Year 3 children took part in a History Off the Page Wow Day, where we stepped back in time and experienced life in Ancient Egypt! The day began with hands-on workshops where the children made canopic jars, wrapped mummies, painted their names in hieroglyphs, and even created their own scented perfumes.



In the afternoon, some children were chosen to be part of the royal family and honoured guests at a grand royal feast. We enjoyed food and drink while watching a series of fantastic performances, including The River Nile Ball, The Wax Crocodile, The Story of Cyrus, and The Visit of the Apis Bull.



It was a fantastic day full of fun, learning, and creativity. The children were exceptionally well behaved and made us all very proud. We gained so much knowledge and had a brilliant time immersing ourselves in the world of Ancient Egypt!

## Macmillan Coffee Morning – A Heartfelt Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, carers, and grandparents who joined us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning and afterschool cake sale at The Firs Lower School. It was a real pleasure to see so many familiar faces coming together to support such a worthwhile cause.

Thanks to your generosity, we have already raised approximately **£450** for Macmillan Cancer Support. Every cup of coffee and slice of cake helped contribute to this fantastic total, and we are truly grateful for your support.



A special mention must go to our wonderful **Year 4 School Ambassadors**, who were on hand to support Mrs Rogers throughout the morning. They showed great responsibility and enthusiasm, and we're incredibly proud of the role they played in helping the event run smoothly. Also, a big thank you to Mrs Rogers for organising the event

Thank you once again to everyone who baked, donated, and took part—the cakes were absolutely amazing, and the sense of community was even better.

Cashless Donation Poster



## Harvest Festival Celebration

We had a wonderful time celebrating Harvest Festival at The Firs!

A big thank you to Andrew Goldsmith, Senior Pastor at Amphill Baptist Church, who joined us to share a thoughtful message about gratitude and giving. Our Year 4 School Ambassadors also spoke beautifully about the meaning of harvest beyond just crops.

The children added to the assembly with joyful renditions of 'Harvest Samba' and 'Thank Your Lucky Stars', filling the hall with music and smiles.

Thank you for your incredible generosity—all your donations were collected by The Need Project, who were truly grateful for your continued support.



## Children in Need Day, Friday 14th November 2025



Friday 14th November will be Children in Need day and we would like everyone, pupils, parents and staff, to wear something spotty. Anything goes from full on Pudsey dress up, spots on t-shirts, face painting to hair decorations, the spottier the better to mark the occasion!

This will be a fundraising day, with donations collected on our Just Giving account, link below. Anyone can use this link, so please share with friends and family. Gift Aid will be an option, adding an extra 25% to your donation.

We will also have buckets on the gate, for any 'on the day' donations.

JG Fundraising Link - [The Firs Lower School, Fundraising for Children In Need 2025](#)

## Kids' Club, November Invoices



November invoices for Kids' Club were issued on **20th October**. To secure your child's place, please ensure payment is made by **Monday 3rd November**.

Kindly note that any requests for changes to bookings received **after 20th October** will be applied from **December's Wraparound Care** schedule. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

## SNAP Parent Carer Forum

Please see the attached flyer for a EBSNA 'Emotionally Based School Non Attendance' event to be held on the 5th November 2025.



## School Council News – First Meeting of the Year!

We're delighted to share that our newly elected School Council has held its first meeting of the year—and there was a real buzz of excitement in the room!

The children were thrilled to begin their new roles. During the meeting, we explored how the Council works, discussed the responsibilities involved, and appointed key positions. Our Year 4 representatives have taken on the roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary, and are already showing great leadership potential.



The Council members wasted no time in starting to share their ideas about what they'd like to focus on this year. Over the coming weeks, they'll be holding Class Council meetings to gather suggestions from their peers, ensuring every child's voice is heard.

We're really looking forward to seeing the positive changes our School Council will help bring about this year!

## A Request from Central Beds

Central Bedfordshire Council is participating in the government's [National Wraparound Childcare Programme](#) to provide extended childcare for primary-aged children from reception to year 6, running from 8am to 6pm on weekdays during term time

We'd love to hear your thoughts on how the wraparound childcare programme is working for you and your child. Your feedback helps us:

- Understand what's working well
- Spot areas where we can improve
- Shape future services to better support families like yours



The survey only takes a few minutes, and your input will make a real difference.

<https://centralbedfordshire.welcomesyourfeedback.net/wraparound-feedbackSept2025>

Deadline to complete the survey: 31 October 2025

Thank you for helping us make the wraparound programme even better.

## Reception Class Resource Request – Can You Help?

As we head into autumn, if you're having a clear-out at home, our Reception Class would be so grateful for any donations to support and enrich our Early Years outdoor play.

We're currently on the lookout for the following items:

- Baby dolls
- Pushchairs or prams
- Toy car sets
- Baby clothes (for dolls)
- Toy cars and trucks
- Child-sized wheelbarrows



We're also collecting used birthday cards! Instead of recycling them, please consider sending them our way – the children love cutting them up and using them in creative craft projects.

Donations can be dropped off at the Reception Class gate or brought to the school office. Thank you so much for your support!

## Y4 Synagogue Visit



We were delighted to welcome Lou Tribas from the Milton Keynes Reform Synagogue on 15th October.

She led very informative and engaging workshops for both Y4 classes that made a great contribution to our Jewish Family Life topic in RE this term.

She brought in lots of artefacts for the children to look at which they found fascinating and which really helped to cement their understanding of how Jewish people celebrate some of the key festivals such as Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah and some key aspects of how Jewish people practise worship in a Synagogue. The children asked some fantastic questions and entered enthusiastically into the experience... We were very proud of them!

## Year 1 Learn About Diwali

This week, Year 1 were delighted to welcome Mrs Ramaloo, who visited to share how her family celebrates Diwali. The children were fascinated by the beautiful traditional clothes, colourful decorations, and sparkling diya lamps that she brought in to show us.

As part of our learning, the children also had the opportunity to create their own diya lamps using clay. They thoroughly enjoyed this hands-on activity and were very proud of their finished designs. It was a wonderful way to learn about the traditions and celebrations of Diwali!



## Y3 Tree-mendous Treehouses Exhibition

On Wednesday, Year 3 branched out and showcased their *tree-mendous* Treehouses in a one of a kind gallery experience! The hall was transformed into a leafy wonderland, complete with twinkling lights, canapés (delicious biscuits), and even water served in sparkling gold cups, it truly felt like stepping into a luxury tree-top gallery!



The children proudly presented their creative constructions and read their imaginative stories to visitors from across the school. It was a truly

*tree-rific* event, full of excitement, creativity, and applause. The whole experience was a real celebration of their hard work and talent, and a fantastic preview of what our younger pupils can look forward to when it's their turn to climb up into the world of words and wonder!



## Black History Month

Like we do every year, we ensure that we mark Black History Month in our work across the school.



In Year 4 children were fascinated to learn about Mary Seacole. They learned about how she was influential during the Crimean war, caring for wounded soldiers and how she overcame racism and terrible conditions in her determination to help others.

In Year 3 we researched significant people in history and ended up writing a fact file on George Washington Cavar who is a Scientist who grew peanuts and invented crop rotation that exists today!

We learned about Marcus Rashford's impact on schools and children in need nationally, post Covid.



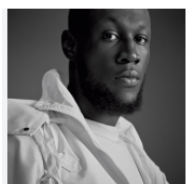
In Year 2 during this month, we spent our time learning about famous figures from Black History, including iconic people who fought for racial equality such as Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela.

The children particularly enjoyed learning about Rosa Parks, who knew from a young age that the inequality she faced was so very wrong. They were delighted to hear that she made a stand while travelling on the buses by refusing to stand!

Most importantly, they understood that her actions began to make a difference to the way black people were treated across America.



In Year 1 as part of Black History Month Year 1 watched a video about Martin Luther King. We had a circle time to discuss our dreams for the future. The children shared dreams such as, "I have a dream to look after animals" "I have a dream to be kind to others" "I have a dream to help my family" and " I have a dream that we stop pollution". We have also enjoyed sharing lots of different stories.



In Year R, we shared the book '*My First Heroes Black History*'. The book teaches the children about various heroes from a black heritage such as Rosa Parks, Stormzy and Nelson Mandela. Also the children enjoyed watching a lovely animation on CBeebies called '*Princess K's Black History Heroes*' where they discovered why they inspired Princess K in different ways.

We rounded off the work this month with a fantastic assembly led by Mr Moses. He delivered a fun and insightful singing assembly linking more of the fabulous themes in Lion King to African cultures. Highlighting how Simba's "Just Can't Wait" song reflects some of our experiences, the assembly explored the differences too. Through slides and song, we enjoyed learning about the importance of African royal rites of passage that contrast earned positions with Simba's infant entitlement.

## **School Photographs**

Your child should have brought their photo proof sheet home with them yesterday. For the children who were taken with their sibling, you will be able to see this when you log in using the unique code on the proof sheet.

Please note that the deadline for free delivery is Tuesday 4th November. Thank you for your support.

## **Vacancy for Midday Supervisor**

We have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor to work 5 days a week from 1st December, 2025. The hours Monday-Friday will be from 12:00 - 13:00 and this could also be a shared post if preferred. You will be supervising children on the KS2 playground and when they are having their lunch in the school hall.

The salary per annum will be £2896.85 - £2942.65 and you will be paid on the 27th of each month. More information regarding this post can be found on our website [www.firslower.co.uk](http://www.firslower.co.uk) under 'School Information' then 'vacancies' or please contact Sue A'Court on 01525 402735 or email [sue.acourt@firslower.org](mailto:sue.acourt@firslower.org).

The Firs Lower School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

A DBS check including an online search is performed for all new employees.

## **Consideration needed when parking on Station Road and The Crescent**

We have been asked by a number of the residents from The Crescent and Station Road to point out that more consideration must be given to how parents park their vehicles when bringing children to school.

Please do not park across driveways on Station Road or The Crescent. This happened this morning, which is not the first time and even when the resident managed to leave her driveway the driver reversed and parked there again!

The residents need access for other members of their household and would ask that you refrain from doing this. It has also been reported that there are endless questionable driving behaviours that occur during school run times and while the residents acknowledge that drop-off can be a challenge, it is felt that there is a significant amount of inconsiderate behaviour which is unacceptable.

The school has no control over this but would ask that you support us by parking in places that **do not** block the residents' driveways and be considerate to the residents at all times.

## Parent Workshop

We will be holding an Autumn Term SEND Coffee and Catch up at The Firs on Monday 17th November at 9.00am. Information regarding this is attached.

## A SPOOK-tacular Halloween Lunch!

Our **kitchen team** brewed up a *fang-tastic feast* today, adding a sprinkle of spooky fun to make lunchtime extra special for all our little ghosts and goblins! We'd like to wish all our students, staff, and families a **safe and spooktacular Halloween!**



## Amphill Fireworks

Please see the poster attached to this newsletter regarding the Amphill Fireworks event on Friday 7th November.

## Half Term Thoughts!

As we come to the end of a busy half term, I would like to say well done to all our children for what they have achieved and wish all our children, families and staff a very happy half term break.

The school is closed for training on Monday 3rd November and so we look forward to seeing you all when the children come back to school on **Tuesday 4th November**.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Campbell  
Headteacher