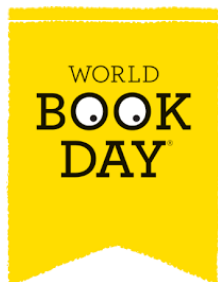


**Chair of Governors:** Sarah Walker

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

Dear parents/carers,

## World Book Day, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March



We are inviting all children to dress up as their favourite book character on World Book Day, which is on Thursday 5th March.

As usual we would love it if the children could bring in a copy of the book, their character comes from to support their work in school on the day. We will let you know more about the event nearer the time but we thought we would mention it now, so that you can start thinking about your costume choices!

## Parent Teacher Spring Consultations Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th March 2026

We would like to invite all parents / carers of pupils in Acorns and Y1-Y4 to attend a 10 minute 'face to face' Parents' Consultation with your child's teacher.

Bookings with teachers can be made online from Friday 13th February and will close Monday 16th March 2026

Please visit <https://firslower.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointment, where you will be asked for your name, email, your child's name and their date of birth. If you require any assistance, please contact the school office. [office@firslower.org](mailto:office@firslower.org)

The Conkers consultation evenings will take place on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th April - Please see letter attached regarding this date change.

## Comic Relief Red Nose Day 2026, Friday 20th March

Friday 20th March is Comic Relief 'Red Nose Day' and we would like everyone, pupils, staff and visitors to the school to support this worthwhile cause by wearing something **Red**. This could be a t-shirt, jumper, socks, hair decorations, face paint, red noses, or all of the above! **This will be a non-uniform day.**

This year, you will be able to make your donations via the Just Giving link below, but we will also have a bucket on the gate for any donations the children might like to make.



**Donations link -** [The Firs Lower Comic Relief. Red Nose Day Donations Page](#)

## **Parking in Ashburnham Road**

We have had a letter from a resident in the private part of Ashburnham Road, closest to Station Road. There is a sign on this road which states that it is a private road and it is for residents parking only.

According to this resident the parking has got a lot worse with no regard to the fact that Ashburnham Road is a safe route for the children to walk along. Cars are being driven too fast for this area, using their horns and telling children to get out of the way. When challenged by the residents, they have had some rude remarks.

The residents are particularly worried that a child will get hurt one day and would ask that you do not use this part of Ashburnham Road. Thank you for your support.

## **Head lice in School**

Head lice are doing the rounds at the moment and it is so important to act quickly and treat any head lice that is found on your child's hair.

Head lice treatments involve using medicated lotions/sprays to kill lice or systematic wet combing with a specialised fine-toothed comb to remove them. Effective, safe, and readily available options include dimeticone-based products (e.g., Hedrin, mineral oils, or Mathathion Treatments often need repeating after 7 days to kill newly hatched lice.

### Primary Treatment Methods

These kill lice within 24 hours. Common ingredients include dimeticone (which smothers lice) or isopropyl myristate

- A systematic method using a fine-toothed metal comb on wet hair coated in conditioner to remove lice. This should be done on days 1, 5, 9, and 13 to interrupt the lice life cycle.
- Recommended Combs – The 'Nitty Gritty' Nit Free comb or Bug Buster Kit are highly effective for removing lice and eggs.

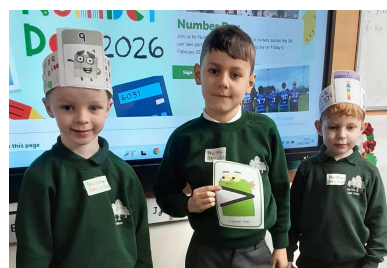
### Key Considerations

- **Treatment Repeat:** Most products require a second application after 7 days to kill any newly hatched lice.
- **Resistance:** Some lice are resistant to traditional insecticides (like permethrin), making physical treatments (dimeticone) more effective.
- **Avoid:** Home remedies like tea tree oil, mayonnaise, or vinegar as they are not supported by strong evidence.
- **Household Care:** Wash bedding, hats, and scarves in hot water. Soak combs in hot water
- **Checks:** Check all household members and treat only those with live lice.

## **NSPCC Maths Number Day**

### *Year 1*

For Number Day, we had lots of fun creating our own number headbands! We decorated them with number



sentences, drawings, and crafts. Once they were finished, we used our headbands to compare numbers using the symbols less than (<), greater than (>), and equal to (=).

## Year 2

In Year 2, we have been consolidating our learning about shape by creating 3D shapes from nets and naming their properties. We have also played lots of number games, including *Guess My Shape*.



As we are beginning to learn about multiplication, we have been singing songs to help us practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

## Year 3

In year 3 we completed a number of arithmetic tasks alongside practicing our TTRS to improve our accuracy and efficiency.

We also created Top Trump cards of our Perfect Pets linked to the Literacy Tree story of The Barnabus Project. Here we had a total of 100 points to split between 5 characteristics to best represent our own created pet. Using base ten, and partitioning into 5 groups we accurately created their statistics before discussing how and why this calculation is necessary to make the game fair and fun!



## Year 4

Year 4 had a fantastic time taking part in NSPCC Number Day! They enjoyed playing TT Rockstars and the NSPCC Rock Event practising their times tables skills and even designed and created their own plectrums for our TT Rockstars display.



The children worked together to solve mathematical questions and clues to identify a key, which helped them find Buddy. They also spent time practising their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. The children have had great fun celebrating all things number in Pine today. There were lots of activities to choose from in both the indoor area and outside environment.

## Year R

The children in Pine used numicon stamps and 'magic' metallic paint to record doubles on a part-whole model. The children could also cut and stick numbers, to place them in the correct order and match them to the correct numicon representation. The giant snakes and ladders game was very popular in Pine and not only supported counting and number recognition, but also promoted turn-taking and collaborative play skills.

Outside, the children played basketball, counting how many times they could bounce the ball and kept track of how many hoops they had scored! The children loved playing 'the floor is lava', using the numbered wood slices and rolling a die to see how many steps they could take.

## Pyramid Schools Trust Consultation

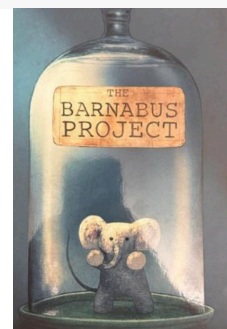
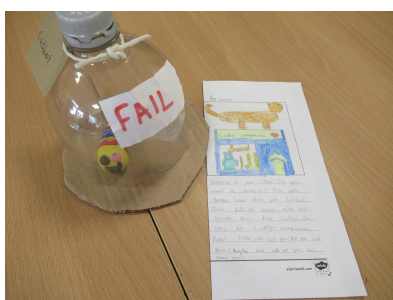
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who joined us for the PST consultation meeting on Tuesday 3rd February. We had a really positive meeting and Steve Kelly, the CEO of PST was very impressed by the thoughtful questions! A huge thank you to everyone who took part.

A reminder that the consultation ends on February 23rd which still gives you a few more days if you want to email us with any responses.

## Y3's Perfect Writing About Imperfect Pets!

Our Literacy Tree writing resource is designed to inspire children to write by exposing them to fantastic texts that they really enjoy reading. Y3 have really enjoyed the Barnabus Project text that their work has been based on this half term.

The children created their own imperfect pets and then wrote some fantastic leaflets advertising their 'imperfect Pet Shop'!



## Safer Internet Day AT The Firs

Tuesday 10th was Safer Internet Day and as we do every year, we used the day as an opportunity to reinforce key safety messages with our children.

In Year 4 children watched the live ISD broadcast on BBC. The programme focused on using technology safely, respectfully and responsibly and recognising unacceptable behaviour. They looked at using digital technologies to search, access and retrieve information and understanding that not all of the information will be credible. They also thought about the importance of accurate and reliable data and knowing when and where to seek help.



Year 3 To mark Safer Internet Day, Year 3 took part in a range of activities focused on the safe and responsible use of technology and AI. The children joined a BBC Bitesize live lesson where they explored responsible AI design and learned how chatbots can be created to be safe and reliable. They then applied their learning by designing informative posters, including key messages and a glossary of new vocabulary introduced during the lesson. The day concluded with a circle time discussion using scenario cards, allowing the children to talk through different online situations and reflect on how to make safe and responsible choices when using the internet and digital technologies.

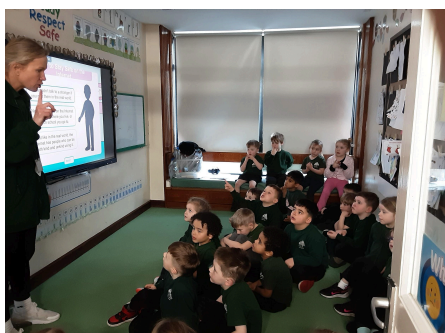
Year 2 learned about internet safety with Smartie The Penguin learning about safe screen time, not sharing passwords and online bullying. They also had fun reading Chicken Clicking!



Issue No - 10 Date - 13th February 2026

Year 1 have been thinking about how we stay safe when online. They talked about what information can be given or should not be given when online and who our trusted adults are when we need to ask for help. They watched a video which helped to clarify this message, drew and wrote the names of the people the children know and trust to help us when we are on the internet.

Year R children listened to the story 'Chicken Clicking' discussing the choices that the chick made online that were unsafe. We also discussed the ways in which children can keep themselves safe online for example not sharing personal details and speaking to a grown up if they are unsure of something.



### Can you help Rotary eradicate Polio?

From Thursday 12th February until Wednesday 26th February, 24 numbered teddies will be in shops, offices and the library in Ampthill. The children will be able to collect an entry sheet from their classroom for £1.00. On the sheet the children will write against each number, the place where the Teddy is & the letter it is holding. The letters will form a sentence about the Rotary campaign.

All entries will be collected from school on **Thursday 27th February** and 1 winner from each school will be picked at random by The Rotary. The lucky winner will receive a book token.



Your support with this will be greatly appreciated as more vaccines will be made available to eradicate polio due to this fundraising.

### The Firs Lower Academic Calendar 2026-2027

Please find attached our academic calendar for 2026-2027.

### Half Term

It is half term on Monday. We hope all our children have a really enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing you all on **Monday 23rd February**.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell  
Headteacher