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Chair of Governors: Sarah Walker

Governors: Jade Brown, Adam Campbell, Amanda Hall, Richard Leonard, Emma Sims, Amaritpal Uppal, Hannah Wadsworth and Claudia Wallis

Dear parents/carers,

Message from your Governing Body - Celebrating Literacy at The Firs

Dear Parents and Carers,

As governors, one of the most rewarding parts of our role is stepping into the classrooms to see school life in action. Recently, members of the governing body joined our school leaders for a "Learning Walk" focused entirely on literacy. We wanted to share what we saw, because it filled us with an immense sense of pride in our school community.



A Buzz of Energy and Learning

From the moment we walked through the corridors, there was a palpable energy across every single year group. Literacy at The Firs is thriving. We saw children experiencing a rich variety of learning environments—from classrooms focused in absolute independent silence, to rooms alive with purposeful, collaborative discussion.

What shone through brightest was how beautifully the children embody "The Firs Way." Even during our brief visits, it was clear that children across the school know exactly what it means to be focused, respectful, and ready to learn.

Dedicated Staff. Brilliantly Equipped

An incredible amount of hard work happens behind the scenes to make learning look this seamless, and we want to publicly recognise our fantastic staff. Our teachers are delivering the Literacy Tree curriculum with deep passion and confidence, expertly structuring their classrooms so that every individual child—regardless of their starting point—can fully access the lesson and succeed.

We were also delighted to see our Teaching Assistants so brilliantly equipped and deployed, providing targeted support with phonics and word mats to ensure no child is left behind. From the clever "learning walls" on the classrooms' displays to the instant checks for understanding, our staff are working tirelessly to move learning forward in real-time.

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In the Children's Own Words

The true measure of this hard work is the impact it has on our children, and their love for language was wonderful to witness. In Year 1, we listened to children excitedly debating synonyms for the word "sad," effortlessly connecting past lessons to their new learning.

When we spoke to children across the school about their work, they were unanimous in their love for writing. We wanted to share two quotes that absolutely stole our hearts and sum up the spirit of The Firs:

"I love getting my ideas written down!" "Writing is like neat Art."

Looking to the Future: How You Can Help Us Sustain This Success

To hear children speak about their learning with such joy and ownership is a testament to the inspiring environment our staff have created. We are incredibly proud of the progress being made, and our Literacy Lead, Hannah Wadsworth, already has clear, realistic plans in place to ensure this success continues to grow.

However, to sustain this high standard of education, we need to keep our school excellently resourced. Our book-based curriculum relies heavily on us being able to invest properly in beautiful, high-quality, and inspiring literature that captures the children's imaginations.

Furthermore, our next big goal for future planning is to equip every single classroom with a visualiser. This vital piece of technology allows teachers to model writing, share text examples, and showcase children's work on the big screen in real-time.

With school budgets continually stretched, we are making a heartfelt plea to our wonderful community. If you, a family member, or a local business are in a position to make a financial donation—no matter how small—it will go directly towards buying these beautiful new books and funding classroom visualisers. If you are able to help us invest in our children's futures in this way, please contact the school office at office@firslower.org or firslowerpta@gmail.com

Thank you, as always, for your unwavering support, your partnerships at home, and for helping The Firs community achieve great things together.

Warmest regards,
The Governing Body The Firs School

Year 4 GL Tests

The Y4 children have been working really hard all week, completing the GL tests and I wanted to take this opportunity to say well done to all of our children in Year 4, who have worked so hard and coped in a very mature fashion, completing each of the tests - well done Y4!

Y4 Times Tables Test Reminder

With the newsletter before half term there was a letter to Y4 parents regarding the national Year 4 “Multiplication Tables Check” that takes place annually.

The check itself will take place at The Firs the week beginning **8th June** and the letter gives more details.

This letter is also available on our website on the [Letters Home](#) page.

Sports Days 2026

- The KS2 Sports day takes place on **June 9th from 9:30**
- The Pine Sports day takes place on **June 17th**
- The KS1 Sports day takes place on **June 19th from 9:30**
- All three events start at **9:30 am**

Just like last year entrance to the school field will be via the gate used to drop children off in the morning.

We would ask that, in the interests of pupil safety, parents enter and exit the event via this gate. (Other routes into the school will be taped off).

The gate will be closed but a member of staff will be on duty and toilets can be accessed by exiting through this gate and reporting to the main school reception.

The children will no doubt have an amazing time and we look forward to seeing lots of parents there too!

September 2027 Pine Tours

Just a reminder that we will be holding Open Days for parents of children who are due to start Reception Class in **September 2027**. You will meet our staff, have a tour of our school and get an insight into the fantastic learning opportunities we provide for our children at The Firs.

The tours will take place at 9.30am - 11.00am and they will be on Thursday 11th June, Thursday 18th June or Thursday 9th July.

If you would like to go on any of these tours, please email the school office at office@firslower.org or telephone the school office on 01525 402735 to make an appointment.

Amphill Library Information

As you will know from last week's newsletter, our Pine children really enjoyed their visit to Amphill library last week. It was lovely over half term to be contacted by Amy Warner, Amphill Library Manager who said what a pleasure it was to have our reception children visit the library.

She said 'The children were a credit to themselves and the school and we loved having them in.' |Well done all our fantastic Pine children.

One of the aims of the visit was to show the children how enjoyable reading is and how much fun they can have visiting the library. With this newsletter is an information sheet

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Amy Warner asked us to pass on to all our parents. The sheet gives you information about Ampthill library and how to join.

Big Tent Event

We are excited to announce that this summer's concert will be bigger and better than ever. The Big Tent is returning, and we will be hosting a joint event with local schools as part of the Big Tent Weekend Festival.

The event will be at Alameda Sports Field on Thursday 9th July.

With this newsletter is a letter to the parents of all children who are in our Choir about this exciting opportunity which the children enjoyed so much last year. The letter is also available in the [letters home](#) section of our website.

PTFA Big Tent Parade Update - a message from the PTFA - Sunday 12th July 2026

The Firs Lower School is delighted to be taking part in the Ampthill Big Tent Fete Parade, as part of Ampthill's Big Tent Weekend.

This year's parade will take place on Sunday 12th July 2026 at 10:30am, just before the Big Tent Fete. For those who have not experienced the Ampthill Parade before, it is a truly exciting event and a wonderful opportunity for the children to get involved. Meet up is at 10am in the Firs Lower Car Park.

Workshops

The PTFA are holding two workshops at the school for parents and children. This will be an opportunity to make costumes such as masks and the banner for the parade that will be carried at the front of the procession. Anyone is welcome to attend, and as a bonus the PTFA will be providing refreshments and snacks!

There will be material at the workshops to help you design masks for the parade, but also feel free to bring along anything you may have lying around at home, as well as your crafty skills.

If you are able to attend either of the dates please complete the form below:

- **Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 3.40pm School Hall**
- **Wednesday 17th June 2026 6pm The Hollows**

<https://forms.gle/tBS2sm8oUJDASEG37>

Parade Theme

This year's theme is "Ampthill Through the Ages."

The Firs PTFA has chosen to celebrate the historic Ampthill Zoo (also known as Wingfield Zoo). Opened in the early 1900s, it housed a collection of exotic animals and even played a role in the development of Whipsnade Zoo.

Costumes by Year Group

Below is a reminder of the theme for each year group:

- Saplings: Pigs
- Year R: Sheep
- Year 1: Zebra
- Year 2: Camels
- Year 3: Ostrich

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- Year 4: Llama

Please also note the parade will be finishing at the Cenotaph outside the Big Tent site. We are hoping to arrive at the Cenotaph at approximately 12 noon. The organisers have stated if you wish to attend the big tent event after the parade tickets must be purchased for this event which can be done via their website.

Warm regards,
The Firs PTFA

PTFA Firs Party - Final Reminder

The link for booking is
[The Firs Party](#)

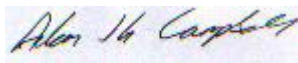
The Firs Party 2026 - 6th June @Parkside.

If you're still deliberating whether or not to come to this year's Firs Party, take a look at this flyer for some more details about the event.

It's shaping up to be a great night and our auction lots/raffle prizes are AMAZING!

If you're looking for a local night out with fellow parents, friends or family, please extend the invitation. All 18+ friends and family of Firs pupils are very welcome :)

Yours sincerely.



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher