

www.firslower.co.uk

Chair of Governors: Amanda Hall and Emma Sims

Governors: Jade Brown, Adam Campbell, Robert Langhorn, Richard Leonard, Amaritpal Uppal, Hannah Wadsworth, Sarah Walker and Claudia Wallis

Dear parents/carers,

Governor Update

I would like to take this opportunity to update you regarding some changes to our Governing body this term.

Sarah Walker

Sarah Walker has decided that this is the best time to step down from her role as Chair of Governors after completing a very successful and extremely productive period as the Chair of our hard working board of Trustees.

Sarah has performed her role in a highly effective and supportive fashion, taking a strong leading role in her work with colleagues in school and on the board of Governors to help drive the continuous process of school improvement and help guide the school at an eventful time, as we made important strategic decisions about our future, taking us on the path to joining Pyramid Schools Trust.

Sarah has not left the board and will remain as one of our Trustees, but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank her personally for her strong commitment to achieving the best outcomes for all our children and the high degree of care she has shown for all the members of our community.

Amanda Hall and Emma Sims

Amanda has a child in Year 1 and Emma has children in Year 1 and Saplings. Although they joined our board of trustees quite recently, they have already made very strong and valuable contributions to our collective work on the Governing body. I am therefore very pleased to let you know that they have agreed to take on the role of Chair together and as Co Chairs, I am confident that our Trustees will continue the fantastic work they are doing, supporting and challenging us in our efforts to achieve the very best outcomes for our children.

Robert Langhorn

I would also like to publicly welcome Robert Langhorn to the Governing board, who has a child in year 1. I am sure that he will make a great contribution to the very important work done by the Governors and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for agreeing to join us!

Home / School Agreement

This very important document was attached with last week's newsletter (due to issues with our photocopier sending out of this sheet was delayed but we are hoping it will go out next week in paper form!

(if your child is new to our school and you have already completed the Home School Agreement as part of the admission process, you do not need to look at it again!)

It sets out the agreement regarding the ways in which parents, children and the school are expected to contribute to the partnership, which helps us all to get the best outcomes for our children.

What Are We Learning Sheets

With this newsletter you will find the What Are We Learning Sheets for Y1-Y4. They give you an overview of what your child will be learning in each area of the curriculum this term with ideas for how you can add to this learning at home. We hope that these documents are helpful. They will also be available on the [Letters Home](#) section of our website and on the individual year group pages in the Our Learning section of the site.

Year R Welcome Letter

The YR welcome letter was sent out when our Pine children joined us but it is attached here with this newsletter in case you missed it. All the Welcome Letters are also available on the [Letters Home](#) section of our website and on the individual year group pages in the Our Learning section of the site.

International Peace Day

In assembly on Thursday, we thought about International Peace Day, how it came about and the meaning of Peace in different contexts.

Additionally, children at The Firs have been thinking about what peace means to them, including how we demonstrate our Peace Value in school, and in our lives and they have been recording those ideas and creating pictures for our display outside the school.

Thank you to all our children for their enthusiasm for this and for the lovely ideas they have shared.

Open Evening - Reminder

We will be holding an open evening on Wednesday 23rd September at 6:00pm - 7:30pm for parents of children who are due to start school 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.

We help children to develop a positive 'growth mindset', so they feel confident as a learner, to take on challenges and always aspire to achieve their very best.

Please contact the school on 01525 402735 or email office@firslower.org if you would like to be booked in for this open evening.

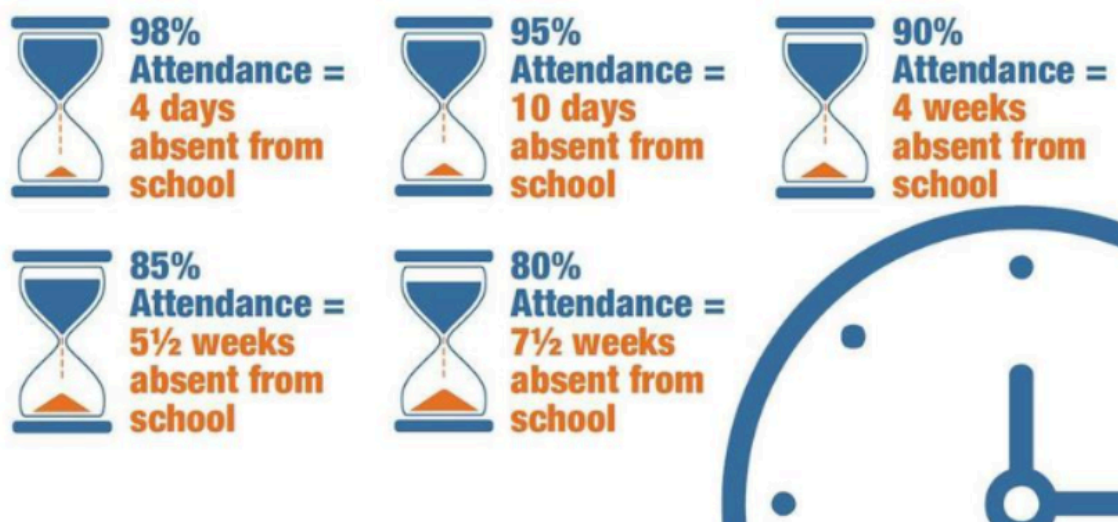
We look forward to meeting you!

The Importance of Good Attendance and Holiday in Term Time

- All educational research concludes that there is a very strong correlation between good attendance and academic success and we want all our children to get into the habit of good school attendance in their Lower School years
- This is not just to help ensure that don't lose critical chunks of learning that negatively impacts their academic performance now but to ensure that they develop a pattern of great attendance now, that positively influences their educational journey into the future
- For this reason, please please avoid taking holidays in term time!
- We are unable to authorise holiday during term time. In addition, please be aware that if you take your child on holiday during term time (including Reception

children who are of statutory school age) and it is for 5 days (10 sessions) or more, this will trigger a penalty notice.

- As the diagram below powerfully shows, even absence that might seem a small % lost actually represents a **significant** amount of lost learning:



For more information see the [Attendance Page](#) on our website.

Autumn Term Date Sheet

With this newsletter we have included the date sheet for this term. We hope this will be useful to you. The date sheet is also available on the [Letters Home](#) section of our website.

Parent Teacher Autumn Consultations Tuesday 20th or Thursday 22nd October 2026

We would like to invite all parents./ carers of pupils at The Firs to attend a 10 minute 'face to face' Parents' Consultation with your child's teacher.

- Bookings with teachers can be made online from Friday 25th September and will close Monday 29th October.
- 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

School Photographs

The photographer will be in school for individual photographs on **Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October**:

- On Thursday 22nd October the photographer will take Individual photographs of children in Years R-4 and children who only have siblings in our school.
- On Friday 23rd October the photographer will take individual photographs of the Saplings children and any children who have siblings in school and in Saplings (or only Saplings).

Issue No - 2 Date - 17th September 2026

- Please can you ensure that your child is wearing their school uniform, including their green jumper/cardigan and hair accessories should be The Firs green colour only. If your child has their PE day on a Tuesday, please can they come to school wearing their school uniform and **not** their PE kit.
- If there are any Saplings children who do not attend on a Thursday and you would like them to have their photograph taken, please come to school at 09:15 via the main school entrance.
- If your Saplings child has a sibling in school, we can collect them so that this can be done at the same time.

School Crossing Patrol

The position of school crossing patrol is now live, please see the link. If you can share as far and wide as possible to give us the best chances of getting the position filled and in place. Thank you for your support.

[Crossing Patrol CBC Advert](#)

Yours sincerely.



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher