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Chair of Governors: Amanda Hall and Emma Sims

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

Dear parents and carers,

Governor Update

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you that Amaritpal Uppal has tendered his resignation from our board of Trustees after a long period of service to the school. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for all his contributions in his time serving as one of our Governors. I particularly wanted to mention the important work he has done for us as the link Governor for safeguarding and attendance, which has involved him in regular visits to the school and participation in our statutory annual audits. Amaritpal has always been a very supportive member of our Governor Team and will be missed by us all.

Black History Month

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



Year 2

In Year 2 the children have been learning about three inspirational people: Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela and Walter Tull. We learned how Rosa Parks stood up for fairness by refusing to give up her seat on a bus, how Nelson Mandela helped to end unfair rules in South Africa, and how Walter Tull overcame racism to become a professional footballer and a brave army officer. Through our learning, we explored the importance of being fair, treating everyone with respect and standing up for what is right. The children have enjoyed discovering how these three remarkable people helped to make the world a fairer place for everyone.

We are so proud of the children's enthusiasm, thoughtful ideas and discussions! Well done, Year 2!

Year 1

Year 1 has been enjoying the wonderful story *Astro Girl*, which tells the story of a young girl who dreams of becoming an astronaut. Through the story, we have been thinking about our own dreams and aspirations and exploring the idea that, with determination and hard work, we can achieve our goals.

Our learning then took us to space as we researched the inspirational Mae Jemison. We created our own fact files about Mae Jemison as we discovered that Mae dreamed of travelling into space from a young age too. Before becoming an astronaut, she was also a doctor and a scientist.



We were amazed to learn that in 1992, Mae Jemison became the first woman of colour to travel into space. Her incredible achievement has inspired us to think big and follow our dreams just like Astro Girl, and Mae Jemison! 🌍 ✨ 🚀

Year 3

In Year 3 the children have been learning about significant individuals during Black History Month. The children really enjoyed learning about the challenges and great achievements of black people in the past and they had the opportunity to write about an individual of their choice from the class learning. These individuals included Mary Seacole, Arthur Wharton, Lilian Bader and Rosa Parks.

Celebrating Influential Black Figures in Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about influential Black figures throughout history, celebrating their achievements and exploring the challenges they overcame.

The children have studied **Mary Seacole**, learning about her contribution to nursing and the determination she showed in overcoming racial discrimination. They will also be exploring **Muhammad Ali**, discovering his achievements in boxing, his role in challenging injustice and the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

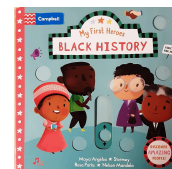
Throughout the year, our Literacy curriculum will further celebrate Black history through the books *The Undefeated* and *Granny Came Here on the Empire Windrush*. These texts will help the children develop their understanding of identity, resilience, diversity and the significant contributions Black individuals have made to society.

Year R

Pine children have been celebrating Black History Month through wonderful stories and engaging discussions. We shared the inspiring book *My First Heroes: Black History*, which introduces children to incredible figures like Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks, highlighting their bravery and achievements. The children also loved watching the CBeebies clip *Princess K's Black History Heroes*, which brings history to life by exploring the lives and achievements of amazing Black role models in a fun, child-friendly way. Finally, we read the classic story *Handa's Surprise* to talk about the similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Through these activities, the children explored how everyone is special, valued, and wonderfully unique!

We concluded the month with an assembly on Thursday 22nd where we discussed what Black History month is and why it is important. We discussed William Robinson Clarke, who moved from Jamaica to Britain at the start of the First World War in 1914 and became the first Black pilot to fly for Britain. We also talked about Dr Paul Stephenson, a British civil rights leader who led the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963 to lift the ban on Black and Asian people being employed by a Bristol bus company. The boycott lasted 60 days and resulted in a change of policy and was important in developing the UK's first Race Relations Act in 1965.

We were very proud of the children in the assembly, who were very articulate in the way they spoke about these issues, valuing the contribution made by all the black figures from history they had studied and how important it is to ensure everyone is treated equally and fairly, so they feel appreciated for the contribution they make.



Y4 Swimming Reminder

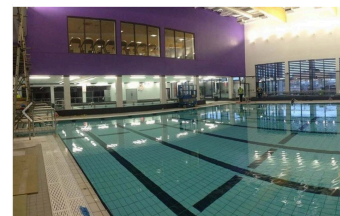
After half term children in Y4 will be beginning their swimming sessions at Flitwick Leisure Centre. The sessions will be every Wednesday afternoon. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank the PTFA for its annual contribution to help fund these sessions by paying for the coach, which is I am sure, much appreciated by the Y4 parents/carers.

Y4 children will need:

- Tight fitting lycra shorts or briefs for boys
- One piece swimming costume for girls
- Goggles if they require them
- Towel

(All in a different bag please)

This is a very important part of our curriculum that also contributes to children's safety, thank you as always to the Y4 team for organising and running these sessions.



Macmillan Cake Sale

We will again be supporting the [MacMillan](#) cancer charity with a cake sale on Tuesday 3rd November from 3:30pm in our school hall.

We are asking for donations of cakes to be brought into school on the morning of Tuesday 3rd November.

Please can you ensure that there are **no nuts** in any of the cakes bought or homemade and list the ingredients of the homemade cakes in case of allergies... thank you.

We hope to see as many parents as possible as your support with this will be greatly appreciated!

A big thank you to Mrs Rogers who is organising this event.



Harvest Assembly

Our Harvest Festival took place on Tuesday 13th October and the Reverend, Mike Stewart from St Andrews Church joined us for this special assembly.



Thank you so much for all the produce kindly donated to us. This was all collected by The Need Project foodbank, who support people in the Central Bedfordshire and surrounding area who are suffering from deprivation. Thank you so much for your generous support, demonstrating what a kind and caring community The Firs is!



PTFA Disco

As always our PTFA disco was very well attended and very much enjoyed by all the children taking part. A huge thank you to the PTFA for organising such a fantastic and enjoyable event for all our children!



Flu Vaccinations

The flu vaccinations for YR-Y4 will take place on Thursday 12th November. All parents should have received an email from NHS Vaccinations to ask for your consent. If you do not consent, your child will not be vaccinated. If your child is absent on the day of the vaccinations, the nursing team will be back in school on Wednesday 2nd December. If you have any questions relating to this, please contact the school office.

Children In Need Day

Friday 13th 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.

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.

[The Firs Lower School, Fundraising for Children In Need 2026](#)

For more information - see the letter attached with this newsletter, which is also available on the [Letters Home](#) page of our website.

Parking in Station Road

Several parents have made us aware of the issues being created when people park on the yellow lines do drop off or pick up children. Parking on double yellow lines or the yellow 'zig zag' lines is illegal and causes safety risks for other users of the area. Although we have no jurisdiction on public roads, we would ask parents to please park responsibly in the interests of everyone's safety.

We have contacted the Traffic Enforcement department of Central Bedfordshire Council to ask for further visits by Traffic Enforcement officers.

In the meantime, we ask all parents to work with us, as we **all** want our children to be safe.

Y3 Egyptian Day

The Year 3 children took part in a History Off the Page Wow Day today, 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!



Thank you to the Y3 team for organising this fantastic event.

I hope you all have a good half term break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 2nd November.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher