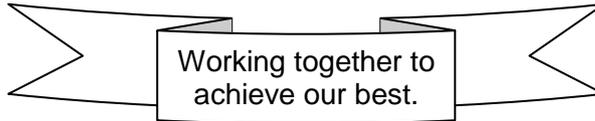




## Newsletter

Issue No. 11  
Date 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019  
[www.firslower.co.uk](http://www.firslower.co.uk)



**Chair of Governors:** Gareth Jones

**Governors:** Adam Campbell, Paul McKinney, Fran Sherry, Phillip Clarke, Laura Gilson, Jon Wilson, Louise Haigh, Jeremy Ramsden and Jason Hart

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Dear parents/carers,

### **Snowy Friday**

It was lovely to see so many children who live locally, making their way to school this morning, all wrapped up for the snow and really appreciate the effort that was made by parents. We also understand, that when you live further afield, it may be difficult to drive in snowy conditions.

The children have had a lovely day making snowmen and just having some lovely fun in the snow. You can view some of the pictures that were taken today when the children were enjoying themselves in the playground. In KS2 the children took part in a competition to build the best snowman for website pictures – you can see the winners in our picture gallery!

Thank you to all our parents who managed to get their child to school today!

### **Our Value this month is Honesty**

At school, we have explained to the children that honesty earns them the respect and trust of other people. A child who is honest to themselves and to others has a growth mindset.

We are asking parents/carers at home to send in a note if they think their child has demonstrated honesty, describing how they exhibited this value. We will celebrate some of their achievements in assembly (if they are happy with this). Examples of honesty might be:

- Playing a game fairly and sticking to the rules without complaining, even though they may be losing.
- Being brave enough to say they have done something wrong, without making excuses/blaming someone else.
- Being open rather than trying to hide the truth, e.g. owning up and apologising if they have damaged or broken something.
- Earning trust by doing a good job when asked to, e.g. tidying their room properly rather than stuffing everything under the bed!

### **Parent Questionnaire,**

Thank you to everyone who has completed the parent questionnaire. If you have not yet completed one, please remember that the deadline for returning this is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Governors needed!**

Please look at the letter that will be coming out next week, which invites parents to join our hard working and dedicated Governing body. The Governors do a fantastic job for the school and we would be delighted to welcome new members!

### **Arriving to school on time**

Several children are arriving to school after the bell goes at 8.55am. Every child should be sitting in their class by 8.55am as this is when lessons start each morning. Please can you ensure that your child is ready to come through the gate by 8.50am at the latest to allow this to happen. We would also like to remind parents that if you need to talk to your child's teacher, this is much better done at the end of the day. If the matter is urgent, please speak to a member of the office team, who will be happy to help. We also encourage children to walk round on their own to the classroom and would like your support with this. Our gate gets locked at 8.55am and several parents who have walked round to the classroom with their child end up walking through the school. For safeguarding reasons, parents should not be walking through the school unless they have signed in and have been issued with a visitor badge. Please support us with this by encouraging your

child to walk round on their own. Mr Campbell or Mrs A'Court are always happy to accompany any child who needs support with this.

It has also come to our attention that parents have been arriving after 8.55am and asking to be let in by office staff but do not sign the late book. Please ensure that if your child arrives after 8.55am they are signed in at the school office, so that the register is marked accordingly. It is so important that your child arrives to school on time, so that they have a positive start to their day and the class is not interrupted by their late arrival. Thank you very much for your support with this as it will benefit all our children.

### **Interim Reports**

The interim reports for Years 1-4 were sent home last Thursday and all the children should have brought this home to you. If for any reason the report did not reach you, please let the school office know – thank you. Interim reports for Year R children will be coming out soon.

### **Firs School News App**

Last week, an email was sent out to you to tell you about our Firs School News App. As well as having access to [The Firs Lower School Google Calendar](#), the App offers free, quick and easy access to all our Latest News, upcoming calendar events, Photo Galleries, Newsletters and Letters Home.

There is also the option to set your app notifications to be alerted when we post a Latest News item or add to our Photo Albums.

So far, 80 parents have started to use this and the feedback has been very positive. Information regarding setting this up was sent out to you via email last week but you can also log onto our homepage to view these instructions. Please download this free App if you have not already done so, as it is so easy to use and gives you instant up-to-date information!

### **Grafham Instalments**

The final instalment for Grafham is due next Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February and we would be grateful if all outstanding monies are paid by this date. If you need to talk to us about any payments due, please contact the school office – thank you.

### **Amphill Literary Festival Writing Competition 2019**

There is a flyer attached regarding the Amphill Literacy Festival Writing Competition and the deadline for entries is 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019.

### **Dress Down day 8<sup>th</sup> February**

On our most recent date sheet, we advertised the dress down day on 8<sup>th</sup> February as an event to raise money for PTA funds. The dress down day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February will now take place to raise funds for 'Mad about Harry' campaign. More information about this can be found on <https://uk.gofundme.com/madaboutharry>. Suggested donation is usually £1 but if you can give more, this would be greatly appreciated. There will also be a cake sale after school and any donations from this, will also go to Harry's campaign. We would like to thank you in advance for supporting this.

### **Lunch Payment**

Please ensure that when your child has a school meal, your ParentPay account has enough money in it to pay for this. Parents should be aware that your child maybe refused a meal by Caterlink if it has not been paid for. Please pay in advance of your child having a school meal so that this can be avoided.

### **Grand Designs!**

We would like to give the school hall a "make over" and we were wondering if there any parents who are interior designers or decorators, who would be willing to help us with this project? We would like to update our hall, to give it a more modern look. If you think you could help us with advice and options, please email [office@firslower.org](mailto:office@firslower.org) or call the school office on 01525 402735 - we would love to talk to you!

### **Local Elections – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

We thought we would give you advance notice that the school will be closed on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May as it is being used as a polling station for the Local Elections.

**Heather Edwards**

Yesterday, we said goodbye to Heather Edwards at Kids' Club and wished her good luck for her retirement. We all had a lovely time, enjoying chatting with a cup of tea and cake. We would like to thank the parents, carers and grandparents who came to say goodbye and to Jackie Wilson for baking Heather a beautiful cake. The very best wishes in the future to you Heather!

**Internet Safety Day – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

Every class will be taking part in Safer Internet Day related activities. There will be fun activities in YR and KS1, which introduce key aspects of internet safety and in KS2 children will be exploring what the risks are and how to enjoy the benefits of the internet safely.

**Kids' Club and Saplings Wrap around Care**

The charges for Kids' Club and Saplings wrap around care will be applied to ParentPay accounts today – please log on to your account and make prompt payment – thank you.

**February Half Term Break**

The children break up for February half term on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>. Please note that there is no training day during this half term and all the children are expected to be back in school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell  
Headteacher