

## Our Curriculum

Our aspiration for our children to achieve the very best they are capable of and our curriculum is carefully designed to enable this.

### Developing learners from 2-9

The Saplings gives us the exciting opportunity to plan learning from the age of 2, ensuring children are ready to make a smooth, successful transition into main school and beyond.

### Developing Our Writers

We carefully prepare children to write, developing vocabulary & technical skills, so they are then fired up and ready to write!

### Developing Maths Thinkers!

Through discussion and problem solving, we develop children's mathematical thinking, whilst ensuring they have the resources and visual images they need, to support their understanding .

### The Wider Curriculum

Whether it be learning a musical instrument, studying and emulating the style of an artist or learning about the Romans, our children enjoy a rich and diverse curriculum.

### Being a Forest School

We are proud to be a Forest School and as well as the dedicated FS sessions pupils have each year, teachers use every opportunity to take the learning outside!



## Behaviour and Safety

At The Firs we believe that the care we give our children is our highest responsibility. We are very passionate about creating a caring atmosphere and providing consistent, fair behaviour guidance.

### Being a Pivotal School

Pivotal are leading experts on behaviour management. The Pivotal approach is grounded in calm adult responses, praising positive behaviour and using consistent and depersonalised approaches, including restorative conversations, to manage negative behaviour.

### Pastoral Care

The school prides itself on providing high levels of pastoral care and support. We will always work with parents and go the extra mile to help our children when they need our support, it's what makes The Firs, The Firs!

### Safeguarding

We have a 'Safeguarding Team,' who work together to support our most vulnerable children and ensure they are safe and having their needs met.

**'We are very thankful for the loving and nurturing community at The Firs. It feels like family'.**  
(parent questionnaire 2019)

### The Firs Lower School

Station Road  
Amphill  
Bedfordshire  
MK45 2QR  
01525 402735  
Headteacher - Adam Campbell  
office@firslower.org

## The Firs Lower School

**Working Together To Achieve Our Best**

**Find out about us**

### A Guide To The Firs



**The Firs**

**Lower School**

**The Firs is a happy and very caring school . 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.**

## Teaching at The Firs

At The Firs, we help our children to become active and confident learners, who can work with others successfully and who believe in their own abilities.

### A Growth Mindset

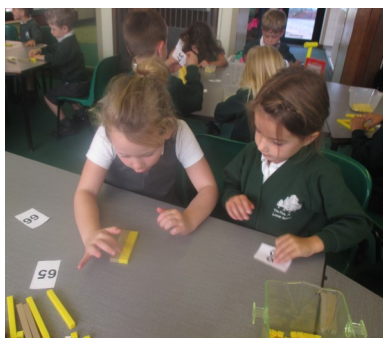
We devote a lot of time in the classroom and in assemblies, helping children to understand the importance of learning about learning, valuing mistakes, using feedback, persevering and realising there are no limits!

### Teaching and Assessment

Teachers ask carefully directed questions to find out what children know and to move children's learning on rapidly.

### Learning Partners

Effective use of 'learning partner' work, where children discuss their ideas, helps them to develop a firm grasp of concepts and become articulate and confident talkers.



### Effective Support and Challenge

Teachers ensure that tasks are well matched to children's needs and that they are all given opportunities to challenge themselves.

## Read Write Inc.

As a Read, Write Inc. (RWI) school, we are all passionate about enabling children to become fluent and successful readers and fostering a love of reading in children that will last a lifetime!

### Synthetic Phonics

RWI involves the lively and vigorous teaching of the 44 common sounds and how to blend words for reading at the same time as developing writing skills and spelling.

### Rapid Progress

Children are taught at pace in small groups following a programme exactly tailored to their learning needs. RWI believes in 'keep up' not 'catch up,' so any pupil not making progress is immediately supported to achieve.



### Tracking and Monitoring

Children are assessed half termly, so we always know exactly where they are and can organise the programme they follow accordingly. As a school we are visited termly by our RWI consultant to ensure we are maintaining the highest standards of delivery.

### Proven Success!

RWI is used by a huge number of schools and has a proven track record. At The Firs it has enabled us to achieve consistent success, achieving in 2018, a 96% pass mark in the Y1 phonics test, placing us in the top 7% of primary schools in the country.

## Enjoying learning

We believe learning should be fun! We ensure that children are engaged by what they are doing, so they achieve high standards.



### Play in The Saplings and Pine!

We have created stimulating and exciting play environments in our settings, which follow the principles of best early years

practice very carefully, to develop young learners.

### Fascinated by Science!

We are developing our Science provision and working on achieving the Science Quality Mark. Our PTA is investing substantially in equipping us to teach our revised programme, to stimulate our young scientists!

### Using ICT

With our ICT suite and portable chrome books, ICT is enlivening the teaching across the school.

### Wow Moments!

Every term we plan wow days and off timetable experiences, which add a sparkle to our learning programme and make a significant contribution to learning.

### Sporting Challenges

As a member of the Redborne Sports Partnership our children enjoy a host of PE and sporting opportunities including tennis, swimming, multi sports and rugby.