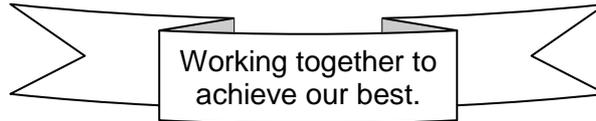




Newsletter

Issue No. 21
Date 12th July, 2019
www.firslower.co.uk



Chair of Governors: Gareth Jones

Governors: Adam Campbell, Paul McKinney, Fran Sherry, Jon Wilson, Louise Haigh, Jason Hart, Annette Anderson, Jason Manley-Donlon and John Ashley

Dear parents/carers,

Year 3 Trip to Holdenby House

Year 3 had a lovely day out on Monday 1st July to Holdenby House, which enhanced their learning about World War 2. The children participated in an 'evacuee day' and during their visit, they were taught about food rationing, 'make do and mend' and air raid shelters by different WW2 characters. Thank you to the year 3 staff for organising this fantastic event and to all the parent helpers who joined us for the day.

Sports days

KS2 had their sports day on 27th June and sports day for KS1 took place last Friday. For both days, the weather was beautiful and all the children did so well participating in the many events which Miss Hill organised. The winning teams were given certificates and medals were given to individual children. We would like to thank all the parents, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles who came to support the children on the day and to Miss Hill for all her hard work organising both events. Please look on our website to view the photos that were taken during these events.

Gala Day Parade - Ampthill's Greatest Show

The Firs Lower School was very pleased to be taking part again in the Ampthill Gala Parade, which is part of the Ampthill Festival weekend held on Sunday 7th July.

This year's theme was Ampthill's Greatest Show, and The Firs PTA chose to join the parade as 'The Greatest Show of Nature'. To complete their vision, each year group was encouraged to represent a different aspect of nature and we had bees, caterpillars, Butterflies, flowers, including venus fly traps, birds of prey, parrots and amazingly colourful peacocks.

The general look was bright colours, vibrant flowers and exotic birds showing off the very best of nature. Lots of our staff joined in including Mrs Freeman, Mrs Brady, Mrs Rogers and Mr Campbell.

The PTA worked tirelessly, planning and preparing, holding crafts sessions at the weekend, so that pupils could make their outfits. The teaching staff supported their efforts holding craft sessions during school time.

We are thrilled to announce that all the hard work of our PTA, teaching staff and pupils paid off and we were awarded with 1st Prize for the Gala Parade! We would like to thank Mrs Rogers for organising the school's contribution and we would like to say a very special thank you to Heidi Woodhead and the PTA team for making this day so successful!

To add to our excitement on the day, we were delighted to hear that one of our pupils in Year 4, Louis D won the Ampthill Great Park Design a Mascot competition and was presented with his award by the Mayor of Ampthill. "The Firs is on a roll!" Declared the Mayor! This is a superb opportunity and an amazing achievement. The winning entry will be brought to life by a professional illustrator and Louis will see his design being used for promotional purposes at family events and activities within the park. Congratulations and well done to Louis!

To complete our Gala day, we held a Firs Lower stall, to offer rest bite on such a hot day. Families joined us for playdough fun, bookmark designing and bug hotel making, which proved to be very popular. A big thank you to Mrs Bennett for organising the stall and to Mrs Ware for planning some fantastic forest schools fun.

Thank you to all that visited us on Gala day, it was lovely to see so many Firs families at this annual event, and the Gala itself, turned out to be The Greatest Show. We would also like to thank all the staff who manned the stall and for all their efforts on the day!

The Saplings Graduation Afternoon

Yesterday, our Saplings leavers had a wonderful graduation event on the KS1 field. We were delighted to be joined by the Mayor, Ian Titman who presented the graduation certificates to each child creating a lovely photo opportunity! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Saplings team for all their hard work this year and say a very special thank you and goodbye to The Saplings Leader, Sarah Lockerman who sadly will be leaving us at the end of the year. The graduation event presented a lovely opportunity to thank her publicly for all her hard work.

Year 4 leavers Party

A flyer has gone home with the children today regarding the Year 4 Leavers Party on Thursday 18th July from 6.00pm – 8.30pm. The flyer gives some information about the party and what will be taking place. There will be a water pistol zone and water pistol use will only be allowed in that zone! Please don't bring your own water pistols as they will be provided! We look forward to seeing all the leavers and parents there!

Lost property

There is a significant amount of lost property in each classroom and at the Office. If you are missing any items, can you check with your child's class lost property box or pop to the office to have a look at any items we have. Please be aware that all lost property will be disposed of at the end of term. Thank you

Scooters

There are a number of scooters that have been left in the scooter pods outside school for a considerable amount of time. Please could all scooters be claimed by the last day of term. Any scooters left after this will be disposed of. Thank you

Y4 Performances next week – 'Treachery at Traitor's Quay'!

On Monday 15th July the Y4 dress rehearsal will take place at 9.30am. We have a list in the office for all parents / carers / grandparents who wish to attend. There are some spaces - please contact the office if you wish to book.

On Tuesday 16th July, the Y4's will be performing at 2pm and everyone attending should have their ticket with them.

On Wednesday 17th July at 6.30pm the Y4's will be giving their final performance. Again, please have your tickets with you. A letter and email was sent out today giving details of the performance being filmed and how to order a copy if you wish.

Open Afternoon and Meet the Teacher – Monday 15th July

We warmly welcome you to come along to look with your child at their work, as part of our open afternoon which will run from 2pm and finish at 4pm. It is always a lovely occasion, with the children really enjoying the opportunity to share all their books with you!

From 4.00pm – 4.30pm you will have chance to meet your child's class teacher for next year in the classroom where they will be in September.

Year 4 Shirt Signing

We will be continuing the tradition this year, where the Year 4 children are allowed to either have their shirt signed or bring in a shirt for signing. We hope our Year 4s have a fantastic last week with us.

ParentPay - Wraparound Care and Lunch Balances

Can you please check your ParentPay accounts to ensure all balances have been cleared by Friday 19th July, ie. Lunches, Wraparound Care or Holiday Club. Emails will be sent out as reminders to any accounts that have outstanding balances.

July's invoices for Wraparound care will be applied to ParentPay one week in advance, weekend of 13th July, to allow for payment by 19th July 2019.

Any credit balances for pupils leaving us this summer will be refunded to the 'Parent Account' within ParentPay, by accessing your 'Parent Account' a withdrawal can be requested and a refund issued to the card used to make the original payment.

Thank you for your support with this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam J G Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher