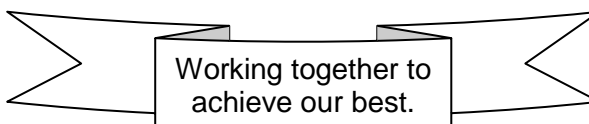




## Newsletter

Issue No.  
Date 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2019  
[www.firslower.co.uk](http://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,

### Welcome back!

We would like to welcome all our children back to school and take this opportunity to say that we look forward to working with all our parents and carers in partnership, to make sure our children have another successful and happy year at The Firs!

### Refurbishing The Firs!

A considerable amount of effort has been put into refurbishment work across The Firs over the summer. Children and staff in Y4 really appreciate their refurbished classrooms, with new furniture and flooring and new boys toilets. The toilets have also been refurbished in Y2



and flooring areas replaced in Y1. The taps have been replaced across the school to improve hygiene, ease of use and to save water. The staff room kitchen area has been enhanced and in addition, the refurbishment of the hall has been almost completed, with the instillation of new curtains and blinds. A huge thank you to Mackie, for all his hard work, completing or supervising these important improvements.

### Pre school build- Update

Building work on the new home for our Saplings Pre School started at the beginning of the holidays and great progress has been made over the summer. The foundations have been laid, the building of the retaining wall behind the Pre School is going on apace and work has already begun on the footings of the building itself. With a scheduled completion time of mid November, these are exciting times at The Firs!



## Year Group Welcome Letters

Today, children in Y1-Y4 should have brought home a welcome letter that gives you some important information concerning procedures and arrangements in your child's year group. These letters can also be found on our school website.

## Developing Our Reading Scheme

We are currently reviewing and re-organising our reading scheme, which will be ready to relaunch on **Monday 16th September**. We will update you about the changes in our next newsletter, going out on Friday 13th. If you currently have a school reading book, could you return it next week to your child's class teacher, so it can be re allocated to its new level in the revised scheme. Thank you.

## New Attendance Policy

Today, your child should have brought home an important letter setting out a key change to our attendance policy. This letter will be available on our website but if you do not receive one and want a paper copy, please ask at the school office.

## New starters open evening on 14<sup>th</sup> October

The school will be holding an open evening for new parents, whose children will be starting school in September 2021, on Monday 14th October. We are currently designing activities and plan to invite some of our existing pupils to join us as ambassadors of the school for the evening! More details to follow.

## Clubs

We will be publishing information about clubs on offer to children next week.

## Music lessons

The school has peripatetic teachers who come into school to offer piano, violin, viola, guitar and brass instrument lessons and are usually available for pupils from year 2.

- Piano  
Piano lessons will resume on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Anyone wishing to start piano lessons can contact the school office for Mr Perry's details.



- Violin and Viola  
Violin and Viola lessons will resume on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Lessons in school are provided via Central Bedfordshire please go to [www.inspiringmusic.co.uk](http://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk) and click on "Music Lessons in School" where you can get details of costs and enrol for lessons. Alternatively you can call 0300 300 6604 to speak to Inspiring music directly. Lessons in school are provided by Mrs Perry.

- Brass instruments  
Brass instrument tuition is available via Central Bedfordshire Council. A range of instruments are taught but the choice has to be suitable for the pupils' age. Please go to [www.inspiringmusic.co.uk](http://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk) and click on "Music Lessons in School" where you can get details of costs and enrol for lessons. Alternatively you can call 0300 300 6604 to speak to Inspiring Music directly. Lessons in school are provided by Mr Halliday.



- Guitar  
Guitar Lessons will resume on Monday 9th September. If your child wishes to start with guitar lessons then please complete the attached registration form and if it is returned by Monday morning, Mr Early the guitar teacher will see your child when he comes in to school.



### Water bottles

It is so important that children keep themselves hydrated, so we would be grateful if you could support us by making sure that your child has their water bottle in school each day. Water bottles are available for sale from the school office at a cost of £1.40.

### School Lunches for children in Saplings, Year 3 and Year 4

We ask parents who wish for their children in Saplings, Year 3 and Year 4 to have school lunches, to prepay on ParentPay at the start of each half term, ensuring that there is always sufficient funds in your account to cover your child's meals and keep the account in credit. A lunch for a Saplings, Year 3 or Year 4 child is £2.15 per day. Pupils in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the Universal Free School Meals scheme.

Thank you.



### May Bank Holiday date change

Although a long way in the future, we would like to point out to parents that the date for the May bank holiday in 2020 has been moved to **Friday 8th May**.

### Firs News App

#### **Stay up-to date with all The Firs Lower Latest News and Galleries**

Download the 'School News' App for free and connect with The Firs, postcode MK452QR. You will have instant access to our latest news bulletins, photo galleries, Events Calendar and all our newsletters and letters home.

**See the attached flyer!**



### Plees for toys!

- Pine are asking for any unwanted dolls, doll clothes and doll play equipment (prams, bottles, cots, high chairs etc.) for their role play area
- Kid's Club are asking for any unwanted Barbie / Action Man or similar figures, clothes and equipment



If you can help with any of this please bring it into Pine/Kid's Club or the school office. Thank you!

Yours sincerely,

Adam J G Campbell  
Headteacher