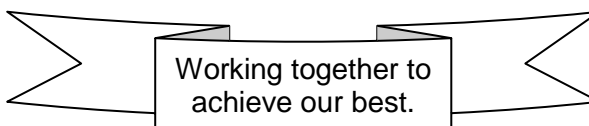




Newsletter

Issue No. 2
Date 16th September, 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,

New starters open evening on 14th October

Please note, the message that went out in the last newsletter about our open evening is for children starting school in September 2020 and not 2021 as previously published – apologies for this error.

The school will be holding an open evening for new parents, whose children will be starting school in September 2020, on Monday 14th October from 7.00pm – 9.00pm. 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.

Transfer to Middle School and Starting School

Parents can now make a Transfer to Middle School 2020 application online via the Central Bedfordshire website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or via a paper application (available on their website or they can post a copy when requested). Information about this has been emailed to all year 4 parents.

Parents of children due to start school in September 2020 can also make an online application using the link above. It is very important that you complete the application which relates to you, as soon as possible, stating your preference school. If you have any questions relating to this, please pop into the school office – thank you.

Inspiring Visit from Will Goodge

On Thursday we were lucky enough to have an assembly where we were joined by Will Goodge, a former pupil of The Firs. Will shared with the children, his incredible journey running from John O Groats to Lands End in just 16 days to raise money for charity. This involved Will in running from 38 to 79 miles a day. Over that time Will's focus was to raise money for 'Save The Children', which is a charity his late mother supported.

Will talked to the children about the equipment he used, the amount of food he had to eat over the day, the transit van where he cooked and slept and stressed the key role played by the team of adults who supported / joined in with him on his epic journey. The children found Will's journey fascinating which was evident in the quantity and quality of questions asked by the children afterwards. One child said at the end of the assembly "I liked him, he was really nice and when I am older I want to be like him and do what he does to raise money".

Reading Books to be Returned to School

If you have any of our reading books at home, can you please bring them into school as a matter of urgency – thank you.

Caterlink Menus

The Caterlink menus for the Autumn term have gone out with the children today and has been placed on our website under 'parents' 'communications'. Please note that we are on week 3 this week. If you have not received a paper copy and would like one, please ask at the office – thank you.

A message from The PTA

Thursday 19th September at 8pm is our first meeting to kick off the school year. Everyone is very welcome for a glass of wine and to gather ideas for this year's fundraising calendar. We will soon start organising the 2020 Ball and have all the usual events to plan, but also we are looking for some new ideas to change things a bit!

In 2018/19 we've raised an incredible £21k, which has paid for a class set of Chrome books, a sandpit, science equipment, sports and playground equipment, reading books, support for all school trips, Wow days, Year 4 coach for swimming, Christmas gifts for all the children, a professional Christmas pantomime and much more. Our work allows for all the added extras that really enrich our children's experience at The Firs and the best thing is that most of the money is raised through events that, in themselves, are a core part of school life; the Ball, Discos, Movie Night, the Fun Run and BBQ, Bedtime Stories, Gala day and the Christmas Craft Fair.

The PTA is open to everyone - we're a really friendly group, always enjoy a drink and lots of laughs while raising much needed funds for our lovely school. So do please come along and join in - you can get involved as much or as little as you'd like.

We hope to see you on 19th September, or failing that, at our AGM on 30th September.

With best wishes,
Jo Freeman - PTA Secretary
Firslowerpta@gmail.com
Facebook - The Firs Lower School PTA

Emailing Staff in School

We greatly value working in partnership with our parents and we want to encourage productive and positive communication. If you want to talk to a teacher, then please bear in mind they will have much more time at the end of the day rather than in the morning. We hope that sharing teacher's emails has provided another useful way of communicating with us and staff are very conscientious about replying. In the interests of staff worklife balance, please be aware that when you email a member of staff, our policy states that you will get a reply within 36 hours from your email being sent.

Ampthill Great Park Event

Ampthill Town Council would like to invite you to attend The Ampthill Great Park Experience on Friday 20th September. This is a free event which aims to celebrate everything that we have achieved in the park over the last 5 years, with the help of Heritage Lottery Funding. There will be various activities for all park users to enjoy and it will really bring the community together to celebrate what a fantastic park we have.

What are we Learning Sheets

The 'What are we Learning' sheets will be emailed out to all parents this week. This is to keep you informed, so that you can support your child's learning at home.

Autumn Term Date Sheet

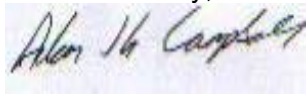
The Autumn term date sheet will be published tomorrow and will be emailed out to you then.

Home School Agreement

This very important document sets out the agreement regarding the ways in which parents, children and the school are expected to contribute to the partnership, which helps us all to get the best outcomes for our children.

Please spend some time talking through it with your child so that there is a common understanding about working as a team, to live our values, respect one another and work together, so that we can achieve our best.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Adam J G Campbell', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher