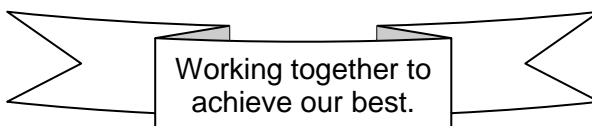




Newsletter

Issue No. 4
Date 11th October, 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,

Henry Moore Drawings Competition

After the year 3 visit to the Henry Moore sculpture gardens, which was organised by Mrs Rogers, who taught in Hazel Class last year, all the children entered a competition to create a 2D piece of art, based on Henry Moore's work. They were all great and with over 500 entries, it's fantastic that Freddie won second prize! His family were invited to a presentation on Saturday and to see his work up on display in the gallery framed. He was given a special book, he will receive a book plate and he will be given his framed work after the display next month. Well done Freddie, we are all so proud of you!



Mrs Shuaghnessy's Long Service Award Morning

Mrs Shuaghnessy, the lollipop lady received her long service award from her post last week, after serving over 50 years looking after many children from the local schools when crossing the road on Dunstable Street. She is now the longest serving lollipop lady in central Bedfordshire, which is an amazing achievement and she's still going strong!



We were invited, along with Alameda Middle, Russell Lower and Central Bedfordshire Council last Friday, to join her the event and to join with everyone in celebrating her achievement. Two of our year 4 children, Emma and Elizabeth went along and were accompanied by Mrs Finn and Mrs Ashby. The year 4 children made Mrs Shuaghnessy a card and gave her some flowers, to mark this very special occasion.

KS1 Multi-skills Festival

On Thursday 3rd October, some Y1 and 2 children took part in a Multi-skills Festival at Redborne School. The children did incredibly well at this event and the staff that accompanied the children commented on their extremely good behaviour. Well done to all the children who attended.



World Mental Health Day

Yesterday, we took part in raising money and celebrating World Mental Health Day. We started the day with an assembly to introduce the children to the idea that a healthy mind is as important as a healthy body. The children began and finished assembly by singing songs (led by Mrs Freeman and Miss Hill) that put everyone in a joyful and positive frame of mind. The children then went back to their classrooms to carry out a wide range of engaging activities that promoted awareness of their feelings and mental state. In addition, groups of children had the opportunity to participate in mindfulness sessions with Annette Anderson a parent governor, who has done lots of work with children in this area before. We would like to thank Annette for giving up her time to help promote this very important day. We would also like to thank all the parents who supported 'Young Minds' charity and sent their children to school in 'something yellow'. We have managed to raise over £200 which will help Young Minds to carry on the very important work they do, helping vulnerable young people across the country.



Our value this month is ambition

At school, we have talked to the children about being ambitious in relation to their work and hobbies. An ambitious child has the patience and perseverance to achieve the goal they are striving for. They are willing to take small steps and use their growth mindset to achieve their ultimate goal. We are asking parents/carers at home to send in a note if they think their child has demonstrated ambition, describing how they demonstrated this value. We will celebrate some of their achievements in assembly (if they are happy with this). Examples might be:

- Staying positive if something stops or temporarily hinders them from achieving their ambition – e.g. they don't get picked for the team they want to play for or they aren't chosen for the role they had in mind.
- Taking steps to overcome the barriers that are preventing them from achieving their ambition – e.g. they practise their goalkeeping skills in order to gain a position in a football team.
- Setting themselves small targets in order to achieve a bigger one – e.g. being able to run 50 metres, then 100m and so on in order to be able to run 2km.

Beech Seed Collection Walk

Beech Class had a lovely afternoon on Wednesday when they all walked to great Ampthill park. They were collecting seeds for the Kew Gardens Seed Bank. Kew Gardens then store the seeds as their seed bank which is a global resource for conservation and sustainable plants. The children had a wonderful time and behaved so sensibly and took such interest in the natural world around them. Well done to Beech and thank you to the Year 2 team for organising this event.



Parent Consultation Evenings

The boards for our parent consultation evenings are in the entrance hall, so please come in and sign up if you haven't already done so. The first parent consultation evening is on Tuesday 29th October and the

second one is on Thursday 7th November. If you cannot get into school to sign up, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist you – thank you.

Open Evening at The Firs

Our open evening for parents of children due to start school next September (2020) takes place on Monday 14th October from 7pm – 9pm. If you have a child who will be due to start school next September, please come along and find out about the great education The Firs School will give your child. If any parents of children who have recently started our school would like to find out more, you are most welcome to join us too!

Parent Governor Vacancy

We are currently inviting nominations for a new parent governor. All the details are on the website and the information was also sent out with the children last week. It is a very rewarding and important role and if you feel you could help or wish to nominate someone, please get in touch with the school office. Thank you.

Rotary Shoeboxes

A letter has already been sent out asking for items to fill up the Rotary shoeboxes. We are asking for items to be sent in by 30th October and / or a donation of £2.00 towards the transport costs. This is a great cause and helps to reinforce our caring ethos.

PTA Disco

The PTA disco will take place next Friday, 18th October YR / 1 3.30 – 4.15pm and Y2/3/4 4.45pm – 5.30pm. This is also a dress down day and funds collected will go to the PTA to help them provide the fantastic support they give to the school.

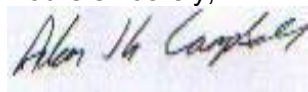
Year 3 Egyptian Day

Just a reminder that Year 3 will have their Egyptian Day on Thursday 17th October when they will need to come to school in their costume – thank you for your support.

Half Term

As this is the last newsletter before half term, we would like to remind you that half term begins on Monday 21st October and the children will return to school on Tuesday 29th October. I hope you all have a lovely half term.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher