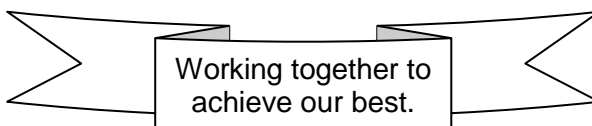




Newsletter

Issue No. 5
Date 1st November, 2019
www.firslower.co.uk



Chair of Governors: Gareth Jones

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

Dear parents/carers,

Open Evening at The Firs

We held our open evening on Monday 14th October for parents of children who are due to start school in September 2020. Lots of our staff attended this evening and it was good to meet so many prospective parents. Thank you to our dedicated staff who worked so hard and did a brilliant job, giving our visitors a flavour of The Firs! We were also accompanied by some members of our parent forum, governors, PTA and our school meals provider, Caterlink. We were so grateful to the parents on the Forum and our PTA, who gave up their time so generously to support the evening. There were 4 of our Year 4 children who also attended the evening, greeting parents at the door and helping Mrs A'Court with her tours. We would like to say a big thank you to our very impressive Year 4s, who were wonderful ambassadors for our school!



If you have a child who is due to start school next September and have not had a look around our school, please contact us and we will be happy to take you on a tour. The deadline for admissions forms is 15th January, 2020.



Harvest Assembly

Thank you to everyone who sent in food items for our harvest assembly. Mr Campbell led the assembly focusing on how important harvest assembly is, making the children aware of helping people all over the world and in our own community, who are not as fortunate as they are. As the children left assembly, they sang 'Count on Me' which was a very appropriate song for harvest. Thank you to Mrs Freeman and Miss Hill for leading the singing, which was fantastic! The 'Need Project' were very grateful for all the food donations – thank you for your support!



A message from the PTA

We're now signed up with My Nametags, who give 24% of your spend back to the PTA - just use the school code 35742 next time your order name tags. You can also get 5% off your order using code SCHOOL5, so everyone's a winner! <https://www.mynametags.com/>

Cedar Class Seed Collection Walk

Cedar Class had a lovely afternoon on Wednesday 15th October when they all walked to great Ampthill Park to take part in collecting seeds for the Kew Gardens Seed Bank. Kew Gardens then store the seeds at their seed bank which is a global resource for conservation and sustainable plants. Both Y2 classes have now taken part in this trip and have taken such interest in the natural world around them. The children all behaved so well and we would like to thank the Y2 team for organising these events.



Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Day

On Thursday 17th October, Year 3 had 'History off the Page' in the school hall for their Ancient Egyptian Day. Through role-play, children experienced life as it would have been in 1330 B.C. The Pharaoh at the time was Akhenaten and his wife, Nefertiti, who left Thebes to set up a new city to worship the Sun God, Aten. Your child used authentic tools and materials whenever possible to learn skills as apprentices in a wide variety of workshops eg. lamp workers, embalmers, stone carvers, scribes, bread makers, tomb painters, amulet makers and potters.

As the day progressed, the children got involved in the issues of the time, with the chance to participate in a range of cross-curricular activities, including preparing entertainment for the Royal Banquet celebrations. There was also a story-telling session.

By the end of the day, the children had a really good idea of how it felt to be an Egyptian at this time.

We would like to thank the parents who dressed up and took part in the day – your help was greatly appreciated and it would not have been able to take place without you. Thank you to the Y3 Team for organising such a successful 'wow' event!



Our Value this Month is Hope.

At school, we have explained to the children that hope is all about being positive and persevering, as the things we hope for may not come easily. We have talked about what the children might hope for, both for themselves and for other people. We can hope for little things like for sunshine tomorrow or for big things like an end to poverty.

We are asking parents/carers at home to send in a note if they think their child has engaged with this month's value - hope. We will celebrate some of their achievements in assembly (if they are happy with this). Examples might be:

- Sharing their hopes and talking about how they might make them happen.
- Having hopes for other people and being prepared to help make their hopes come true.
- Keeping positive about their hopes, even when they seem a long way off.
- Taking small steps to bring about the thing they hope for.

Vacancy at The Saplings Pre-School

We have a vacancy for a Level 3 pre-school practitioner (or working towards level 3) to start as soon as possible. This is a full-time position, working Monday – Friday, term time only. If you would like further information about this post, please look at our website www.firslower.co.uk, under 'school information' then 'vacancies'.

School Photographs

The proofs of the individual and siblings photographs were sent home on Wednesday with the children. If you would like to order, please return the envelope by Thursday 7th November or order online at www.dsp-order.uk. Please do not send any orders into school after 7th November as we will be unable to send them off for you – thank you for your support.

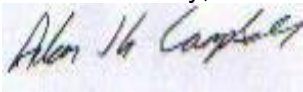
Naming of School Items

We have a lot of unnamed school items such as jumpers, coats, fleeces etc., which we are unable to return. Please, please ensure that all your child's school items are clearly named as we want to make sure, when lost, that they can be safely returned to your child. Thank you for your support.

Messy Church and Charity Cake Stall

On Saturday 9th November there will be an event taking place at Ampthill Baptist Church in aid of the 'Bedford Nightshelter'. There will be crafts, songs, games and bible stories and a cake sale from 10.30 – 11.30am.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher