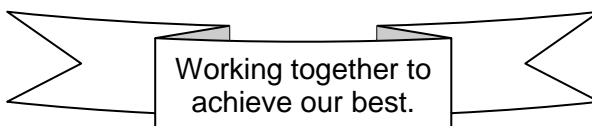




## Newsletter

Issue No. 8  
Date 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019  
[www.firslower.co.uk](http://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,

### Christmas at The Firs

We have been enjoying our Christmas build up, with some wonderful events across the school. In the first week of December, we were treated to a fantastic PTA Panto. During last week and the start of this week, we have seen The Saplings and Years R - 3 perform such wonderful Christmas nativities both in their dress rehearsals and their afternoon performances.

Each performance was fantastic, with dancers, actors, narrators and singers all delivering their very best, working together, remembering their cues and lines, all dressed up in their amazing Nativity outfits. What little stars they all were!



We would like to thank all the children, who have entertained, siblings, parents, aunties, uncles, grandparents and staff filling us all with Christmas spirit!

We would like to thank the staff for all their hard work behind the scenes, making props, choreographing dances and rehearsing, inspiring our children to be confident and to 'have a go', ultimately putting on such strong performances.



We would also like to thank all the parents who provided costumes for the Christmas performances and to those who helped on the day. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated by all the staff and children. Finally, a big thank you to our PTA, for arranging a panto for the whole school to enjoy, providing refreshments and raffles for audiences attending our performances, and also for their hard work and fantastic support that they have given the school throughout the Autumn term.



### String Assembly

Last week, Hannah Perry who teaches children to play the violin or viola, came into assembly with some of our pupils who already have lessons in school. Their parents were invited to attend and the children performed really well to the whole school. **If your child would like to learn the violin or viola, please let the school office know and we would be very happy to help.**



### School Choir

We wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate the school choir for their fantastic performances this term at Redborne School and St Andrews Church, which we have mentioned in previous newsletters. The choir also sang at Agate House and Lavender Courtlast Wednesday, entertaining the residents with a collection of Christmas songs. The children performed extremely well and were a credit to The Firs and we would like to say a big thank you to them and to Mrs Freeman for all her hard work in organising this event. We would also like to thank Miss Hill for her help with the choir each week and to the many parents who accompanied the children to Agate House and Lavender Court. On both occasions, the supervisors commented on their beautiful singing and fantastic behaviour.



### Y2 Christmas Performance

Iain Wilson, father of Ellen, recorded the Y2 Christmas performance on Tuesday afternoon. If you would like a copy of the nativity, please email Iain at [iainwilson24@hotmail.com](mailto:iainwilson24@hotmail.com) and he will email you a link, where you can download the recording. Any donations for this service can be given to the PTA funds – thank you for your support and a big thank you to Iain Wilson for organising this.

### Christmas Dinner

We would like to say a big thank you to Candice Charles, our kitchen manager and her team, who worked very hard to produce a wonderful Christmas lunch on Wednesday. In our Firs tradition, everyone wore Christmas hats and the children were served by the teaching staff. It was a lovely occasion and I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who took part.



### Christmas Parties

All the children had their Christmas parties, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. We would like to thank you for donating to the party food which was greatly appreciated by everyone.

### Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to those who contributed to Christmas Jumper Day in support of 'Save the Children'. It was lovely to see all the children in their Christmas jumpers and £132 will be donated to this charity.





### **New Saplings Building Update**

I have already written to the Saplings parents and I thought I would update you with the progress of our new Saplings building. Unfortunately the contractor Frame Build has gone into liquidation and this has pushed the opening of our new build back.

The positive news is that we have all been working extremely hard to turn this situation around quickly and we are entering into an agreement with Equibuild, to complete the remainder of the project. We anticipate the project being complete sometime in February 2020.

I understand that the delays with this project are very frustrating for parents and we share those feelings! Everyone connected with this project is working very hard, to ensure the building is completed as soon as possible.

All our new pre-school children who are due to join us in January will be accommodated successfully until we can get into our new building.

### **Premier Sport Clubs**

Next half term, Premier will be hosting the following extra-curricular session in our school. These sessions give your child the chance to become more active, learn new skills, gain confidence and have lots of fun whilst in the comfort of their own school. Please see below the clubs that are available, and an overview of what the sessions entail:

- *Badminton*

This club will focus on working through different types of shots, rules, match play and refereeing.

- *Cheerleading*

This club will focus on children learning basic arm motions, jumps, cheers and chants and working on a group pom pom dance to perform in the final week.

Booking is simple! Just open the document attached, and follow the links to Premier's booking page. For more information, contact details are also on the attached document.

### **Update on Missed Gymnastics Session**

We wanted you to know that we contacted Premier Sport to let make them aware about how concerned we were that no-one turned up from them, to take the club on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We would like to apologise for this and Premier Sport have assured us that you will get your money back for the session missed. We are working with them to ensure this does not happen in the future and once again, we apologise for the inconvenience this caused.

### **Christmas Assembly**

Today, it was lovely that we were joined both by the Pine and Saplings children for our final assembly this term. The highlight was the arrival of Father Christmas who came to deliver presents to all the children and the surprise flash mob at the end, which had the staff and children dancing to 'All I want for Christmas is You'! It was lovely to see all the young Saplings children dancing away and having fun and the older children organising their own congo round the hall! The children were very excited after this, to go back to class to enjoy opening their presents.



We are hoping to get some pictures and videos that capture the lovely atmosphere in our assembly today onto our website shortly.

Finally, and on behalf of all the staff and Governors, I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New year. We look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam J G Campbell".

Adam J G Campbell

Headteacher