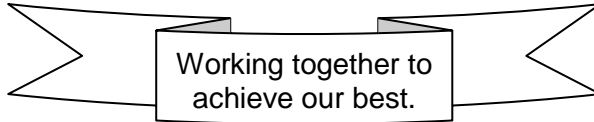




Newsletter

Issue No.2
Date 18th September, 2020
www.firslower.co.uk



Chair of Governors: Gareth Jones

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

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to our Pine children!



It has been fantastic meeting all our new children in reception, as they completed all their induction visits to The Firs this week. They all had a super time when they all came in together today

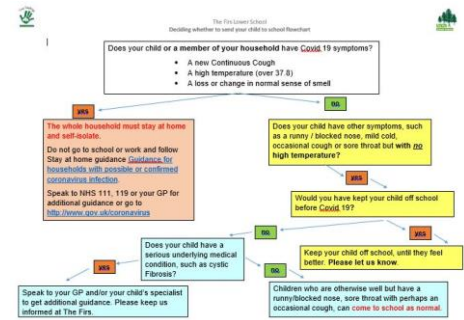
too! They have all played together beautifully, enjoying activities inside and in the outdoor area. Well done to all our Pine children and a big thank you to the staff team for looking after them so well and helping to make their first week in school such a happy one.



Deciding whether to send your child to school flowchart

We are all living in difficult times at the moment and we are aware of how difficult it can be, in the current situation, to decide whether to send your child to school or not when they have cold / flu like symptoms.

With this newsletter, we have produced a flowchart which we hope will be useful to parents if they are confronted with this problem at some point this term. We hope it is of some use.



Dates for this term

You will not be surprised that there are less dates / events for the autumn term this year although there are some events that will be happening in a different and/or virtual way and we will be including a 'date' sheet with the newsletter next week.

Reduced Marking Trial

Like all schools, we are looking this year at ways to improve staff work/life balance, along with making sure time spent on providing feedback to children is done in the most effective way.

Often, we feel that staff write detailed comments for children in their books which, due to the need to read and understand them and the need for time to be provided to do this, the written feedback is not always as effective in moving children's learning on as we would like.

For this reason we are conducting a trial over the next 4 weeks where, for some lessons in English maths and science, teachers will look at pupil work after the lesson, making notes rather than marking each book individually. They will then plan a feedback session for the beginning of the next lesson e.g. picking up on misconceptions or next steps to build on what the children have already learned.

After half term, we will report back on how this trial went and the future plans we have for marking at The Firs

Pick up and drop off reminder

We would like to thank all the parents in Elm class for being so positive and patient after having to move their pick up/drop off slot. We have had a lot of feedback that both this change and the new layout in this area has helped the arrangements at the beginning and end of the day for Y4 and Elm class parents and we would like to thank all the parents for the feedback we have received.

It would be really appreciated if parents could make sure that they arrive/depart the school site **within the 10 minute window** for pick up and drop off, so that we can maximise the social distancing as much as possible. Thank you.

Kids' Club

It's been great to see the children back in Kids' Club – we have all missed them! Just a reminder that if you have booked a session but decide you do not need it, please let us know 24 hours before the session. At the moment we have several children who have been booked into a session but are not turning up. We really need to know and your help with this would be greatly appreciated – thank you.

Bags in School

As you are aware, we are allowing bookbags that can fit into your child's tray in the classroom to be brought into school and Prestige in Flitwick, have a small Firs rucksack which we also allow. See link for Prestige in Flitwick - [Small FIRS-Backpack](#)

This week, large rucksacks have been coming into school which we cannot accommodate due to the fact that we are limiting use of cloakrooms to reduce the number of touch points that require cleaning during this period. Thank you for your help with this.

Starting School and Transfer to Middle School in September 2021

The forms for starting school and Y4 transferring to middle school in September 2021 are now online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or you can complete a paper application which can be downloaded from the Central Bedfordshire website. You can also call admissions on 0300 300 8037 and they will post a copy to you if you prefer. All applications must be in by the closing date which is 15th January, 2021.

School meals Update

Thank you to the many parents who have pre-ordered their child's school lunch, selecting from the menu using Parent Pay. If you have not yet used the pre-booking system, we would be very grateful if you could do so this weekend, for next week. The guidance is attached again with this newsletter, for your assistance.

School Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a midday supervisor to work 2 days a week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Y2. The hours are 12.00 – 1.20pm each day. If you are interested in this post, please contact Sue A'Court for more information.

Yours sincerely,

