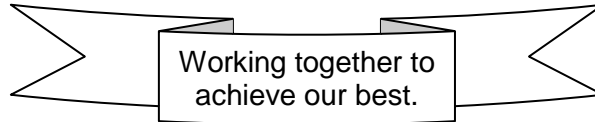




Newsletter

Issue No.7
Date 23rd October, 2020
www.firslower.co.uk



Chair of Governors: Gareth Jones

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

Dear parents/carers,

Vacancies at The Firs Lower School

We currently have a vacancy for a Schools Business Manager (permanent post) and a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant (fixed term post). Both posts can be found on our website under 'school information' and then 'vacancies'. If you require any other information relating to either of these posts, please contact Sue A'Court by email sue.acourt@firslower.org or by telephone on 01525 402735.

Our new Scheme of work

We have completed a review of the design of our curriculum. We looked at how our curriculum supports our Values and Vision.

We have created a new Scheme of Work, with very detailed curriculum maps, that is now available on our website. It sets out the knowledge and skills we want all our children to learn, both in science / the foundation subjects of the National Curriculum (history, art, PE etc.) and our new Firs' Themes.

There is an introduction to the new scheme of work that describes the process we have gone through to create it attached with this newsletter. This information sheet also gives you an overview about how we have shaped our curriculum in line with Ofsted expectations.



The process of bringing in this new scheme was delayed by the Covid 19 situation, although we will be beginning to base our planned learning in the classroom on the new Scheme of Work from January 2021. We want you to have access to it now however, so that you get a chance to look at it and begin to become familiar with it.

By putting the Scheme of Work on the website and through the enhanced What Are We Learning sheets we will be sending home each term from now on, we hope that you will be better informed about what your child is learning in school, how it fits in to the sequence of learning over time and how to support that learning process at home.

Extra curricular experiences

In normal times, we make great efforts to ensure there are a range of clubs and activities children can take part in, before school, at lunchtime and after school. These opportunities are very important in offering children experiences beyond the taught curriculum and are greatly enjoyed by all who have participated in them.

As you will be aware, we have not been running clubs this half term and having reviewed the situation we do not feel, with the infection rate seeming to be on the rise that now would be the right time to try and resume our extra-curricular provision. Therefore there will be no change to the current position after half term, although we will review the situation again after Christmas.

Remote Learning and Google Classroom

Like all schools, The Firs has been working on developing a remote learning provision, to meet children's learning needs if individuals or class bubbles have to self-isolate due to the current Coronavirus situation.

We have established some Remote Learning Protocols to guide us in the way we will administer this provision if needed and we will share some details with you after half term. The provision we would make in such circumstances would make use of Google Classroom. All the FARM schools, as well as Redborne Upper School are using Google Classroom so some parents with older children will already be familiar with it.



All our children in Y1-Y4 will be given a ...@firslower.org email address and password after half term. From Google Classroom, children will be able to work on assignments set by their teacher, including work to complete and links to pre-recorded videos, where the class teacher will introduce new areas of learning etc.

Our plan is to begin to move our provision for homework to Google Classroom so that children, parents/carers and staff become increasingly confident using it. This process will begin after half term in some year groups but we will not be moving completely to GC for homework Y1-Y4 until January 2021.

When we send out the email addresses and passwords, we will also need you to complete a permission slip regarding the use of Google Classroom. Don't worry if you feel more technology challenged (!) ...we will accompany this with a guide to support you to use Google Classroom which we hope will help!

In Pine the staff are looking at using Tapestry to provide any future home learning opportunities, including for providing remote learning if children cannot be in school. There will be more details for parents / carers regarding this after half term.

Remote Learning Survey

Can you please complete the remote learning survey if you have not already done so. Here is the link to remind you – thank you. [Remote Learning Survey](#)



Staff Car Park – Another Reminder

Parents are still using our car park - Please, please help us by **NOT** using our staff car park to park your car during drop off and pick up. There have been a few near misses recently and we are very concerned for the safety of the children as it is the movement of the vehicles on-site that create the risks. Children on both sites are coming in at staggered times and there is more of a risk to them if our car park is being continuously used by some of our parents. We understand that parents who need to drive to school find it difficult to park when they arrive, but you are not permitted to use the staff car park and I thank you for your co-operation with this.

Y3 Virtual Egyptian Day

On Wednesday, the children in Year 3 took part in a 'Virtual Ancient Egyptian Wow Day'. The day followed the story of Tutankhamun's life, very sudden death and the preparation of his tomb. The children completed several activities that would have needed to be done in a rush to complete the tomb in time for his burial.

The children worked extremely hard and it was evident from writing after the event that they had a really good idea of how it felt to be an Egyptian at this time.

Thank you to all the Y3 team for organising this event and to the parents who sent in their contribution via ParentPay as this event could not have gone ahead without your support – thank you.



I hope you all have a good half term and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 3rd November

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam J G Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name of the headteacher.

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher