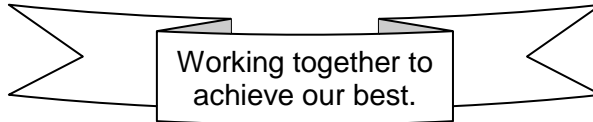




## Newsletter

Issue No.9  
Date 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2020  
[www.firslower.co.uk](http://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

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Dear parents/carers,

### Saplings

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say how much we are missing our Saplings children. We are so sorry they can't be with us in school at the moment and we are really looking forward to when they can re-join us on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Mrs Sherry and the team are all missing the children very much too. Saplings have sent out an email addresses for useful websites. There will also be a story from Mrs Sherry for all the children to listen to and this is coming out today. There will then be some more stories for children to listen to next week.

### Pine Reading Books

We have become aware that some Year R children are getting the wrong colour reading books. All Pine children are currently on lilac or brown. Please ensure:

- Only select books when the Pine boxes are out on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**
- Only take books from the boxes labelled **lilac** or **brown**
- **Check what colour book your child is on by looking at the colour sticker on your child's reading record sheet / on the front of your reading record book.**

### Anti Bullying week and Odd Socks Day

Next week is anti bullying week and so in all year groups we will be doing some work on anti bullying, our values around cooperation and how important it is that we care for one another.

We will be kicking off the week by celebrating odd socks day which is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November!

Children should come in school uniform on Monday but we are hoping to see all our children (and staff!) in odd socks on the day!



## Black History Month

Starting in October, with some work finishing this week, children across the school have been involved in activities to celebrate Black History month. Here are just a few examples of the work the children have been involved in.



**Year 1** children have learned about Martin Luther King. They talked about how unfair it was that people were treated differently and how important the 'I have a dream' speech was in helping to change things in America.

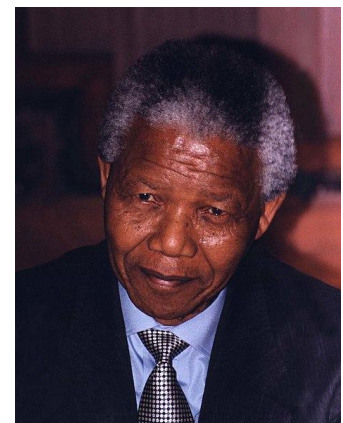
After learning about Martin Luther King the children made their own cards to take home. The cards contained a dream of their own with a painting on the front of a black hand holding a white hand. The teachers said that they had really lovely discussions in class about how unfair it was when black people were treated so differently and the children were very shocked at how they were treated.

They also loved reading stories such as 'Amazing Grace' by Mary Hoffman where she was told she couldn't play the part of Peter Pan in the school play. They talked about how our school value of Respect helps us to understand how we should treat our friends and everyone around us fairly and in the same way.



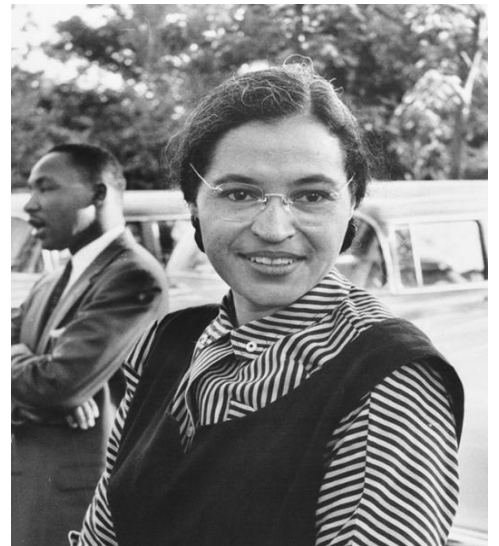
In **Year 3**, the children discussed what Black History Month is and why we celebrate it. The children discussed why it was important for all people to be treated equally.

The children looked at famous black men and women such as Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, Mary Seacole and Martin Luther King. They discussed their achievements and their contribution to equal rights for black people. The children chose an inspirational black man or woman to create a fact file about, including information about why their chosen person is significant to Black History.

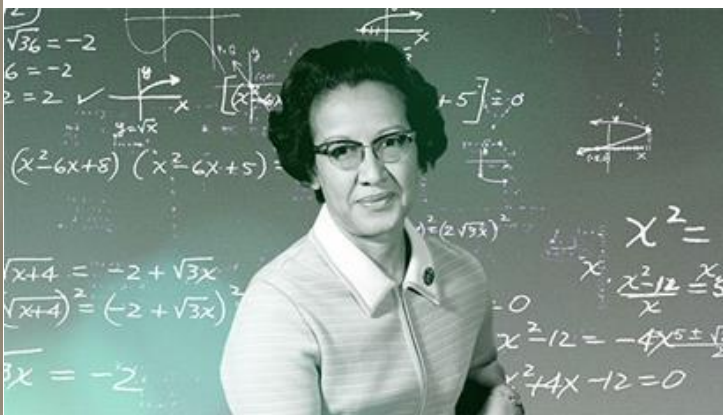


**Year 2** learned about the life of Rosa Parks and how her refusal to put up with inequality started the (unfortunately slow) path to change.

The children were upset and appalled at the marked difference in the treatment of people simply due to the colour of their skin and we were proud to see that they were determined to uphold the values of respect on this issue as we do here at The Fir : to treat other people as we would wish to be treated ourselves.



In **Year 4**, the children have been reading about and discussing the life and achievements of Mary Seacole, who fought against racial prejudice and helped injured soldiers near and on the battlefields. The children have also learned about the vital role played by black American Katherine Johnson in the NASA space missions of the 1960s, including her part in the success of the Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969.



The children then looked at Bisa Butler, an American fibre artist, known for her quilted portraits and designs celebrating black life.

The children were impressed by her intricate portraits using lots of vibrant colours and patterns. Using two of her portraits both Oak and Willow had a go at copying a section of the image to create a whole class portrait inspired by Bisa Butler.





## Children in Need

Today the children had a non-uniform day in support of 'Children in need'. There were lots of spots around the school and the children had a thoroughly enjoyable day! We would like to thank you all for your support and your kind donations which so far amounted to £507 for this very worthy cause.



## Vacancies at The Firs Lower School

We currently have a vacancy for a Premises Manager. This be found on our website under 'school information' and then 'vacancies'. If you require any other information relating to this post, please contact Sue A'Court by email [sue.acourt@firslower.org](mailto:sue.acourt@firslower.org) or by telephone on 01525 402735.

## Flu Vaccinations

This week, an email was sent out to all parents of children in YR-Y4 asking that they complete the online flu vaccination consent form. If you do not wish your child to have the flu vaccination, you do not need to do anything with the online form. The flu vaccines take place at The Firs on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## School Uniform

If you need school uniform, Prestige we will be CLOSED following the lockdown, but parents can still order online for delivery and click and collect. Please note that all collections will **only** be able to be made from the Barton Le Clay Branch. Thank you for your support.

## School Forum

We will be holding a *virtual* School Forum meeting on **30<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm** and we will be discussing and getting feedback on some key issues including:

- *Our transition processes and especially transition into YR*
- *Our current Covid 19 arrangements*
- *The new revised curriculum for science and the foundation subjects*
- *Asking parents about future areas of discussion for the year*



I will be contacting the parents/carers who were on our forum last year to invite them to attend but we would love to hear from some new parents who would like to join our forum. It would be great if some of our Saplings and new Pine parents could come along too.

If you would like to take part just send an email to [office@firslower.org](mailto:office@firslower.org) and we will make sure we send you us a zoom link for the meeting. Please come and join us as we really need to hear your views – thanks.

## Christmas Doorstep Shoots

Becky Kerr is a photographer who has lived & worked in Amptill for 16 years. She has worked with the Firs on a number of projects both when her children attended the school and after they left. She volunteers her photography services for Amptill festival and supplies us with the photos she takes of the Gala Day parade involving the Firs.

She is holding fun Christmas Doorstep shoots in December with a donation to be made for each one to charity. These slots are limited & can be pre-booked by contacting Becky on [becky@beckykerrphotography.co.uk](mailto:becky@beckykerrphotography.co.uk)

## Happy Diwali

Diwali will be starting tomorrow and so we would like to wish all our parents and carers who will be celebrating this event, our very best wishes and hope you have a very happy week of Diwali festivities.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell