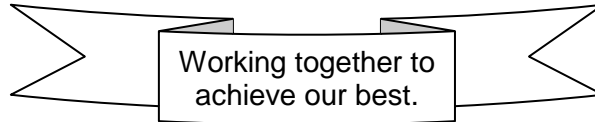




Newsletter

Issue No.11
Date 27th November, 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,

The Firs Lower School Supporting Families over the Festive Period

As we come to the end of this extraordinary year and start to plan for our very different Christmas celebrations, we are all aware that for some families this festive period will be a struggle and we were thinking about what we could do to help this situation.

As a school we have, in the past, collected for the Need Project based in Shefford/Stotfold who support families across Central Bedfordshire with their food bank. We always donate our Harvest Festival food collection to them. As we did not do that this year, we have been in touch with the Project to see if we, as a school can support them. They were delighted that we have offered to help as they are supporting an unprecedented number of families. They have asked for donations of specific festive food items from our school families to support families in crisis over this period and have asked for the following:-

Christmas puddings

Christmas cakes (in particular the rectangular slab style Christmas Cake)

Christmas selection boxes

Sugar

Coffee

Squash

Cereal

Tinned potatoes

Tinned Meat



Please don't stray from this list as these are our allocated items

Just so you are aware of the scale, the Need Project are looking to give out 1200 selection boxes for children of families they are supporting, so any of the above items you can provide will be warmly welcomed.

Boxes will be provided at each entrance gate and you will be able to put your donated items in them from Monday 30th November to Friday 4th December.

Waitrose are also supporting us with this by giving us a very generous donation of £100 so that we can buy items for this cause.

Thank you for your support.

Santa Challenge

Our school is joining the SANTA CHALLENGE, a virtual Christmas trip to Lapland, where active travel trips are counted during the two weeks of the competition from Monday 30th November to Friday 11th December.

A letter is attached giving you more information about this.



Google Classroom

With this newsletter, we are attaching a letter giving you details concerning the launch of Google Classroom throughout the school. The letter gives you information about Google Classroom and how to log on. There is a paper version of the letter going home today, with your child's school email address and password. The same information sticker will be stuck into your child's Home School Record book when they next have it available in school.



Once you have logged on, all the classes have an activity to find on GC, to get them started and to begin to familiarise everyone with how it works.

We have attached a help sheet for parents with this newsletter, which gives some guidance and points you to some videos that might be of help. We are creating a [Google Classroom](#) page that will be accessible under both the 'Parents' and 'Our Learning' tabs on The Firs website.

PTA News

Please find a letter attached with lots of news from our wonderful PTA who work so hard for the benefit of our children at The Firs.

PTA Christmas Raffle and Virtual Christmas Fair

Today, your child will be bringing home information, including raffle tickets for the PTA Christmas Raffle and Virtual Christmas Fair.



Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner will be on Thursday 17th December and attached is the menu from Caterlink. If your child would like a Christmas dinner, please order this on your ParentPay account – thank you.

Class Christmas Celebration Afternoon – Monday 14th December

This year, each class will have an afternoon of Christmas celebrations when the children can come to school in non-uniform and celebrate on the same day. We will be providing each child with their own snacks which the school will be funding.

Virtual Christmas Tree Festival

The children will be making their Christmas decorations to go on our Christmas tree, which will be shown on the virtual Christmas Tree Festival website from Saturday 12th December.



Vacancies at The Firs

We currently have 3 vacancies at The Firs:-

Premises Manager – permanent post – Closing date 30th November, 2020

One-to-one Teaching Assistant – part time, fixed term – Closing Date 11th December, 2020

Teaching Assistant for Y3 – permanent post – Closing date 11th December 2020

All these posts can be found on our website www.firslower.co.uk under 'school information' then 'vacancies'. If you require any further information, please contact Sue A'Court on 01525 402735 or email sue.acourt@firslower.org.

Firs Staff Car Park

Tonight when a member of our staff went to drive her car from the staff car park, she noticed that someone had driven into her car, making a severe dent in her bumper. We asked you for your support in our newsletter last week, to refrain from using our car park for pick up and drop off. We would also like to ask Kid's Club parents to please take great care, so that staff cars do not get damaged. If anyone can come forward to help us with the latest incident, we would be very grateful.

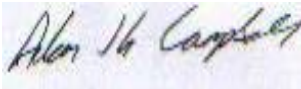


Saying Goodbye to Mackie

We held a special virtual assembly today, to say goodbye to Mackie, who is leaving us and beginning his retirement tomorrow. The children really wanted to say goodbye to him and it was a fantastic send off, with children thanking Mackie, all giving him a cheer and a wave and remembering shared moments in the past, with someone in Y4 exchanging a virtual salute with Mackie, to mark all the salutes that they have given each other, face to face, over the years!

Thank you for everything you have done Mackie, We wish you a very happy retirement.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell