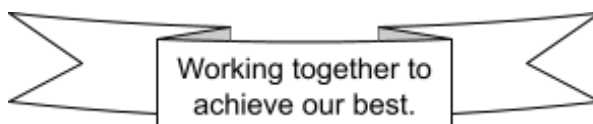




## Newsletter

Issue No. 9  
Date 12th March, 2021  
[www.firslower.co.uk](http://www.firslower.co.uk)



**Chair of Governors:** Gareth Jones

**Governors:** Annette Anderson, John Ashley, Adam Campbell, Louise Haigh, Kerry Mercer, Joanna Milne, Fran Sherry and Tom Stean

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Dear parents/carers,

### Maz Gibbons

Today, we said goodbye to Maz in The Saplings who has been with us since September 2018 and will be greatly missed by the children and her colleagues. We would like to thank Maz for all her support during her time at The Saplings and wish us all the very best in her new venture.



### New member of staff

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that Liz Perry has been appointed as a Pre-School Practitioner to work in The Saplings from Monday 22nd March. We are all very much looking forward to working with her and welcoming her to the Saplings team.

### Update on full reopening

We have been so delighted to see the children back in school and although some have been understandably anxious at times, they have thrown themselves back into the rhythm of life in school very positively. The comfort of a familiar routine, mixed with the distraction of working hard (!) has proven, as it always is, the best approach and it has been lovely to see the children enjoying their learning in school again. Thank you to all the staff for the care and support they have given children through this time.

### Mr Lees - Premises Manager at The Firs

Martin Lees our new Premises Manager has made a fantastic start with us this term, getting on with a range of maintenance jobs that will greatly enhance the appearance of the school, as well as manning our cones on the service road this week, to ensure safety for everyone in the morning drop off period.

Today, we went round to every class and Martin had a chance to say hello to the children, so they had a chance to meet and talk to him. He enthused the children by talking about his passion for looking after the school and their role in helping to ensure it always looks its best!



### Safety on the access road

We would like to say thank you to all our parents/carers, who were very supportive and respectful of our efforts to reduce traffic movement on the service road for both schools, as children returned to school this week. Thank you to Martin Lees our Premises Manager and Sarah Tyrell from Alameda Middle School, for their efforts this week on behalf of all the children who use the site.

From Monday 15th, we will be introducing a new permit system (along with Alameda Middle School) to ensure that the safe use of the road is uppermost in all our minds going forward. Parents who have permission to use the access road e.g. for Saplings or Kids' Club will be issued with a permit today. Please display that permit in your vehicle on the dashboard. Thank you.

### New staff governor

We would like to say a public welcome to Mrs Mercer, our deputy head, who after serving as an advisor on the Curriculum & Achievement committee for many years, has now joined the Governing body as a full member. The very important contribution she has always made on the C&A Committee, will no doubt, be of great value to the Governor team as a whole and we thank her for agreeing to take on this role.



### Parent evening reminder

If you haven't already done so, please book your appointment to attend a Virtual Parent / Carer ' Evening on *Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March* or *Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021*.

Please visit <https://firslower.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointment, where you will be asked for your name and email, your child's name and their date of birth.

A short guide on how to add appointments is attached with this newsletter and a video guide can be accessed below.

[Parents' Guide for Video Appointments](#)

### School meals

We are aware that there have been some problems with our school meals provision this week which have been caused by a number of factors including a change of Caterlink's suppliers leading to some late deliveries.

We would like to apologise for any reduction in the normally very high quality of food provided by Candice Charles, our very hard working Kitchen Manager and her dedicated team. Staff in school are now working with her and Caterlink, to ensure that the issues experienced are quickly addressed.

### Red nose day at The Firs!

With this newsletter there is an update on our arrangements for Red Nose Day, which is on **Friday 19th March**



### PTA Easter Egg Raffle



With this newsletter, there is also an update from the PTA, letting parents/carers know how they can purchase Easter Egg Raffle tickets. The tickets sheet should have come home with your child today.



The draw will be held in a virtual assembly on Friday 26th March. The price is £1 per ticket.(cheques payable to *Firs PTA*).

Please fill in all the tickets you require and return them with the correct payment by **Monday 22nd March** and put them in the box which will be put out at each gate from Monday 15th.

Yours sincerely,

Adam J G Campbell  
Headteacher