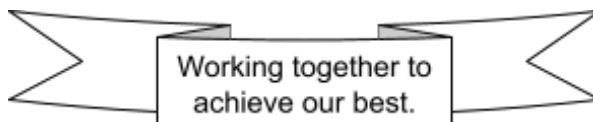




Newsletter

Issue No.11
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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.

Dear parents/carers,

It's official... Easter Bunny Spotted at The Firs!

There were amazing scenes and very excited children this morning on the Friday morning drop off, as we were joined by the Easter Bunny. This is a first for The Firs and got the last day of term off to a fantastic start!

London's Burning!

It's not every day that you get to see a reenactment of a famous historical event but in a dramatic scene that a hollywood director might have been proud of, Y1 staged The Great Fire of London of 1666 in the KS1 playground today! The children had been working hard on preparing all their authentic house models and were very excited coming into school today, knowing the great event was scheduled for this afternoon. They had a thrilling time watching their models burn and saw how fast fire can spread through very combustible properties! Well done and thank you to all the Y1 team for organising such a memorable event.



Parent Consultations

I hope the parent consultations this week were useful to you. We realise that it might have been frustrating if the 10 minute session meant that some parts of your conversation had to be shortened but we hope you have had a chance to discuss the key strength and areas for development as well any pastoral aspects you wanted to talk about. We will be discussing the virtual process and getting some feedback at the next Parent Forum meeting next term.

Mrs Brady

I wanted to update Conkers parents that Mrs Brady will not be teaching her day in Pine class from now on as she will be focusing on her very important Special Educational Needs and Disabilities coordinator (SENDco) role. Although I know the children will miss her and she was very sad to lose that daily contact with the YR children, she is passionate about helping children with special needs across the school and she will now have more time for this critical role. Thank you very much to Mrs Coombes, who has agreed to teach in Pine Conkers full time until the end of term.

Read, Write, Inc. eBooks for Y2 children

We are very excited to announce that Oxford Owl has recently released a collection of RWI eBooks. This is a fantastic resource which we really hope your child will take advantage of at home. It is specifically aimed at children who are on the RWI programme. At the moment, we have set up logins for the Y2 children and after Easter, we will roll this out to other children. A letter will be coming home with the Y2 children today, which will include instructions about how to access this resource and your child's login details. As a school, we are very passionate about reading and your support with this is much appreciated.

Contact Tracing Over Easter

Schools are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. Schools have been asked to ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following:

- If a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within **48** hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Parents/carers should contact us if a child who attends The Firs tests positive after developing symptoms within 48 hours of the end of term. For most, this would mean developing symptoms up to approximately **3:30pm on 28th March 2021**.
- Parents/carers should email us at office@firslower.org giving details of when symptoms developed, when the child was tested and a contact number in case we need to get in touch. This email will be monitored daily between **9am and 10am until 1st April 2021**
- If any positive cases are reported, we will then inform all those we believe to be close contacts, which in most cases will be the class bubble.
- All close contacts will then need to self-isolate for 10 days from the day they last had contact with the infected person. The guidance goes on to clarify: *'Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.'*

With this newsletter there is an update sheet from Central Bedfordshire, that all schools are being asked to pass onto parents. It gives an overview of testing for both children and young people, wider household members, as well as the testing expectation over the Easter holidays. Could this information please be disseminated to parents and carers prior to the end of term.

PTA Easter Egg Raffle

The winners of the PTA Easter Egg raffle were announced today in our virtual assembly and the children were very excited to find who the winners were.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for all their hard work and for the efforts they put in to provide exciting and enjoyable experiences for the children and for raising much needed funds for the school.

Arrangements after Easter

The school is planning how we will respond if the expected loosening of Covid 19 restrictions occurs as set out in the schedule in the Government roadmap and we will of course keep parents/carers informed prior to any changes.

I can confirm that all arrangements, including the wearing of masks, drop off and pick up times and keeping all meetings virtual etc. will continue as they are currently after the Easter break. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents/carers for their support with all the aspects of our Coronavirus measures, as your support is greatly appreciated.

Happy Easter!

The children had an amazing start to the day, being greeted by the Easter Bunny on arrival at School! The fun continued with the announcement in our virtual assembly of who had won Easter eggs from the PTA Easter Egg Raffle. During the day the children had an egg hunt with chocolate eggs supplied by the PTA. I would now like to take this opportunity to wish all the children and all our families, a fantastic and restful Easter break. We look forward to seeing the children again on **Tuesday 13th April**.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher