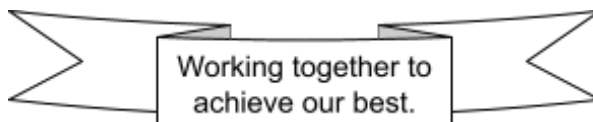




Newsletter

Issue No. 8
Date 11th June, 2021
www.firslower.co.uk



Chair of Governors: Gareth Jones

Governors: Annette Anderson, John Ashley, Franco Cameli, Adam Campbell, Louise Haigh, Kerry Mercer, Fran Sherry and Tom Stean

Dear parents/carers,

Forest School Fun in Y4

The children in Willow Class were having a fantastic time in Forest School this week learning how to make



a fire and the 3 elements needed to make a fire, oxygen, fuel and heat. After this the children used the fire to warm up their cocoa and had a lovely discussion around the fire about what they had learned.

Class groups for next year

We always put a lot of thought into the decisions regarding how the new classes in each year group should be formed each year. Sometimes we will decide to keep a class together as they transition to the next year and sometimes we will decide to merge them with children from the other class in the cohort, to form two new classes.

There are pros and cons about either decision and we always take a moderate and considered approach, aiming to ensure that we sometimes leave classes as they are and sometimes give children the

opportunities to meet new friends and develop their resilience and experience of life by managing a change such as this in their lives.

Last year, after all the disruption that had occurred and with the risks of further disruption ahead, we took the decision not to change any of the class groups. This year, we feel that children would benefit from the formation of new classes in Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 and so we intend to form new classes across the school this year.

Circle of Friends Sheets - Children in Year R, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3

As a result of the planned transition arrangements set out above, you will find a circle of friends sheet that we would like you to complete with your child and return to school by **Monday 5th July**.

This sheet is a very important part of the process we follow to ensure that children feel comfortable in their new class. On the sheet, we would like you to add the names of five friends that your child would like to be with in their new class. We will ensure that along with all the other factors we take into consideration, that children have at least one of the friends from their list in their new class.

Big Bee Challenge

The Big Bee Challenge is Radio 2's brand new competition for kids, in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society.



It's a fun and creative way to learn more about bees and other insects that help provide much of the food we eat, and are essential for a healthy environment.

If you are between the ages of 6 and 12, we want you to design a bright, buzzy garden that will attract bees and other pollinating insects. The winner's design will be built by the RHS at an NHS Trust site which is used by children and young people with mental health needs.

The lucky winner will be invited to open the garden at an outside broadcast of **The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show** on Friday 20 August 2021! You will meet loads of guests, receive a professional illustration of your garden design and go home with a box of goodies to help turn your own outside space into a wonderland for bees.

Each shortlisted finalist will also receive an array of bee themed goodies.

It's super simple to enter. Download our garden design entry form and paint, sketch or draw a gorgeous garden.

Think about the plants that bees love. Remember bees also get thirsty and they need a safe place to rest and lay their eggs. And don't forget to include a place for hospital patients, staff and visitors to sit (humans!). Then write 3-5 sentences telling us more about your design and why you want to help the bees.

You will find [more tips on this website](#) and hear lots of inspirational ideas on **The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show**

How to enter

To enter, [download a copy of the Big Bee Challenge garden design entry form here](#)

Once you have finished your design for the bee garden you will need to take a clear picture of it.

**** Then send it to us via our online uploader form ****

Don't forget to write 3-5 sentences to tell us about your design and why you want to help the bees! You will need to ask a parent or guardian to complete the online entry form for you.

If you're having any trouble uploading your design, you can enter by post by [downloading the postal entry form](#)

Please post the completed form to:

Radio 2 Big Bee Challenge Competition

Bridge House Postroom

Swiss Post Solutions Ltd

Unit 540 Metroplex Business Park

M50 2UE

Entries can be made from Monday 7 June 2021 and the closing date is 6pm on Monday 5 July 2021.

Dress Down Day for 'George'

Thank you to everyone who donated to the fundraising for George - you have all been very generous and I am sure George's parents will be very grateful for all your donations. We raised £384 and I know that a lot of you have donated online. Again, thank you for all your support and for showing what a caring community The Firs is!

Can you please support with this

A parent has let us know that her child has a fear of dogs and have been apprehensive about coming into school as they have to walk past several dogs on their way. We would ask if you could support us with this by keeping your dogs off the pavement area on the service road during drop off and pick up times.

Y3 WW2 Day

On Tuesday, the children went back in time to 29th September 1942 around half way through WW2. The children came dressed as evacuees along with gas mask boxes and small suitcases.

Throughout the day, the Y3 children learned different aspects of what life would have been like for an Evacuee during WW2.

The children completed activities based on the following topics:

- Identity cards and looking out for spies
- How to create secret messages using Cipher wheels
- Making a Badge for the ARP (Air raid precautions warden)
- The Blitz and making a toy spitfire
- Make do and mend
- Gas mask boxes



The children listened well during the virtual experience and shared all of the knowledge they have learned from our topic. We are very proud of how they persevered with all of the activities. The children had a fantastic day!



We would like to thank all the parents for the fantastic costumes provided for the children; they all looked the part!

Yours sincerely,

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher