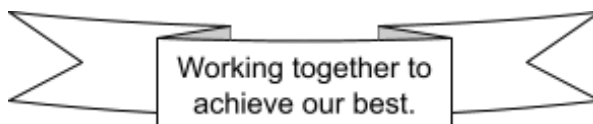




## Newsletter

Issue No. 14  
Date 22nd July, 2021  
[www.firslower.co.uk](http://www.firslower.co.uk)



**Chair of Governors:** John Ashley

**Governors:** Annette Anderson, Franco Cameli, Adam Campbell, Louise Haigh, Kerry Mercer, Fran Sherry and Tom Steam

Dear parents/carers,

### Y1 History off The Page Day

The Y1 children had a fantastic day on Wednesday, taking part in their Princes and Princesses day. They learned about life in a castle in the Middle Ages and took part in some exciting activities including writing on parchment with a feather quill, making gargoyles, spells and bracelets. After lunch they had a grand banquet to round off what was an amazing 'wow' end to their history topic.



### Governor Update

I wanted to let parents know that Gareth Jones, our long serving Chair of Governors, has decided that this is the point to end his term on the board of Trustees. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for all his fantastic support for the school during his time on the Governing board, including his years as the Chair. He has worked hard for the school and has made a very positive and important contribution to the leadership of the school. I would like to thank him personally and on behalf of us all, for his considerable efforts. I am very pleased to say that the school is not losing his services entirely, as he has kindly agreed to become one of our 'Members', the small group who oversee the work of the Trustees.

I am very pleased to announce that John Ashley, who is currently the Chair of the Finance and Environment Committee, will be taking over in the role of Chair of Governors. I am also very pleased that Louise Haigh will be continuing in her role as Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of the HR Committee. John is a very experienced Governor, who has already made a very strong and significant contribution on the F&E Committee and I have no doubt that he will do an excellent job, continuing the good work of his predecessor.

Together, we have a very strong and committed Board of Trustees and I am sure they will continue to do the fine job they have done this year, supporting and challenging the Senior Leadership Team of the school, as we continually strive to maintain high standards and develop our provision at The Firs.

### **ParentPay - Wraparound Care and Lunch Balances**

We ask that parents check their ParentPay accounts to ensure all balances are cleared ASAP, ie. Lunches, Wraparound Care, WOW Days etc. Emails will be sent out as reminders to any accounts that have outstanding balances.

Any credit balances for pupils leaving us this summer will be refunded to the 'Parent Account' within ParentPay over the summer. By accessing your 'Parent Account', a withdrawal can be requested and a refund issued to the card used to make the original payment.

### **Media Permissions**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our media permissions survey. If you haven't completed it yet, please do. The form will be accessible from the link below all over the summer holidays. If you could get it done for us before the beginning of term, we would be very grateful. (It is only a few boxes to tick and will not take more than a few minutes!)

### **[Consent for use of photos and Videos](#)**

### **Update on the Fun Run sponsored event**

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored the Fun Run event. We have had a phenomenal response from all of you and I would like to thank all the many parents/ carers who so kindly contributed and made this such an amazingly successful event for the PTA fundraising efforts. We have managed to raise a very impressive £3,234.00 which will be so important in supporting the PTA funding programme next year. There will be more details about what the PTA will be supporting in the autumn term.



### **Arrangements regarding Covid 19 in September**

The Government has issued new guidance for schools regarding the provision from the commencement of 'phase 4' of the Government roadmap. This covers the provision schools should be making in september 2021.

As you will see if you follow the link above, the vast majority of the control measures recommended will not be continued, such as the wearing of face masks, staggered pick up and drop off times, class bubbles etc.

In addition, schools will no longer be responsible for responding to cases of Covid and contacting parents, as this will now be the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. It is stated that schools should have plans in place should further measures be needed and some control measures should remain. These come into 4 categories and are listed below:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

I will write to parents at the beginning of term in September, to set out our response, including addressing the four areas set out above.

### **Arrangements for Pick up and Drop off in September.**

As I explained above, the staggered times for pick up and drop off will not be in place in September and from the beginning of term, we will revert back to our previous established times for arrival and departure at school.

#### **Drop off**

- Children in **Y1 - Y4 will enter by the main gate** (near Station Road).
- The gate will open at **8:45** and will close at **8:55 am** (just as it did in the past... (if you can remember!))
- YR children will enter by the normal Pine gate into the outdoor area. The times will also be **8:45 to 8:55 am**.

#### **Pick Up - Trialling a new one way system**

- Children can be picked up between **3:30 and 3:40 pm**.
- **YR parents / carers can pick their children up from the Pine gate** used in the morning.
- **Y1-Y4 parents/carers can enter by the main gate** (near Station Road). You can then walk round the school **following the one way system** to pick up your child(ren) from their classroom door. There will be signage to help on the 1st day!
- After picking up your child, the signs will direct you through the area, where the stage is and out through the new Y4 garden. There will be some temporary fencing, to create a safe exit, to the path near the service road pedestrian crossing.
- We are in the process of arranging to do some building work to create a permanent safe exit past the Y4 classrooms. We hope to have an update on this early next term.

### **Congratulations to Miss Hill!**

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you all that Miss Hill will be getting married over the summer break and will become Mrs Everett. I am sure I speak for everyone when I offer her our warmest congratulations and wish her the very best on the day... let's hope the sun shines!



Next term we all have to try and remember that Nicola will now be **Mrs Everett!**

### **Saying goodbye**

I wanted to take this opportunity to say a public thank you and goodbye to two teaching assistants who will be leaving us at the end of term:

#### *Mrs Iqbal*

Mrs Iqbal has not been with us very long but in that short time, she has become one of our team and done some fantastic work, helping children across the school to improve their learning. I know the children who have worked with her would want to say thank you to her for all she has done and I am sure all her colleagues will miss working with her. On behalf of everyone, I would like to wish her the very best of luck in the future.

#### *Mrs Chung*

Like Mrs Iqbal, Mrs Chung has not been with us long but she has done so much in that short time. She has been so flexible, helping us when we really needed help with staffing, to keep the school going. She has done such a fantastic job learning how to deliver RWI and worked so conscientiously helping children to improve with their reading and maths. We will all miss you and we wish you the very best of luck in the future.



### **Y4 Leavers' Event**

The Y4 children had a simply amazing time on Wednesday evening, as they celebrated all their time and achievements at The Firs in style! With circus skills training, new leavers' hoodies, fun with their friends and a special picnic with their families, the children had a wonderful time.



It was a very special evening, after all the challenges a very difficult year has brought us all, that allowed the Y4s to all get together at least once in their time in Oak or Willow! It was a chance to have fun, to relax and to make some special memories to cherish, as their time at our school draws to a close.



Thank you to all the staff for looking after our Y4 children through this year, to all the parents for their efforts to support them when they were learning at home and to the Y4 parent team who organised such a memorable and entertaining evening that gave the children such a brilliant send off!

### **PTA Big Summer Fundraising Challenge**

Attached is information about the PTA 'Big Summer Fundraising Challenge' which all of The Firs School children can get involved in.



### **Firs Football End of Season News**

Also attached is a newsletter about the Firs Football event on Tuesday night in Ampthill park, including some photographs of the evening.

### **Final Assembly - we all get back together again!**

We have been recording assemblies, doing them virtually but never of course, getting together as a school community, during these strange times.

It was really fantastic therefore, to be able to get together on the school field for a very special final assembly at the end of this term.



It was an opportunity to reflect on some of the highpoints of the year for each year group, to congratulate Miss Hill on her forthcoming marriage and to say goodbye to Mrs Haddon, Miss Blake, Mrs Chung and Mrs Iqbal.





At the end, we said goodbye to our Y4s as well and doing a lap of honour, we all clapped and cheered a group who, undaunted by all the difficulties this year has brought, managed to make the most of their all important last year at The Firs.



**And finally...**

Thank you to all our parents and carers for all your hard work, supporting children's learning and well being, when they were working remotely. It must have been very challenging at times, balancing this with all your other commitments and we remain very grateful for all you did. Thank you as well for all the overwhelming support we have received from parents / carers about our management of the school in the most difficult times. I just want to say that all your kind words meant a great deal to all of us.

Thank you to the staff for all their hard work and the dedication they have shown this year, supporting children to carry on their learning after disruptions and caring for them when they needed help.

I hope everyone in our school community has a fantastic summer break, stay safe, take care and we look forward to welcoming all our returning children and families on Monday 6th September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam J G Campbell".

Adam J G Campbell  
Headteacher