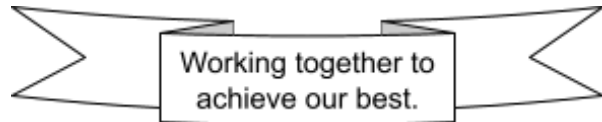




Newsletter

Issue No. 1
Date 10th September, 2021
www.firslower.co.uk



Chair of Governors: John Ashley

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

Dear parents/carers,

Settling back into school

We have been so proud of all the children and the way they have settled so well back at school this term. They have all made a great start and have adapted so quickly to the changes in school this term, as we move 'back to normal'. Well done to all our fantastic little learners!

Social Media at The Firs



Last term we let you know that we had established a Facebook page for the school, which we intended to use to both share some of the exciting work children are involved in across the school and to keep you informed about key events.

We have a dedicated team consisting of Mrs Freeman in Cedar class, Mrs Everett in Elm and Miss Webb in Beech, who have kindly volunteered to take charge of this project. Thank you to all of them for their efforts!

As the term goes on you will see a lot of material on our page and you can access 'The Firs Lower' [Facebook page](#) by following this link.

Dates for the term

We are in the process of finalising the dates for the term. A date sheet will be coming out to you soon and all the dates will be posted on our school Google Calendar, accessible from our website.

Arrangements for Covid 19 Cases

We sent out a very useful flowchart with our introductory letter for the term last week. It provides guidance for parents in how to manage any SUSPECTED or CONFIRMED case of COVID-19. This flowchart is available on our website, by following this link to our recently updated [Covid 19 page](#). We will continue to update / add to this page as circumstances change.

New One Way System

Thank you to all our parents / carers for their support and patience as everyone gets used to the new one way system. We hope that it is an improvement on the old system (that involved parents struggling against the 'tide' of incoming parents when they wanted to exit the site with their child).

There are just a couple of points that we would like to update you on / ask for your help with:

1. We are aware that some parents have been queuing on station road which is obviously inconvenient for the parents / carers involved and causes a sizeable obstruction along the pavement. As we return to normal, there is no need to queue and we would invite parents to walk through one of the two entrances and wait in the courtyard for the Station road gate to be opened. Thank you.
2. Could **Beech** and **Elm** parents / carers please exit round the outside of the Y3 block, **following the red signs**, after picking up children. The route through the Y4 corridor is only for Y4 parents and Willow class staff are finding it hard to keep their children safe and do a proper handover with lots of other parents coming through the door into the corridor- thank you.

Use of Photos and Videos within The Firs Lower School

With the launch of our Facebook page, we wrote to you last term and explained that we wanted to renew our information regarding media permissions that we collected when you first registered your child with the school.

Thank you to the 45 parents / carers who completed the short form last term. Please could all other parents / carers complete the google form (following the link below) to confirm your preferences.

It will only take a couple of minutes!

Please can you complete this form by Monday 20th September. Thank you.

[Photos Preference Google Form](#)

Request for donations

Pine would really appreciate the following items to enhance the children's play- matchbox cars, buggies, dolls, DIY paint brushes and rollers, children's kitchen furniture. If you can help with any of these things, it would be much appreciated.

Pencil Cases

As the school is running as normal, pencil cases are **not** required to be brought into school as each class will be provided with everything they need. Now the children are working in group tables they will use school resources and pencil cases can a bit distracting (!) so we would like them left at home please. Thanks!

Fidget Poppets

Some children have been bringing fidget poppets into school and unfortunately these are causing a great deal of disruption in lessons. For this reason, we will not be allowing them in school and would ask that you please support us with this. Thank you.

Violin and Viola Lessons in School

Hannah Perry who teaches the children violin and viola will be in school every Wednesday, starting on 15th September.

There are spaces available if you would like your child to learn either of the above instruments. Please email Hannah directly for more information at h_perry@rocketmail.com.

Guitar Lessons

John Earley our guitar teacher will be back in school to teach the children the guitar. If you would like more information about this, please let the school office know. We do not know what day of the week this will be yet, as this is dependent on how many pupils he will be teaching at The Firs.

Year group welcome letters and 'What are we learning?' sheets.

Tonight you will also be emailed the welcome letter for your child's year and the 'WAWL?' sheet that sets out an overview of the learning programme for the term. These will be made available shortly on each year group page of our website, so they are available for future reference.

Parent Forum - Thursday 7th October at 2:30pm

Our Parent Forum is very important to us at The Firs and we greatly value the view of parents / carers and the contribution you can make to shaping the development of the school. **Thursday 7th October at 2:30pm.**

We are very grateful to the parents who supported the forum recently, during Covid, attending the virtual meetings we held.

We will be reverting back to a face to face format this time and we would love to see the return of our regular members. We would also love, and be very grateful to, any new parents / carers, who could spare us an hour and join us for the meeting. If you think you could come along then please let us know by phoning us on 01525 402735 or emailing us using office@firslower.org.

KS1 Reading Books

From next week, we will be reverting to the system, for changing reading books, that we had in place before Covid.

Year 1

- From Tuesday 14th reading books will be available in boxes under the Y1 shelter (just outside the classrooms)
- They will be made available to parents / carers every day from Tuesday onwards.
- The books will be out am only, the idea being that the book is changed on drop off.

Year 2

- From Monday 13th, reading books will be available in boxes just outside the Y2 classrooms
- They will be made available to parents / carers every day.
- The books will be out am only, the idea being that the book is changed on drop off.

If you are unable to change books at this time, just let your class teacher know and they will help you.

Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will change their own book during the school day.

Staff Car Park and Service Road

We would like to remind parents that our staff car park is for use by our staff, Saplings and Kids' Club parents dropping off and picking up from Kids' Club and Saplings only. Please collect your parking permits from Kids' Club or Saplings and display this on your dash board.

If you or your child has a disability and needs to use our car park, please come to the office for a parking permit.

If you do not have a parking permit, you will not be able to use our car park. Our car park and service road can get very busy which makes this a very dangerous place when children are around. **Please do not park or use the service road unless you have a parking permit - thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe..**

And Finally...

I said a 'well done' at the beginning to all our children, for the great start they have made. I would like to finish by thanking all the staff for the super work they have done (as always) to help children settle in and quickly get back into 'learning mode'... thank you everyone!

I hope everyone has a great weekend and we look forward to seeing all our children next week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Adam J G Campbell", is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher