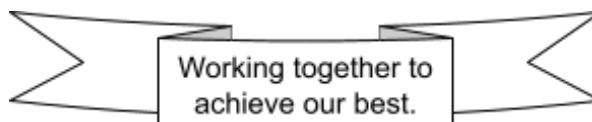




Newsletter

Issue No. 3
Date 24th 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,

Our Value for September - Democracy

In school, we have explained to the children that democracy is about having rights and responsibilities. At the Firs, they demonstrate this through their involvement in the School Council, making decisions that benefit their own, and the wider community. They may also volunteer to carry out jobs for the benefit of the school community – for example, being a Firs' Friend in Y4, a buddy to look after someone new, doing litter picking, tidying the classroom etc.



We are asking parents/carers at home to send in a note if they think their child has demonstrated democracy, describing how they showed this value. We will celebrate some of their achievements in assembly (if they are happy with this). Examples of engaging with democracy, might be:

- Taking an interest in news events.
- Expressing their opinions on topics but listening to and respecting the views of others too.
- Regularly watching and taking an interest in cbbc news.
- Improving their public speaking skills, perhaps by joining a theatre group.
- Joining a group that involves itself in the local community, e.g. Brownies or Cubs.
- Treating their friends and family fairly and equally, e.g. making sure everyone gets an equal share of their attention, rather than focussing on a 'best friend', and giving everyone an equal amount of time at a favourite game or activity.

School Council Elections

In our Values assembly today we focused on our Democracy value by talking about what a school council is and how the school council is important in making sure that children have a voice in school.

We also talked about the fact that next week we will be inviting children to put themselves forward to be a school council representative for their class. With this newsletter are two versions of a nomination form that the children might want to complete with you over the weekend if they are interested! (Choose the one that is most appropriate for your child).

There will be a boy and girl representative from each class Y1-Y4.

We want to use the process of selecting representatives for the Council to show children the way a democratic process works, to link with our value this month. Children will be given an opportunity to use their nomination form to talk to the class briefly about why they should vote for them.



On Thursday 30th it will be **Election Day** at The Firs! We will be setting up the hall as a polling station and we will be asking some children from Y4 to take turns to act as Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk in the hall on the day, as each class comes in to cast their votes!

Pupil Premium Letter

With this newsletter is a letter inviting any eligible parents / carers to apply for pupil premium funding for their child if they think they might be eligible.

Information for parents from Central Bedfordshire

Parent Line

Parent Line is a confidential text messaging advice and support line for Bedfordshire parents and carers of children aged 0-19.

It offers parents/carers advice and support on a range of issues such as emotional health, speech, behaviour, diet and exercise and much more. It is also a great mechanism to find out how to access other local services.

Please see [flyer/poster](#) to disseminate to your families.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing Roadmap for young people 0-18

The flyer, '[How you feel matters. Getting help in Bedfordshire](#)' outlines the support that is available in Central Bedfordshire. The roadmap allows professionals, children and young people and their families to identify the levels of support available and how to access it.

Governor Vacancies

With this newsletter is a nomination form as we are seeking a new parent governor to join our hardworking and dedicated team of trustees. When completed, the nomination form should be returned to the Headteacher within ten schools days from today, **Friday 8th October, 2021**.

Our Governors play a critical role in working together to lead the school at the strategic level, supporting us in our development work and challenging the SLT and staff to ensure that we maintain the very high standards that our children deserve.

Anyone is of course very welcome to put their name forward. We would be particularly interested however in anyone who has either experience of working in education or who has a background in finance.

We are currently also advertising a vacancy on our Governing body for a Community (non parent) Governor. Next week we will send out a leaflet about this. If you know of anyone who would be interested then please pass the information on and ask them to get in contact with us!

Change to Caterlink menu on Thursday 7th October

On Thursday 7th October Option 1 will be **sausages and wedges** and Option 2 will be **macaroni cheese**, **both** options served with **sweetcorn or beans**, followed by **ice cream**.

Flu Vaccines

On the date sheet sent out last week, we published the first date for the flu immunisations to take place on 29th September. Unfortunately, the roll out for Covid vaccines for 12-15 year olds has had an impact on the planned flu vaccine schedule. The first date we published, 29th September will not go ahead but we will keep you informed when we hear more from the NHS regarding a revised date for the flu vaccines.

And Finally...

I hope everyone has a great (and hopefully sunny!) weekend and we look forward to seeing all our children next week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam J G Campbell".

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher