

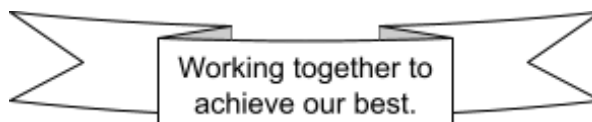


Newsletter

Issue No.5

Date 15th October, 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,

Aha Me Hearties... The Pirate Ship is launched!

On Tuesday we were joined by the Mayor of Ampthill, Mark Smith, for the opening of our new pirate ship on the KS2 playground. The children and staff were all dressed up as pirates for the occasion and each year group had a chance to come out, meet the Mayor and have their photo taken!



Once every year group had come out to meet the Mayor, the School Council members came out, to represent each class for the opening and naming of the ship.





The Mayor cut the ribbon (as you can see, he didn't have much choice!) and our new ship was launched!

Every ship has a name of course and we had a competition to find a name for our ship. We were delighted to announce that the winner of the competition was **Thea in Y4** who came up with the name 'Treasured Friends'. Well done Thea!!

The good ship Treasured Friends has now had its plaque installed on the ship.

In the afternoon the children had lots of fun taking part in pirate themed activities and each class had the chance to spend a little bit of time enjoying playing on the 'Treasured Friends.'



Our new School Council

Our new school council held their first meeting last week. We decided on the allocation of the chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer roles to the 4 Y4 councillors and we talked about what the school council does and how meetings work.

The children then gave some ideas of their own about things they would like the council to be doing. The ideas they came up with were very good and these and a summary of our meeting will be produced this week and will be in the next newsletter.

School Photographer

The school photographer date has changed and this will now be on Tuesday 9th November. Individual photographs and siblings photographs will be taken which includes Saplings children. If you do not want your children to be photographed together, please let the school office know - thank you.

Date Sheet

Version 2 of the date sheet that was sent out recently to you is attached to this newsletter. We still do not have confirmed dates regarding the flu vaccines but will keep you informed.

Winter boots

As the weather will be getting colder, children can wear smart black, flat heeled, ankle boots if they wish. Please remember these will be part of their school uniform and must be smart.

Year 4 Children

We would request that parents of Year 4 children leave them at the main gate in the morning so that they can walk round to their classroom on their own. This is part of the transition process, which will get them ready for being more independent when they move up to Alameda.

Some of our Year 4 children are already walking round to the classroom on their own and your support with this will be greatly appreciated.

Open Evening at The Firs

A reminder that we are having an open evening on **Monday 18th October at 7pm** for parents of children who are due to start school in 2022 and also for parents of children who are preschool age. You will have the chance to meet our staff, have a tour of our school and visit our Saplings pre-school. Refreshments will be served during the evening.



Open Evening 2019

Staff News

Angie Dvorkin

We would like to let you know that Angie Dvorkin has gone through the recruitment process, following a vacancy for the Pre-School Leader post and we are delighted to be able to tell you that she was successful. Angie led The Saplings during Mrs Sherry's absence last term and did a fantastic job and we know that Saplings will continue to thrive in her very capable hands.



Natasha Smith

We would like to welcome Natasha Smith as a new pre-school practitioner in Saplings who started with us on Monday 4th October.

On behalf of us all we would like to wish Angie and Natasha all the best in their new roles.

PTA AGM and RWI Curriculum Evening

On Monday, the PTA held their AGM and we are pleased to announce that the PTA Chair is Helen Pearson, The Secretary is Vicki Davies and the treasurer is Laura Bartlett-Rawlins. We are all looking forward to working with the new committee and would like to thank the previous members for all their support and hard work over the years. The minutes of the meeting are attached to this newsletter.

Our RWI Curriculum part of the evening followed and parents found out about how the Read Write Inc. programme works and ways that they can support their child with reading at home. A big thank you to Mrs Mercer for organising the evening.

Amphill Rotary

Maureen Milway came into our assembly recently to talk to the children about the work that Amphill Rotary does. The First Lower School have always supported them in raising money to eradicate polio and Maureen talked about different ways to keep fundraising.

During this month, there will be a 'teddy trail' and children will be invited to search for teddies which will be placed in windows of Amphill businesses and shops.

There is a poster attached with this newsletter and the children were given an entry form to take home with them last Friday. A winner will be picked at random to win a prize.

The School Council is organising a Name The Teddy competition using a teddy kindly donated by Amphill Rotary and all proceeds will go to the Eradicate Polio campaign. More details will come out very soon.

Updated Flow Chart for Covid 19

Please find attached the updated flow chart from central Bedfordshire regarding the guidance relating to Covid 19.

Harvest Assembly

A letter was emailed out to you on Wednesday to ask for Harvest produce such as dried fruits, tinned products, cereal, dried pasta etc to be brought to school on **Monday 18th October** so that we have time to display the produce for our Harvest assembly on Tuesday 19th October. All produce brought into school will be collected by the Bedford Food Bank who run the largest network of foodbanks in the UK, giving emergency food and support to people in crisis. Many thanks for your support.

Crossing on Service Road and use of the Staff Car Park

It has been reported to us that on 2 separate occasions, a child has been ignored by the driver while using the crossing on the service road. This has been very distressing for the parents and very reckless of the drivers concerned. You should not be entering this area unless you have permission to do so.

We understand that parking around the school is difficult but for lots of reasons, safety being top priority, you must refrain from using our car park!

Please remember that our car park is for staff use only - **DO NOT USE OUR CAR PARK UNLESS YOU ARE DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP YOUR CHILD FROM KIDS' CLUB OR SAPLINGS OR HAVE A REGISTERED DISABLED (BLUE BADGE IS DISPLAYED ON YOUR WINDSCREEN.)** Saplings and Kids' Club parents who have permits should only use the designated spaces when your child is booked into Saplings or Kids' Club. Please support us by only using the car park if you should be, to minimise traffic and keep everyone safe. Thank you.

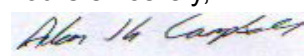
Head lice

Head lice are doing the rounds again - please check your child's hair and treat if necessary - thank you

PTA Discos

The children really enjoyed the discos this evening and it was lovely to be able to stage an event for everyone, something we haven't been able to do for so long. Thank you for the fantastic support from parents who came to help.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher