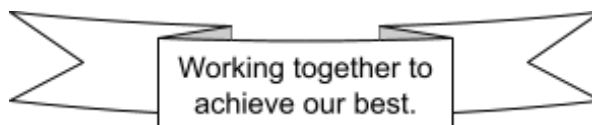




Newsletter

Issue No 7
Date 08 November, 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,

Parent / Teacher Consultation Meetings

Thank you to all our parents / carers for attending the consultation meetings last week and for supporting our Covid 19 measures and our efforts to keep everyone safe. Thank you also to all our staff who worked hard to prepare for and conduct all the meetings.

PTFA Christmas Cards

All the children should have brought home their Christmas Cards and order form. The PTA has asked that all orders are brought back to school by **Friday 12th November**, so that you have them in time for sending your Christmas cards out.

Children in Need

Please see attached letter giving details of 'Children in Need' day on Friday 19th November.

Christmas Tree Festival & Christingle Service

St Andrews Church is delighted to announce that the Christmas Tree Festival is back for 2021! This year's event will be on **Saturday 4th December 10.00 am – 4.30pm & Sunday 5th December 11.00am – 4.00pm. Christingle service from 4.30pm on Sunday all are welcome.**

Special guests - Natalie & Jeremy, Sloop Groggy Dogs, Ampthill Town Band and Ampthill Choral Society.

There will be live music & storytellers throughout the event, Refreshments will be available, with gift & produce stalls and a raffle. Entry £2.50 if you are over 14 years of age. If you are under 14 you can come in free! There is no charge for entry during services.

Due to the current situation we will not have a choir performance at the event but all our children will be contributing to making decorations for a Firs Christmas tree so please pop along and see our tree.

www.ampthilltrees.com



Our tree in 2019

School Photographs - 9/11/21

On Tuesday 9th, the photographer will be in school. It will be for individuals and photographs with siblings and will include children in Saplings.

Hope - our value for November

At school, we have explained to the children that hope is all about being positive and persevering, as the things we hope for may not come easily. We have talked about what the children might hope for, both for themselves and for other people. We can hope for little things like for sunshine tomorrow or for big things like an end to poverty.

In our virtual values assembly this week, we thought about Diwali and how this festival of light is connected with being hopeful and the feeling that good things will happen, even when there are challenges and things seem 'dark' and there are lots of problems to overcome.

We are asking parents/carers at home to send in a note if they think their child has engaged with this month's value - hope. We will celebrate some of their achievements in assembly (if they are happy with this).



Examples might be:

- Sharing their hopes and talking about how they might make them happen.
- Having hopes for other people and being prepared to help make their hopes come true.
- Keeping positive about their hopes, even when they seem a long way off.
- Taking small steps to bring about the thing they hope for

Remembrance at The Firs

Our virtual Hope assembly on Friday will be focusing on thinking about how poppies have become a symbol of hope and are used to remember all those who were injured or gave their lives in wars, from the First World War and up to the present day.

A huge thank you to Martin Lees, our Premises Manager, who has created a very visually impressive and thought provoking Remembrance display at the front of the school.

Below you can see our Y4 Firs' Ambassadors with the exhibit. Our children have been so impressed by the soldier figures and it has been a great catalyst for discussion about Remembrance and why it is still important today.



On the 11th November we will be holding a one minute silence at 11am and some of our School Councillors will be representing The Firs at the Amptill Remembrance Service on Sunday 14th November.

Our School Council

The School Council met for the 2nd time on Thursday 4th November.

The Council meets every three weeks and in between, the councillors report back to the children in their class and give all the children a chance to talk about what has come up in School Council meetings and give their own ideas for the Councillors to report back at the next meeting.



The Y4 children did a great job with our Chair Louis leading the meeting and taking us through the agenda and our secretary Remy, supported by the Vice Chair Connie, doing a great job taking the minutes.

We talked about how meetings work, the jobs the officers of the council do, fundraising ideas and what our priorities are for this year.

Amongst other things, we agreed that the School Council will be creating a survey to find what all our children think about life and learning

at The Firs.

Fundraising at The Firs

Chances for us to support others beyond our immediate school community is a very important part of living our caring ethos and passing it on to all our children.

Macmillan Coffee Morning cancelled

Sadly, due to the current Covid 19 measures, we cannot hold our Macmillan Coffee morning. However we have other fundraising opportunities coming up (see below)

Find The Name of The Teddy Competition!

The School Council is very keen to support the Rotary End Polio Now campaign and so on Wednesday 17th, members of the School Council will be running a stall on the KS2 playground (near The Treasured Friends pirate ship) after school. For £1 children can choose a name from our list. If you choose the teddy's current name (it's on the list somewhere!) you will win the teddy! (If no-one chooses the name we have secretly picked, we will put all the names purchased into a hat and draw one out!)



Iron Man Survival Blankets from Crisp Packets!

From a BBC News article...'A former homeless man has been turning empty crisp packets into insulated sleeping bag liners for rough sleepers.

Miley Porritt, 23, of Frome, Somerset, said he had two loves - ironing and eating crisps.

"Since lockdown I've set up my own ironing business, so now I can put the two things together and do some good," he said.

It takes about 150 packets to make one liner and they are sealed together using the heat from an iron.

The foil in the packet will reflect a person's body heat back on to them to help keep them warm.

"Each bag takes about 80 years to decompose so we hope people will want to see the bags go to good use instead of landfill."

[BBC News Article](#)



[Facebook link](#)

We would like to help. We will be setting up a collection box in the courtyard outside the school...

- Please wash your crisp packets first in warm soapy water
- Let them dry
- Post them in our collection box!
- We will package them up and deliver them.

How many can we collect before Christmas?!

Poppy Appeal

We have a box of poppies and a collection box which was sent in by The Royal British Legion. If you or your child would like a poppy, they will be outside on the KS2 playground tomorrow, Tuesday 9th November, when 2 of our Y4 pupils will be there to assist you.

Yours sincerely,

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

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher