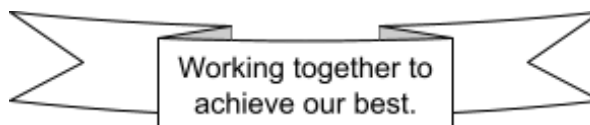




Newsletter

Issue No 6
Date 22nd 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,

Open Evening at The Firs

The Firs held an Open Evening for prospective parents on Monday 18th. It was a fantastic evening and it was lovely to meet lots of parents of children who will be attending pre-school or reception in September 22.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Kitchen manager for preparing some very delicious school dinner samples and our fantastic PTA for providing refreshments. We were also joined by two of our Governors, Louise Haigh and Annette Anderson, who did a fantastic job talking about the school and the role of the Governors.



Thank you to the Parent Forum, it was great to have representatives from the Forum to talk about the school and the work of the forum.

Our staff put on a great display to illustrate all the exciting learning opportunities in each year group. Thank you to them for working so hard in this at a very busy time in school.

Harvest Assembly

It was lovely to be joined by Reverend Dominic Holroyd-Thomas from St Andrew's Church, who came to talk to the children as part of our Harvest Assembly.



We were all bowled over by the amount of produce sent in and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed for their amazing generosity.

We talked to the children about what a powerful demonstration it was of the caring nature of our school community. All the produce was collected after the assembly, to be taken to the Bedford Food Bank.



After the assembly, Dominic joined me for a tour of the school and the children very much enjoyed meeting him.

Black History Month in Year 1

News from Y1...In Year One, we read the story of Martin Luther King. We talked about how unfair it was that people were treated differently and how important the 'I have a dream' speech was.

We enjoyed painting and writing about our own dreams.

We also loved reading the beautiful story of 'Sulwe' by Lupita Nyong'o about a little girl called Sulwe who wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister.

She goes through a magical journey through the night sky, which opens her eyes and changes everything.

We talked about how brightness comes from within, and it doesn't matter what skin colour you are to get that!



Mrs Coombes



I wanted to let you know that sadly, Mrs Coombes will be leaving us at the end of the term. Mrs Coombes has decided to take up an exciting opportunity to move to another part of the country and embark on some new challenges.

Whilst understanding that this is an exciting new avenue for her to explore, we will all be very sad to see her leave The Firs.

She has been such a key member of staff for so long at The Firs, helping to develop our approach to teaching and learning, as a member of the Senior Leadership Team a few years ago, as an experienced and highly skilled early years practitioner and as a teacher training mentor.

I know that I would be joined by children, staff and parents alike, in thanking her for her work for the school and wishing her the very best of luck in the future. I am sure that she will thoroughly enjoy the rest of this term and accumulate some more lovely memories of The Firs to take with her!

Miss Wallis

After Christmas, we are looking forward to welcoming Miss Wallis back to The Firs, returning from maternity leave. We have all missed Miss Wallis and we are very much looking forward to working with her again as she returns in January to teach in Holly Class Tuesday - Friday. We are pleased that Mrs Baker will continue to teach in Holly Class on Mondays next term.



Mrs Hurrell

Mrs Hurrell will be leaving us on 12th November to take up a new role as a Councillor. She has made a fantastic contribution at The Firs as a senior teaching assistant, providing PPA release for teachers. She has also delivered RWI sessions for us with such enthusiasm and commitment and we will really miss her contribution in these areas.



I know Mrs Hurrell however, would think first about her work as a Pastoral Care Assistant and it is an area where her care, skill and commitment has had such a positive impact on the lives of so many of our children.

She has, in her compassionate and dedicated manner, given vital help to children when they were at their most vulnerable and we will always be so grateful for the support she has offered in her time with us.

I know that all the children, parents and staff would want to thank her for her efforts and wish her the very best of luck in the new and exciting new career path she is taking.

A new teacher in Conkers

I am delighted to let you know that a new teacher Mrs Carys Mazzezy will be joining our Pine team, starting teaching 1 day a week in Conkers from 19th November. She will be moving to teaching 2 days a week in Conkers from January. She is a very caring and dedicated practitioner and we are very much looking forward to working with her.

Egyptian Wow Day

The Y3 children had a fantastic day on Thursday, enjoying their Egyptian Day run by 'History off The Page'. The combination of having fantastic artefacts to look at, expert knowledge from the HoTP leader and the effective blend of 'hands on' practical activities, lively teaching and drama, always proves a hit when we have a visit from this amazing company that brings history to life!



A huge thank you to Mrs Everett and Miss Hamilton for organising the day and to all the very many Y3 parents who came along (in costume!) to lend a hand.



YR Autumn Walk

Update from Pine...The children in Pine had a lovely time on their Autumn walk this week. The walk provided lots of wonderful learning opportunities for the children as they spoke about all the signs of Autumn they could see.



We collected lots of leaves, twigs and fir cones and the children enjoyed ticking off the things they spotted on the autumn walk tick lists.

The staff were so proud of how well the children walked and followed the adults instructions - well done children!



We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Ashby and Miss Stout for accompanying the Pine staff and children on the walk.

Rotary Name The Teddy Competition

We have a teddy who needs a home!!

When Maureen Millway visited us in assembly recently she told the children all about the way Rotary are supporting the eradicate Polio campaign. She presented us with a teddy with a little purple sweater on to link with the way that children's nails are painted purple to indicate they have had the vaccine.

After the assembly we had our first School Council meeting and our school counsellors are very keen to help raise money for this cause. We will be sending a letter out in the week after half term inviting you to contribute by paying to choose the name for our teddy. The Council will select a name and the child who chooses the correct name on the list we send out will win the teddy!



Y4 Swimming

We would like to remind Y4 parents that the swimming sessions in Y4 start after half term on Wednesday 3rd of November.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Friday 5th November 9:00am - 11:00 am
Please pop this date in your diary!!

We will be holding a coffee morning in support of the Macmillan cancer charity. The coffee morning will run from 9:00am to 11:00am and we would love to see you there!

We will be asking for cake donations after half term. Please help us to raise money for this good cause.

Thank you to Mrs Rogers who is kindly taking the lead in organising this event.



French Club

As a result of the French afterschool Tuesday club being so popular, and having to create a waiting list, we are pleased to announce a second French club session, starting after half term on a Thursday at The Firs.

The first session of the second half of the Autumn term is on Thursday 4th November and the last session is on Thursday 16th December, so in total there are 7 sessions left of this Autumn term. The sessions are from 3.30-4.30pm.

Please note, the Tuesday club will still continue to run so if your child is already attending on a Tuesday, and unless you prefer a Thursday session, you need not do anything further!

The cost per session is £5.20, per child and there is a one-off £10 annual membership fee (£7 for siblings) to Le Club Français.

7 sessions = £36.40 + £10 membership (£7 for siblings).

Please contact Catherine Cuthbert Tobin directly for more information on 07568154087 or email her at lcfbedfordshire@gmail.com

Doughnut Day!

Thank you to the PTFA by brightening up everyone's Friday by selling Doughnuts at the end of school. It was a great way to raise much needed funds for the PTFA whilst providing a great tasty treat for everyone... just what we needed at the end of a busy half term!!



Closure Day - 1st November

Just to remind you that the school will be closed for training on Monday 1st November. I hope you all have a great half term and we all look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 2nd November.

Yours sincerely,

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

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher