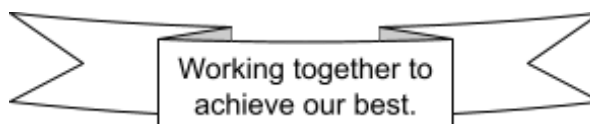




Newsletter

Issue No 2
Date:-26th September, 2022
www.firslower.co.uk



Chair of Governors: John Ashley

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

Dear parents/carers,

Parent Forum Meeting

We emailed you on Friday regarding our first Parent Forum meeting, which will be held in the school hall this Wednesday, 28th September from 9.00am - 10.00am.

Please pop in and join us for a coffee, a biscuit and a chat as we would love to see as many parents and carers as possible, thank you!

Date Sheet

Version 1 of the Autumn 22 date sheet was also emailed to all parents and carers last Friday and will be updated as required. This is also available to view on our [website](http://www.firslower.co.uk).

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We are pleased to announce that we will be joining the world's biggest coffee morning on Friday 7th October in aid of the MacMillan nurses charity who do amazing work to support families through the most difficult times.

The school hall will be open to parents, grandparents and members of our local community from 9:00am until 11:00am - you can pop in briefly or stay for longer.

Come and join us for a chat, a warm drink and a delicious slice of cake and make a donation to a very worthy cause.

Of course, we will need lots of cakes to offer our guests that morning, so we are asking everyone to get baking! If you can and send in any of your wonderful creations on Thursday 6th or Friday 7th please. Could we ask that you don't use any nuts and that you let us know what kind of cake it is and the ingredients to avoid any difficulties with allergies - thanks. If you are not able to bake then a shop bought donation would be just as appreciated!

Bring your family, meet with friends and hopefully, we will see you there!

WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Photographer in school - Tuesday 11th October

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 11th October to take individual pupil photographs. If your child has a sibling who is in school, they will also be photographed together, unless we hear otherwise. Children who attend our Saplings Pre-school will also have their photograph taken. Any Saplings child who does not normally attend on a Tuesday can come into school via the main entrance at 9.30am to be photographed and if they have siblings attending The Firs, they will also be photographed with them.

RWI Evening - Monday 3rd October - 7pm

The Firs is a Read, Write Inc. school and as such, we are all passionate about enabling our children to become fluent and successful readers.

Read, Write Inc. (RWI) is a phonics programme written by Ruth Miskin. The RWI programme is designed carefully to help children of all abilities to make rapid progress, as well as allowing us to support you, in fostering a love of reading in your child that will last a lifetime!



We will be holding a RWI information session for our YR parents / carers. Over the years we have received feedback that this evening is really useful, both in terms of developing an understanding of how the programme works and how parents / carers can support children's learning at home.

The evening would also be very useful for new parents / carers in Year 1 and Year 2, who are also warmly invited to attend!

If you are able to attend (and we really hope YR / new KS1 parents can!) then ***please email the school office and we will reserve your place.***

Accelerated Reader Update

Parents in Year 3 and Year 4 will all be receiving a letter today, giving an update about our transition to this new reading programme, designed to compliment RWI, by providing a rigorous, tried and tested approach to develop children's reading in KS2.



Accelerated
Reader

The letter is in paper form as it is personalised for each child and contains some information following the 'Star Test' reading assessment conducted earlier this term. We hope that this information, with the associated notes and guidance in the letter, is useful and informative for parents / carers.

PTFA AGM - Wednesday 5th October -7 pm

We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and supportive parent body and the Parent, Teacher and Friends Association plays a vital role in the life of the school.

The PTFA has always raised much needed funds for the school but in these financially challenging times for the school, their support has never been more important. As well as this, the events and activities they arrange add very importantly to the social life of the school and give the children so much fun, whilst also providing many valuable and enjoyable opportunities for parents, staff and friends of the school to meet and socialise.

On Wednesday 5th, the PTFA will be holding their AGM. This will be a very informal occasion and the PTFA are hoping that lots of our parents will come along and join them for a glass of wine! It will be a great way to learn more about the PTFA and find out how you can get involved. I know they are hoping that lots of our new parents / carers in Pine and across the school will come along, as getting involved with the PTFA is a great way of meeting other parents and getting to feel part of our friendly community!

School Council Elections

The elections for our new School Council will take place on Wednesday 5th October and over the next few days teachers will be talking to their children about the School Council and the election process. Children will be invited to complete a nomination form if they are interested and will be given an opportunity before Wednesday 5th, to talk to the children about why they think they should vote for them!

Y4 Sports Leader Training

Our membership of the Redborne Sports Partnership, funded by our Sports Premium funding, always adds immeasurably to the sport and fitness aspects of our curriculum and children really enjoy and benefit from the series of sporting opportunities that are offered to children across the school during the year.

Our programme this year kicked off on Wednesday 21st, when a group of Y4 children went for their Sports Leader Training. They had a fantastic time and entered into their training with great enthusiasm, well done.. Our Sports Leaders will be given lots of opportunities during the year, to take part in events and support other children, promoting sport and fitness related activities.

A big thank you to Miss Webb, who is leading in this area for the school this year and a thank you to Mrs Ashby whose support with supervision is greatly appreciated.

New Parent Governor needed

With this newsletter is a letter giving details about the process to recruit a new parent governor.

We have a fantastic group of Trustees who are highly supportive of the school and play a critical role in helping us to continuously develop and improve the school. This is an excellent opportunity to join our Governor team and make your own contribution to the development of our fantastic school, that we all care about so much!

We are requesting nominations for the vacancy. One nomination form is being issued to each family in the first instance. Additional forms are available from the School Office or on our website

Nomination papers should be returned to the school in an envelope marked "Nomination Paper - for the attention of the Headteacher" by **Monday 17th October, 2022.**

End of the day plea from Kids' Club

Children in Kids' Club really enjoy getting outside to play on the KS2 playground, especially as it means that they get to use the Pirate Ship Trim Trail!

Could parents / carers please leave the site at the end of the day promptly so that by approximately 3:40 we can lock up the side gate (by Y4) and then with the site secure, the children in KC can start their outdoor play activities. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Peace - Our Value for September

At school, we are talking to the children about demonstrating peace through positive thoughts about themselves and others. We are discussing how peace is about getting along, being sympathetic to another person's viewpoint and understanding that their own behaviour has an effect on the behaviour of others. Sometimes they may need to ask for adult help to bring about a peaceful situation. In assembly, children thought about peace and what it means to them. Below are some of their ideas.

What Peace means to children at The Firs:

- No-one should have to be sad all their lives
- War destroys, peace heals
- Love wouldn't exist without peace
- Peace is when you are quiet and on your own
- Calm wouldn't exist without peace
- Agree to peace not war
- Love wouldn't be real without peace
- When you are angry, you have to find peace



Well done to all our children for these fantastic ideas!

We are asking parents/carers at home to send in a note if they think their child has engaged with this month's value – peace. We will celebrate some of their achievements in school (if they are happy with this). Examples might be:

- Demonstrating a willingness to resolve a disagreement by talking and listening.
- Asking for help to resolve a conflict if need be.
- Admitting when they did wrong.
- Being able to take turns so that everyone is happy.
- Showing respect, not just for people, but for animals and the environment.

What people have said about peace:

Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace. –**Buddha**

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. **Francis of Assisi**

Peace begins with a smile. **Mother Teresa**

Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one. **John Lennon**

If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner. **Nelson Mandela**

If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies. **Desmond Tutu**

Great work in Beech!

It was a pleasure to visit Beech last week, when I was called in to witness their hard work and commitment in the maths work they were doing.

The children were working on understanding how to write numbers in words and she was so impressed with all her children, who were all using their Growth Mindset and making a fantastic effort. They all received a special certificate to display in their classroom - well done to Beech!



Yours sincerely,

Adam J G Campbell