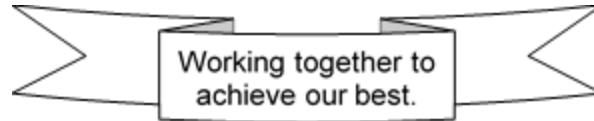




The Firs Lower Pre-school



**Chair of Governors:** John Ashley

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

## Autumn Term Newsletter

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

We would like to say a warm welcome back to all our current children and families, we hope you all had a lovely summer. ☀️

The new term sees us extremely busy welcoming all our new additions to the Preschool Saplings family. The children have all been settling in really well; it is a pleasure to have you all join us.

### Saplings News

Liz is currently working towards her NVQ Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Educator, she will be completing this course over the next year.

### Staff News

We would like to welcome Jenny to the Saplings team, Jenny has previously worked in Saplings, some of the parents may be familiar with her already. Jenny will be working Monday-Thursday afternoons and all day Friday.



Noveen, who worked part-time in Saplings last term will continue to work within Saplings as a bank staff member.

## Saplings Reminders

Please can we remind Parents to **clearly name** all your child's personal belongings, including coats, hats, lunch boxes and drinks bottles.



We would encourage you to bring water in your child's drinks bottle rather than juice. Even when diluted fruit juice can cause tooth decay. For older children, these drinks can fill children up so they're not hungry for healthier food. Oral Health is now an important part of the EYFS curriculum.



If your child has grapes, olives or tomatoes in their lunch box please could we ask for them to be cut in half long ways, as allowing children to eat these items whole can be a choking hazard.

Please could you ensure your child has spare clothes, incase they require changing during their session.

Please can you remember to let us know if your child is not going to be attending Preschool for any reason, you can either call the Saplings office and leave a message or email. If we do not hear from you the Preschool Leader will attempt to make contact with you to establish your child's absence- this is for safeguarding reasons.

If you have any messages you need to pass on when you drop your child off, please could you pop into the office and let Maria, (our Administrator) know and she will

pass them on to the staff. This allows all the staff to be free to welcome the children into Preschool and make sure they are happy and safe.

If your child has had an incident/accident resulting in an injury or visible mark outside of Preschool please can you let a member of staff know. They will provide you with a home accident form to complete.

## Lunches - Parentpay

It is really important that you select and pay for your child's school hot lunch on ParentPay in advance, ideally for the term, but if this is not possible, please could you ensure this is done weekly by the Monday morning of the coming week.



We have several children in the setting who have nut allergies, could we remind you that we are a nut free Preschool, please do not send your child in with any products containing nuts in their lunchbox.

## Sharing 'wow moments' on Tapestry

Thank you to everyone that has been uploading pictures and videos via tapestry, we really look forward to seeing these and sharing them with the children. Please continue to do this as it offers a great opportunity for the children to talk about what they have been up to outside of Preschool.

## Family photos

We would love to receive more family photos to put up on display in Saplings, especially now we have so many new children. They love to look at the photos, share their memories and talk about the special people in their lives. You can either drop these into the office or email them to [thesaplings@firslower.org](mailto:thesaplings@firslower.org)

## Polite Reminders

Please could we ask that you form an orderly queue when collecting your child at the end of their session. The children are all sitting patiently waiting to go home and if they can see their Parent/Carer this causes them to want to get up off their chair

and leave straight away. We have a lot of children to release at the end of each session so we ask that you please wait until your child is safely handed over by a member of the Saplings team.

If you are dropping your child off for the afternoon session, please could we ask that you wait patiently for the morning children to leave first. However, when your child is confident enough to come in by themselves please allow them to do so, if your child requires support coming in we will endeavor to release one of the Saplings team once the morning children have been collected.

## Parking

Please refrain from parking in the staff car park during Preschool drop off and pick up times as our staff work various shifts and spaces are limited.

Could we also ask that you only park in the Saplings parking spaces on the days your child attends Preschool and not if you are dropping/picking up siblings at the school. Due to the high volume of children we now have attending Saplings we do not have spaces in the car park for all our parents. It is first come first served. Parking outside of these spaces impacts the buses/coaches collecting Alameda children.

If you have not yet collected a yellow Saplings car parking permit and require one for this academic year, please call into The Saplings office and speak to Maria or Angie.

## Saplings Request!

If you are out and about on a walk over the next couple of weeks, please could you collect some pinecones, acorns, leaves or anything else of interest for an autumn interest tray! We would also love to have empty cereal boxes, toilet rolls and other household items that would be suitable for junk modelling.

If you have any spare socks you no longer need at home, we would also appreciate them for our spare box.

## Kids Club

Please could you let Kids Club know if you wish to cancel a session or if your child is going to be absent for that day. If your child attends kids club and you need to pass on a message or make an enquiry, please could you telephone or email:

01525 402735 option 4 or [kids.club@firslower.org](mailto:kids.club@firslower.org)

The Saplings day finishes at 3.10pm and the office closes at 3:30pm.

## September and October Birthdays

*Happy 3rd birthday*

James, Aiden, Orla, Nathaniel, Hannah, Rosie, Oscar

*Happy 4th birthday*

Leo B, Jackson, Siena, Angel, Amelia, Trevor



## Dates for your diary:

**School photographer in-** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October further details to follow

**Half term break-** Monday 24<sup>th</sup>- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Training Day -** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October

**Preschool reopens-** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November

**Open evening -** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm (For children going to school Sept 2023)

**Christmas break-** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

**Training day-** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

**Preschool reopens-** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January



**Many thanks for all your support  
from The Saplings Team**

**Angie, Andrea, Maria, Kelly, Michelle, Liz, Natasha, Pat and Jenny.**