

Chair of Governors: John Ashley

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

Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a year it has been! The children have had so much fun this term! We will be sad to see all our older children leave and head to big school, we will miss them all so much but we are excited to welcome back all our younger children and new starters in September.

We had a great time celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, making crowns and bunting and having a tea party everyday. We hope you enjoyed the photos on tapestry.

The school age children have been doing really well learning their Read, Write, Inc sounds and some of the younger children have started Lift off to Language which is going really well.

Staff News

- Liz has recently started a new course, an introduction in neuroscience in Early Years.
- Michelle recently took over as Preschool Deputy Leader, Michelle is really enjoying her new role.
- We are currently advertising for a qualified Preschool Practitioner to start in September- this is due to the growing number of children for the next academic year.
- Pat, who is part of our bank staff team, has been regularly supporting us and the children this term. The children may have mentioned her.



Saplings Reminders

We will continue to use our lending library. As the lending library operates on an honesty policy, please could you remember to just take one book at a time so there are plenty of books for the children to choose from.

Please can we remind Parents to **clearly name** all your child's personal belongings, including bags, coats, sunhats, suncream, lunch boxes and drinks bottles. We have had an increasing amount of items coming in unnamed and are unable to identify who they all belong to.

We currently have a number of items that are unnamed, please could you check the box (which will be outside at the start and end of each session) to see if any of the items belong to your child. If they are still here at the end of the summer term they will be donated to charity. Thank you.

We would encourage you to bring water in your child's drinks bottle rather than juice. As the children have access to their drinks bottles all day, we do not want a child to drink from the wrong bottle, so we would please ask that you only bring water in your child's bottle.



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.



Please could you ensure your child has spare clothes, incase your child requires changing during their session, we will send home any soiled clothing in a carrier bag and ask that you just send in replacement items.

Could you also ensure your child has a coat/rain jacket in Preschool as we go outside in all weathers.

Could we ask that if it is a sunny day, you provide your child with a pair of appropriate shoes rather than wellies.



Important

Please can you remember to let us know if your child is not going to be attending Preschool for any reason, The Saplings number is 01525 402735 option 5, alternatively please email thesaplings@firslower.org. If we do not hear from you and your child does arrive by 9:30am, for safeguarding purposes and ratios a member of the Saplings team will attempt to make contact with a parent to find out why the child is absent.

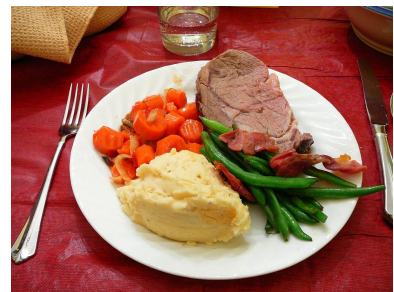
Please could we ask that you do not leave telephone messages on the main school office voicemail.

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, alternatively please go around to the office and Maria will also be able to support you in filling out the form.

Could we please ask that toys are not brought into preschool, we have recently had a number of small toys coming in which are getting lost resulting in some very upset children.

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. Any bookings made after Monday morning are not seen by the staff, therefore if you have made a late booking please email Saplings to inform them.



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, this also includes pesto which contains pine nuts.

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



If your child has a home packed lunch we would encourage you to send your child in with healthy food options. Below is an example to help you understand the nutritional requirements for young children.

The eatwell plate

Use the eatwell plate to help you get the balance right. It shows how much of what you eat should come from each food group.



Public Health England in association with the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

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Free school meals

Some Preschool age children may be eligible for free school meals (FSM) if their parents are in receipt of certain benefits as outlined by the Government. For further information please visit- www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Keeping your children safe

Please could you also inform us if an alternative adult is collecting your child and ensure they have the correct password.

Polite Reminders

Preschool morning drop off times are from **9.10am - 9.20am** (unless you are booked into kids club) and afternoon drop off times are between **12.10pm - 12.20pm**.

We encourage you to arrive **promptly** for drop-offs and pick-ups, as otherwise it can be disruptive for the Preschool routine and the children.



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.

Please also 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.

30hr funding

For those who are currently in receipt of 30 hour funding and will be returning to us in September please ensure you have updated your code in line with HMRC rules. Anyone wishing to apply for 30hr funding for September please do so as soon as possible as there are cut-off dates.

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

If you are interested in wrap around care for September, please fill out a kids club registration form, which can be found on The Firs website.

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

Birthdays

Happy 3rd birthday

Flynn, Hallie, Shy, Spencer, Henry, Adela

Happy 4th birthday

Lacey, Jensen, Sonny M, Bobby, Alice, Rubie, Jake, Jude,
Luca, Javier, Arthur S, Arthur T



Dates for your diary:

Gala day parade- Sunday 3rd July.

Transition visit (school children visit pine)- Friday 8th July

Graduation Ceremony (school children only)- Thursday 14th July.

Pine new parents evening- Monday 18th July.

Safari Stu- (school children only, details to follow)- Thursday 21st July.

End of term- Thursday 21st July.

Training Days- Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September.

Preschool reopens- Monday 5th September.

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

Angie, Michelle, Andrea, Maria, Kelly, Liz, Natasha, Pat and Noveen.