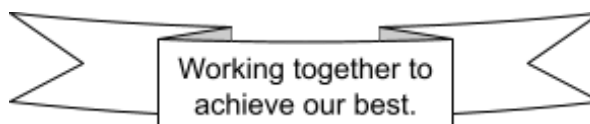




Newsletter

Issue No 4
Date:-10th October, 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,

Black History Month

October is Black History Month and at The Firs we will be marking the event with activities in each year group, looking at influential and inspirational black men and women from the past, as we have done in previous years. We will be beginning this focus with an assembly this week and we will share a summary of the work children have been doing across the school in a future newsletter.



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.

PTFA AGM

The PTFA AGM took place on Wednesday 5th October and was our first AGM to be both a live event in the school hall and online as well. This was important as it allowed greater flexibility for parents / carers and helped more of our community to get involved. It was lovely to have so many parents / carers join us for the event and I would like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA, both for the amazing contribution they make to our community and for the very well organised event on Wednesday.

Unfortunately, Helen Pearson, our PTFA Chair, was unwell and unable to attend in person. She was listening in online however and we hope that she feels better soon! Helen has come to the end of her term of office and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and the great contribution she has made in her time leading the PTFA.

The AGM was led by the Secretary Vicki Davies and was a great way to celebrate all the many successes last year and the huge amount of funds raised for the school.

The new PTFA team were agreed at the meeting and there was a very positive discussion about the current plans for the fantastic range of activities and projects for this year, along with many new ideas from the many parents present that will undoubtedly add greatly to the success of the programme this year.

We are delighted to announce that Vikki McQueen who served as an Events Officer last year will be taking over the helm of the PTFA and the new team are as follows:

1. **Chair** – Vicki McQueen
2. **Secretary** – Vicki Davies
3. **Treasurer** – Angela McGovern
4. **Communications & Social Media** – Frankie Cooper, Alex Goodyear / Joanna Duignan (shared role)
 - Events Officer – Vicky Stallan
 - Events Officer – Ann-Marie Drinkwater

- Events Officer – Flavia Kamoga
- Events Officer – Daisy Forman
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The next meeting will be via Zoom on Monday **17th October at 7:30pm** and all members are welcome.

PTFA Disco - message from the PTFA

Less than two weeks to go until our first fantastic PTFA event of this school year.

Our DISCO is back on **Thursday 20th October**.

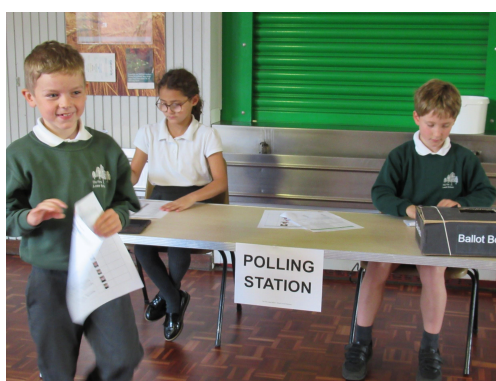
More information to follow soon.

PTFA 'Learn to Braid' Evening -Thursday 13th October

There are a few places left for the PTFA 'Learn to Braid' evening on Thursday 13th October starting at 7.45 - 10.00pm. Please find attached information about this evening and if you have questions relating to this please let us know.

School Council Elections Y1-Y4

On Wednesday 5th it was **Election Day** at The Firs! The hall was all set up as a polling station and some children from Y4 took turns to act as Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk in the hall during the day, as each class came in to cast their votes!



A big thank you to Mr Lees for creating a voting booth for us again this year, it made the process so much more fun for the children and helped them to learn about how elections work. Our new School Council is elected and will be meeting next week for the 1st time.

Harvest Assembly

Just a reminder that Dominic Holroyd-Thomas, the Reverend from St Andrews Church will be leading our Harvest assembly on Wednesday 12th October. The Harvest assembly is for pupils only as our hall is not big enough to extend this to our parents.

We are asking for Harvest produce such as dried foods and tinned products to be brought into school on the morning of the 12th. These will then be displayed before assembly begins at 10.05am.

All produce brought into school will be collected by the Need Project providing food packages to support individuals and families who are experiencing food deprivation. Many thanks in advance for your support.



Water Bottles in school

Some children are not bringing their water bottles into school. Please can you make sure your child brings their water bottle to school each day so that they always have access to this. Thank you.

Can you Help?

If you have a van and would be willing to help us with the collection of some furniture from outside the area, please contact Katherine Jukes by email - katherine.jukes@firslower.org or telephone the school office on 01525 402735. Thank you.

Parking on a private road

The residents of Richardson Court have asked us to let you know that parents / carers have been using this road to park when taking their children into school. We realise that parking can get difficult but please avoid this area - thank you.

Lost Micro Scooter

A child's micro scooter went missing from school on 29th September. It is a pink mini micro scooter with a black light/bell attached and has 3 wheels. If anyone can help with this, please let us know.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to all the parents / carers who generously contributed cakes and biscuits for our MacMillan Coffee morning last Friday. It was lovely to see so many of you there on Friday, which made for a lovely atmosphere in the hall. Thank you also to our parents and PTA who helped on the day.

It is further evidence of our caring community that with your fantastic support, we managed to raise a very impressive £405. Well done to all our new Y4 Ambassadors who did a great job helping to serve people. We would also like to say a big thank you to Mrs Rogers for organising this very successful event.



Supporting our caring and respectful ethos

At The Firs we have always believed passionately in building and maintaining a caring community, where all our interactions are kind and respectful. We want this for our children of course but also for all the adults who comprise our community too.

This spirit of warmth and care is often mentioned by new parents who join our community and was commented on again at our recent and very positive parent forum meeting. I have worked at this school for a long time and in all that time, we have always been very fortunate to have fantastic support from our parents / carers, for which we are very grateful.

Sadly however, there have recently been some instances where conversations, emails and comments on social media (reported to us by other parents) have left staff very upset and/or intimidated by aggressive encounters or communications.

We know that there may be times when parents / carers feel we have got things wrong and we want to hear feedback that can help us improve. Please remember though that staff have feelings too and we ask that all parents / carers abide by the 'Expectations' document displayed in our reception area and on our website. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell