



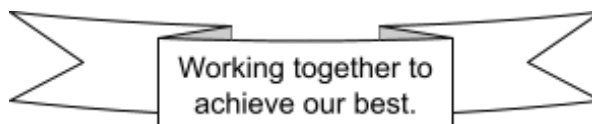
Newsletter

Issue No 7

Date:-21st July, 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,

Year 2 Harcourt Arboretum Trip

Year 2 travelled to the outskirts of Oxford to visit Harcourt Arboretum as part of their science work on trees and plants.



The children were very excited to go on their first school trip!

When we arrived we were able to wander around the arboretum and marvel at the huge California Redwood trees, which we discovered are impervious to fire, so would not burn down in a wildfire.

The children discovered all sorts of interesting facts about trees and plants, thanks to our tutors for the day, Tegan and Catherine.

After the morning session we sat down for a picnic lunch and then continued the fun with a bug hunt in the vast meadow, which the children



thoroughly enjoyed exploring.

They were all given magnifying containers so that they could investigate what they had found and caught. After a jam-packed day we were all ready to get back on the coach, which took rather a long time to get us back to school, but despite this, we had a really wonderful day, and it was fantastic to see the children engaging so well with the activities provided.

Year 3 Holdenby House Trip

Year 3 had a very interesting and informative day out on the 6th July, visiting Holdenby House in Northamptonshire. The children had a glimpse into the life of a child being evacuated, enhancing their learning around World War II.



They were shown how to make Woolton Pie, learnt about weekly rationing, helped to make a rug for the Make-Do-and-Mend Drive and then looked inside an Air Raid Shelter to learn how children in WWII kept themselves safe.

The children all looked amazing, and very much in character, in their outfits from this era. They completely embraced the roll play and activity based aspect of this unique experience, and behaved in an impeccable manner.

Thank you to our parents, preparing the children with their outfits, and to the many parent helpers that accompanied us on this trip.



Year 4 RSSP Girls Football Skills Festival

Well done to our Year 4 girls, who attended our first RSSP Girls Football Festival. They took part in a number of football skills related drills, perfecting their goal scoring, tackling, passing and general ball handling, before playing in some 'mini matches'.

They clearly had an extremely fun morning, playing well as a team and for some, embracing the opportunity to try a sport they haven't played before.

Keeping Up To Date with Firs Events

As well as Photo Galleries and Latest News items on our School Website www.firslower.co.uk, please look out for our Facebook Page and Instagram Posts.

The Firs Facebook – search for [The Firs Lower School](#)

The Firs Instagram – search for [thefirslower](#)



We also have a free **School News App**, downloadable through your App Store. Just download the App and search for our postcode MK45 2QR, you will have instant access to all The Firs Latest News, Photo Galleries, School Calendar, and letters that have been sent.

"Through the Decades" Ampthill Gala Parade

Thank you again to our PTFA, for all their hard work behind the scenes orchestrating The Firs Lower's Gala Parade entry, which we are very proud to announce was rewarded with 2nd place!

This year's theme, set by the Ampthill Gala Committee, was The Jubilee and The Firs PTFA chose to join the parade as "Through the Decades".

To set the scene for their vision, each year group, pupils and parents, dressed as a different decade, to represent the reign of the Queen:

It was amazing to see so many Firs pupils and parents getting into the spirit of parading through the town centre - everyone looked incredible, with such a vibrant display of the Queen's reign!

A massive thank you to PTFA member Frankie Orell for being the creative genius behind such an extravaganza!

Great Ormond Street Fundraiser

Huge congratulations to Connie in Y4, who has worked so hard to make a huge array of pencil cases, bags and 'scrunchies'. The stall on Friday was hugely successful and there were large crowds round the stall, such was the demand! Well done for demonstrating your amazing sewing skills Connie and thank you to you and all the Y4 children who helped to run the stall and raise money for such a good cause.

ParentPay - Wraparound Care and Lunch Balances

We ask that all parents check their ParentPay accounts to ensure all balances have been cleared, ie, Lunches, Wraparound Care, and Pre-School fees. Emails will be sent out as reminders to any accounts that have outstanding balances.

July's invoices for Wraparound care have already been applied to ParentPay with a due day of 1st July 2022, with fees for amendments to sessions or extra sessions requested applied daily. If you have a balance outstanding please ensure this is paid on receipt of your reminder email.

If paying by childcare vouchers, these can take up to 5 days to be received by us, please keep this in mind to allow for time for the funds to be cleared into our accounts before we break for the Summer.

Any credit balances for pupils leaving us this summer will be refunded to the 'Parent Account' within ParentPay. An email will be triggered when the refund has been processed. By accessing your 'Parent Account', a withdrawal can be requested and a refund issued to the card used to make the original payment.

Sports Days at The Firs

All our children have had a fantastic time taking part in their sports days over the last two weeks. It is lovely to have this opportunity to congratulate them all for their really positive effort and the spirit of 'friendly competitiveness' that marked all the events. Well done to everyone.



It was so nice to welcome all our parents and grandparents back as supporters, having a crowd to cheer the children on made for a lovely atmosphere, and encouraged the children to try their best for their teams, as well as in their individual sprint races.

Saplings Graduation

Our Pre-school leavers had a lovely time on their Graduation Day, to celebrate the end of their time with us. The children, their guests and our Saplings staff enjoyed sharing a picnic together and had a great time playing in the sand pit.



To complete the occasion, Mr Campbell hosted a Graduation Ceremony, presenting each child with their graduation certificate.

This was followed with all the children taking part in the 'throw the grad hat in the air' tradition to mark the end of their Saplings years.



Many of our Saplings leavers will be joining us in our Reception Class from September, which we are very excited about. For the few that will not be returning to us, we wish you all well at your new settings.

Football Success

On Sunday 17th the Yr 3 and Yr 2 teams took part in a Charity tournament organised by Russell Raiders held at the Rufus. The Tournament was aimed at raising funds for the 'Claire's Boob Battle' crowd funding campaign and in the end raised almost £4,500.

Year 3 managed to win the 2nd and 3rd place trophies (from 12 teams). The teams played 5 league matches then played in a knockout match for 2nd (they won 1-0) and for 3rd (that was 1-1 and they won in a dramatic penalty shootout, thanks to a great save from Louis M and a calm penalty from Alfie F). Well done to all the children involved.

Year 4 Performance and Leaver Event

The Year 4 children gave three fantastic performances of their production Cinderella Rockerfella this week and all the audiences were left so impressed by the quality of their performances and the strength of their team work.



The children can feel very proud of what they have achieved, both in the Y4 play and in what they have accomplished this year in Oak and Willow class. A huge thank you and well done to the whole Y4 team and especially to Mrs Fuller and Mrs Rogers for all their hard work.

Tonight, they will round off their year with what will, no doubt, be a fantastic event that will generate lots of special memories for children, parents/carers and staff to treasure. Well done to all our Y4s!



Final Assembly

In our assembly today, we awarded our School Council members for all their hard work throughout the year by presenting them with a certificate from Mr Campbell. We also presented all the decorated cup winners with a prize from the PTFA.

All of Year 4 sang one of their songs from Cinderella and Rockerfella as well as, 'Thank your lucky Stars' and 'Leaving on a High' to us in assembly and we all wished them well for next year at their new school.

We said goodbye to Mrs Mazzey who has worked in Pine this year. We are very grateful for all the hard work she has done with the children in her care and we will miss her very much.

I am sure you will join us in wishing her all the best in her new role in September.

Final thoughts

As we come to the end of a very busy year I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to all our children for everything they have accomplished and all the effort they have made with their learning this year.

I would like to say a big thank you to all our staff at The Firs who work so conscientiously on behalf of our school and all its children. It is their dedication in school that enables our children to have the care, support and the inspiration to succeed, that has served them so well.

I would also like to thank all of you for the support and encouragement you have given your children with their learning at home. This makes such a difference and contributes so importantly to children's success. We are so fortunate to have such supportive parents and carers... thank you!

I hope that everyone has a great summer break. We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on **Monday 5th September**.



Adam J G Campbell
(Headteacher)