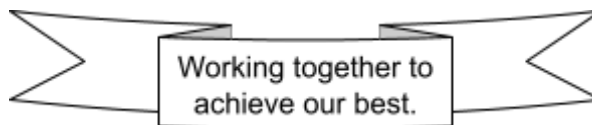




Issue No 6

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[www.firslower.co.uk](http://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

People from African and Caribbean backgrounds have been a fundamental part of British history for centuries. Black History Month gives us the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture. Before half term, children across the school participated in activities to mark Black History month. Here are just a few examples of the work the children were involved in.

*Year R*

Pine children watched Cbeebies Black History Heroes and discussed the experiences of Rosa Parks, thinking about Fairness, equality and Kindness.

The children then listened to a story about Nelson Mandela, how he was a tireless advocate for peace and his advice 'It always feels impossible till it is done.' We then thought of things we found difficult, why and how we overcame them.

*Year 1*

Year One read the book 'Amazing Grace' and talked about how key figures in the black community have helped to shape our multi-cultural history. We learned about Martin Luther King, and what he did to fight against inequality. We also talked about our own dreams and we created a piece of work to show this.

Year 2

Year Two looked at why it is important that we treat everyone equally. The children explored different Cbeebies's 'Black History Heroes' seeing why they inspired the different Cbeebies presenters. The children then looked at how people have strived throughout history to ensure everyone is treated equally.



The children then thought about how they can ensure everyone is treated equally, creating their own placards with messages about equality and inclusion.

### Year 3

In Year Three they watched a special Newround episode and discussed what Black History Month was all about and why it was so important. The children then thought about different influential black people they knew of and were introduced to some new people too. These included sports personalities, politicians, musicians, poets and authors.

They then had an opportunity to choose one of these people to research, creating a fact file and focusing on why they were/are significant today.

### Year 4

Year 4 looked at why black history is celebrated. The children looked at beautiful, symbolic African patterns and coloured the patterns in unique colours, as well as creating one of their own. They also learned about two famous black artists - Alma Thomas (see below) and Jacob Lawrence, trying out their styles.



The children have also focused on influential black sportsmen and women who have been not only successful in their sport but who have been instrumental in supporting worthwhile causes and establishing charities.

### **School Photographs**

You should have received your child's proof card this week and you can order online with free delivery back to The Firs if you order by Monday 14th November, 2022. Please note that any orders after the set deadline will be subject to postage and packing costs with delivery direct to your home address.

Thank you for your support.

### **School Uniform**

Children should only be coming to school in their trainers when it is their PE day and should be wearing their black school shoes for the rest of the time. Please also note that PE kit should be green or black colours only. We seem to be getting lots of colours on PE days and would ask for your support with this - thank you.



### Y3 Egyptian Day

On Wednesday 19th October Y3 were visited by 'History off The Page' who led a fantastic Egyptian Day in the school hall.



The day included moments when the children learned about living in ancient Egyptian times together, interspersed with opportunities to take part in a series of activities using replica artefacts and learning about ancient Egyptian culture.

In the afternoon the children participated in a number of drama activities, including performances that the children worked hard in a short time to prepare. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the day, we couldn't have done it without you.



A big thank you to the Y3 team for organising such a super event and to all the parents/carers for the super costumes. The children had a fantastic time and their amazing costumes certainly helped them to get into the spirit of the occasion!

### Flu Immunisations

Just a reminder that the flu immunisations will take place on Thursday 10th November for Years R, 1, 2, 3 and 4. Only parents of children who have consented to this will be having their immunisation.

### Christmas dinner

The Christmas dinner will be on Thursday 15th December and I attach the menu to this newsletter. If your child wishes to have a Christmas dinner, please book this online.

### Y1 Visit to Cooper's Hill

On Thursday 3rd November, Year 1 visited Cooper's Hill for their science lesson. Throughout the year the Year 1 children will be looking at the different seasons and how we can see the seasons change. They had lots of fun jumping in the puddles, collecting leaves and talking about how we can see the signs of Autumn in our environment. Thank you to all the parents who helped accompany us on this trip.





## Accelerated Reader in KS2

As you will be aware, we have launched Accelerated Reader in KS2 this term. All our reading books have an AR book level assigned to them now. This is important because with the regular reading assessments or 'Star Tests' the children do, it means they can choose the book that is right for them.

After they have read each book, they log on to AR and do the associated quiz. This means we can keep track of how many books they are reading and how accurate their comprehension of the story or content is.

We wanted to say well done to all our KS2 children, who have taken to Accelerated Reader so enthusiastically. We shared with the children that educational research says that 30 minutes reading a day is the key to success! We do at least 15 minutes a day in school and we have asked children and parents to do about 15 minutes at home. We have noticed that children are reading more and are getting more accurate in their quizzing... keep up the good work!

We have completed our AR Reading Megastars board in the hall. (Thank you to Mrs Eddy for creating it!) Each week children will be awarded a Reading Megastars Award by their teacher for effort and /or accuracy with their quiz results. Well done to our first children to receive the awards last week! (You will know if your child receives a Reading Megastars Award, as it will be recorded in their Reading Record (Fish) book.)

## Children In Need

Friday 18th November will be Children in Need day and with this newsletter there is a letter giving more information about how we will be marking the event, including how parents / carers can make donations.

## Pine Autumn Walk

On Tuesday 18th October, Pine children went for an autumn walk. The walk provided lots of wonderful learning opportunities for the children as they spoke about all the signs of autumn they could see. They went on a scavenger hunt and collected items such as different coloured leaves, pine cones, conkers etc. The staff were so proud of how well the children walked and followed the adult's instructions- well done



children!

## Plea from Pine

If you have any doll prams or buggies you no longer need, Pine would be very grateful for them. We would also appreciate child sized shoe boxes to store games and jigsaw puzzles where the original boxes have become damaged. Thank you.

## Poppy Appeal

As usual, The Royal British Legion has dropped off poppies for Remembrance Day and they have also left a box of Remembrance merchandise. We will have these on display in the Y4 stage area during this week

and you will be able to donate, should you wish to. If the weather is wet at the end of the school day, they will be available from the staffroom window. Thank you for your support.

### **Shoe Box Appeal**

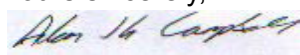
Thank you to those who have sent in some items for the shoe box appeal. Please keep sending items in as we need to get the boxes filled and collected so that the children have them in time for Christmas.

The items that we need are as follows:-

**Cars, Lego, trucks, etc, balls, complete jigsaws, action figures, colouring books, pens, crayons, yo-yo, wooden and plastic toys, building blocks, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, modelling clay, plasticine & cutters, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens / gloves, hat, harmonica, games, cards.**

Please do not send in anything liquid as if this leaks or breaks it could damage more than one shoebox.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam J G Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Adam J G Campbell