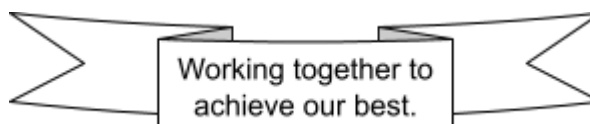




Newsletter

Issue No 10
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Chair of Governors: John Ashley

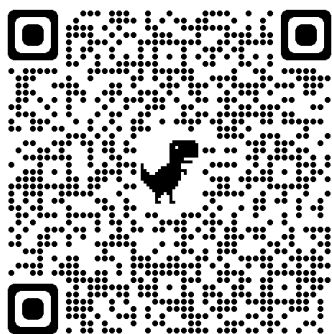
Governors: Annette Anderson, Franco Cameli, Adam Campbell, Kerry Mercer, Tom Stean, Stuart Hobbs, Grant Chaney and Claudia Wallis.

Dear parents/carers,

Christmas Jumper Day

Today was Christmas Jumper Day, which is an annual fundraising campaign in the UK organised by the charity 'Save the Children'.

It is not too late if you want to make your donation! We asked for a donation towards this great cause, either through our Just Giving link - [The Firs Lower Christmas Jumper Fundraising Page](#), or our QR Code below:



All donations this year will be [matched by the UK government!](#)* WOW!

Further details can be found in the letter in our 22/23 Letters Home page on our website.

Children had a lovely day today and wearing their Christmas Jumpers really contributed to the fun!

Christmas Tree Festival and Our Amazing Choir

Last weekend, The Firs participated in the annual Amptill Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's Church.

Thank you to Mrs Rogers who came up with the really topical and inventive theme 'Keeping Warm This Christmas'; thank you to the staff for all their efforts making the Christmas decorations and a huge thank you and well done to all our children, who worked so hard and so creatively making them... as you can see, our tree looked fantastic!

Our Choir performed on Sunday 4th as part of the event and as always, they really did us proud! In front of a packed audience at St Andrew's they sung beautifully and behaved impeccably. Well done to all the many children who took part, thank you to Mrs Baker and Mrs Jukes for supporting the event and a huge thank you to Mrs Freeman and Miss Arulrasa for leading the choir so successfully!



Christmas Performances

It was great to be able to return to our 'normal' and full programme of Christmas Performances this term and after all the efforts children and staff have made in rehearsals, it was very rewarding to have the hall packed with parents / carers enjoying the performances again!



The children were so excited last week and couldn't wait to perform and in addition to this, all the children, including Year 4 and older children from Saplings, really enjoyed coming into the hall to watch the dress rehearsals!



A huge thank you to all of you for helping with the wonderful costumes, practising lines and for giving up your time to join us for the performances.



Thank you so much to the PTFA for providing the Christmas refreshments in each afternoon performance, along with organising a raffle for a fantastic Christmas hamper in each performance.

Finally, a massive well done to all our little acting stars who shone so brightly in each performance and a big thank you to each staff team, for all their hard work which made it all possible!

PTFA Pantomime

The PTFA funded a superb pantomime that the children really enjoyed on Friday 9th December. It was a fantastic experience and really contributed to the fun during our performance week last week. Thank you to the PTFA for both this and all the other amazing events and opportunities they have organised for the school community this term.

Thank you Ampthill Town Council

We would like to say a big thank you to Ampthill Town Council for the kind donation of £250 that was given to us to improve our preschool outdoor area.

I am pleased to confirm that the money has been spent on a mud kitchen for all The Saplings children to play with.

The children are having lots of fun making dinners for their friend's in their new kitchen! The Firs Lower School and The Saplings preschool would like to say how grateful we are for their support with this!



Saplings Children Sing Beautifully!

The Saplings put on a wonderful Christmas Performance on Tuesday 13th and our school hall was full of all their parents who were entertained by a series of songs, sung beautifully by the Saplings children.

They enjoyed using musical instruments to accompany some of their songs and they all did a fantastic job remembering all the words and singing so confidently in front of such a large audience.

Well done to all of our Saplings children and a big thank you to the Saplings Team for organising such a great event.



Violin Performance

On Wednesday 14th our young violin and viola players entertained us with a selection of music that they have been practising this term. They gave a fantastic performance and it was a great opportunity to congratulate them on their performance and their skills and to say thank you to Mrs Perry, the fantastic peripatetic teacher who has, for many years, helped our young players to achieve musical excellence!



Governor Update

We said goodbye and thank you to Louise Haigh this term. Louise has served as a Governor for many years and she has made a very positive and important contribution to the work of the Governing body, holding the role of Chair of The HR Committee as well as being our Vice Chair. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to our school and its children.

We would also like to welcome Grant Chaney, father of Rocco in Year 1 and Claudia Wallis, teacher in Cedar Class who have both joined the Governing body this term. They have already taken up their roles and are making a great contribution to the work of our Trustees.

Santa seen around Ampthill!

Santa was seen last Wednesday visiting houses in Ampthill and amazingly he allowed some of the staff and parents from The Firs help him bring some Christmas fun to the Children of The Ampthill. Thank you to everyone involved!



Choir Visit to Agate House and Lavender Court

As well as singing beautifully at The Church (see page 1 of our newsletter), our fantastic choir have been busy performing in the last week of term too, visiting Lavender Court on Wednesday 14th and Agate House on Thursday 15th. Well done to all our Choir for behaving so well and singing so enthusiastically and a big thank you to Mrs Freeman and Mrs Arulrasa for all their efforts.



Fun In The Snow!

Children had a great time earlier this week, enjoying the snow at playtime!



Christmas Lunch

Our children really enjoyed their Christmas lunch on Thursday 15th with our staff serving the children their Christmas dinners. Our Kitchen team, led by our Kitchen Manager Hannah Howlett produced a fantastic festive lunch which everyone enjoyed, thank you to them for all their hard work.



Final Assembly and Father Christmas Visits The Firs!

Today we held our final assembly, including our traditional rendition of The 12 Days Of Christmas, children choosing a member of staff to hold each of the picture cards for each line. After this Father Christmas made an appearance and delivered lots of presents to all the classes. The children were very excited and then went back to class to enjoy opening their presents.



End of Term Thoughts

We have come to the end of another busy term and the staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents / carers for their help and support.

All the children have worked so hard all term and it is lovely that they have enjoyed a variety of festive activities in the last few weeks. They have taken great pleasure in watching each other's Christmas concerts and there have been very enjoyable Christmas parties for everyone this week.

This is a time when we can reflect on the many adults who make a huge contribution to life at The Firs and we thought about this and thanked them for their contributions in assembly.

Finally, and on behalf of all the staff and Governors I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and Happy New year. We look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Wednesday 4th January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Adam J G Campbell'.

Adam J G Campbell

