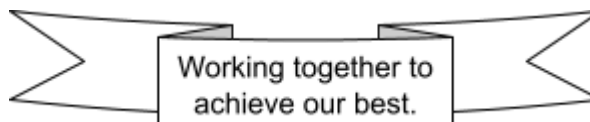




Newsletter

Issue No 11
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www.firslower.co.uk



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,

Happy New Year

Welcome back to all our pupils, staff and parents, we hope you all had an exciting, fun-filled Christmas break, and feel ready for a new school term.

Please look out for Social Media accounts, Facebook and Instagram, to keep up with all the exciting events happening at The Firs Lower.

[‘The Firs Lower School’ Facebook page](#)

[‘thefirslower’ Instagram Account](#)



Fun on The Beach - The Y2 Seaside Day

At The Firs we try to build in fun ‘wow’ moments into the key topics we undertake across the curriculum and last Thursday, the Y2 Seaside Day was a good example of this.

As part of the Y2 history topic on The Seaside, the school was visited by History Off The Page, who came in to teach the children about how the idea of ‘going on holiday’ emerged and gave them a chance to experience some of the aspects of a Victorian day out at the seaside.



The children got the chance to experience a wide range of different activities including writing postcards, making toy boats and decorating seaside gifts.



In the afternoon the children got the chance to role play a visit to a Victorian Pier show taking it in turns to run the stalls or play the visiting Victorian holidaymakers. They finished off the day with a traditional Punch and Judy show that the children really enjoyed.

Accelerated Reader Update Letter - KS2

Could Y3 and Y4 parents please see the AR letter emailed with this newsletter, which gives some background information about the letters your children are bringing home with them today.



One letter gives some information following the second **Star Test** that the children took in December. This letter contains their new **ZPD** (Zone of Proximal Development) to help guide their reading book choices

The second letter gives details of the Accelerated Reader '**Home Connect**' service that allows parents / carers to log in and see their child's quiz results. This is an important way parents can see how many books children are reading and how accurate their comprehension is.

For more information about AR, please see the **Accelerate Reader Parent Guide** we sent home last term. This and the update letter going home tonight are both available on our website on the [22/23 letters home](#) page.

Census Day Menu - Thursday 19th January 2023

Caterlink has made some changes to the menu for 19th January. The new menu is:

- Hot dog or Vegetarian Hot Dog
- Chips, Coleslaw and Salad
- Syrup, Sponge and Custard

If your child is tempted by these mouthwatering treats then please book a meal through Parent Pay!

DfE Health Advice Regarding Flu, Strep A and Covid 19

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

- 'It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. **If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.**
- Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practise regular hand washing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.
- Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.
- Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low.

- Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.'

Eligible children include:

- those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- all primary school-aged children
- some secondary school-aged children

You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu](#) on NHS.UK.

What Are We Learning Sheets - Spring 23

We want parents/carers to be aware of what children are learning in school and how they might help at home. These will be coming home to you this week and we hope they are helpful.

Job Vacancies at The Firs:-

- SENDCo/Inclusion Manager
- Forest School Leader
- Level 3 Pre-School Practitioner
- Kids' Club Administrator
- Kids' Club Leader

Please see [Vacancies at The Firs](#) on our website for post information and application forms. Full details and applications can also be made through ['My New Term'](#).

If you are interested in a position at The Firs Lower School, please contact the school office via email office@firslower.org or telephone 01525 402375. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed, and we look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell