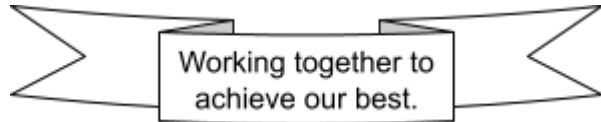




## Newsletter

Issue No 12  
Date:-16<sup>th</sup> January, 2023  
[www.firslower.co.uk](http://www.firslower.co.uk)



**Chair of Governors:** John Ashley

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

Dear parents/carers,

### **Premier Education, Dodgeball Competition**

We had some amazing news over the weekend. The Firs Lower School is one of the lucky winners of Premier Educations £250 Dodgeball competition. Thank you to all our parents who entered through facebook, and especially to the Wilmer family who won on our behalf.

### **Redborne Sports Partnership 'Paralympics' Event**

Well done to the Y4 children who represented the school at the RSP Paralympics Event on Friday. The staff accompanying them said they were so proud of the effort the children made and their exemplary behaviour throughout. Well done to all the children involved.

### **School Crossing Patrol**

Sadly the person who was due to start in February has been unable to take on the role. The post has been re-advertised and the link is below, if any parents are interested.

<https://career2.successfactors.eu/sfcareer/jobreqcareer?jobId=11406&company=centralbed>

In the meantime The School Crossing Patrol Team are providing a service with a standby crossing officer until they can recruit someone else to take on the position full time..

### **Mrs Stephenson White**

We said goodbye to Mrs Stephenson White on Friday in assembly. Mrs Stephenson White left us at the end of last week after many years working at The Firs. She worked in school for many years as a teaching assistant, supporting children in class and taking RWI sessions. She then moved to work in Saplings, where she has taken a key role in supporting children in our Pre School. She also has a key role in school as the Kids' Club Leader and she has worked hard over the last few years, ensuring children are well cared for and enjoying before and after school sessions, as well as developing and expanding our very popular Holiday Club provision. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and her service to the school over the years. We will all miss Mrs Stephenson White and we wish her the very best of luck in the future.

### **Music Centre Open Morning**

Central Beds music service (Inspiring Music) is spreading the joy of music this new year. They will be opening the doors of their music centres, for free, on 4 February.

The three centres in [Amphill](#), [Biggleswade](#) and [Leighton-Linslade](#) will welcome children and adults, both beginners and musical pros, to come along and have a go for free at different instruments.

If you, your children, or someone you know, is interested in learning how to make, play and perform music, there is a session for them.

Please use this link to find out more and book for free - [Inspiring Music Education Hub](#)

## **Mrs Gaulton**

Mrs Gaulton will be leaving us at half term and we will all be very sad to see her leave us. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank her for her huge contribution in her time at The Firs. She has worked at The Firs for many years and in that time she has worked in both Y1 and Y2, forming very strong and caring relationships with children and ensuring that all her pupils made good progress.

As a member of the Senior Leadership Team over the years, she has added so much, contributing very importantly, including leading the introduction of Pivotal, that did so much, over the years, to develop and enhance our approach to behaviour management.

Working as literacy leader, she ensured we maintained high standards, amongst many other projects, introducing new programmes for spelling and handwriting.

In her current role as SEND-Co, she has done so much to develop our provision and worked so hard to ensure that, despite the challenges currently, we have achieved so many successful referrals for outside support, that have had such a positive impact on the children in question. She also led the development of our amazing Sensory Room, which supports some of our most vulnerable children, when they need help the most.

Perhaps most importantly, she has always worked so conscientiously and sensitively, to give children the pastoral support they need at critical moments and for that above all else, we will always be very grateful to her.

On behalf of all the school community, I would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Gaulton and wish her the very best of luck in her new post.

## **SEND Arrangements for the spring Term 2023**

Although Mrs Gaulton took up her new role at the beginning of this term, she kindly agreed to continue giving us support for a few hours each week, including being in school on Fridays.

Mrs Freeman (teacher in Holly Class) is being released each week to share the SEND-Co duties with Mrs Gaulton and we would ask that parents contact her in the first instance ([hannah.freeman@firslower.org](mailto:hannah.freeman@firslower.org)) with any questions or support needed. She will then liaise with Mrs Gaulton and/or other colleagues, to decide who is the most appropriate member of staff to respond.

## **Vacancies at The Firs: -**

- Forest School Leader – Closing Date 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- SENDCo/Inclusion Manager – Closing Date 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023
- Wraparound Care 'Kids' Club' Play Worker – Closing Date 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

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](mailto:office@firslower.org) or telephone 01525 402375. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed, and we look forward to meeting you.

## **Mr Stean**

We are saying goodbye and thank you to one of our hard working Trustees Tom Stean this term. Tom has served as a Governor for a number of years and he has made a very positive and important contribution to the work of the Governing body. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work and dedication to our school and its children.

### **New Parent Governor needed**

With this Newsletter there is a letter giving details about the process to recruit a new parent governor.

We have a fantastic group of Trustees who are highly supportive of the school and play a critical role in helping us to continuously develop and improve the school. This is an excellent opportunity to join our Governor team and make your own contribution to the development of our fantastic school, that we all care about so much!

We are requesting nominations for the vacancy. One nomination form is being issued to each family in the first instance. Additional forms are available from the School Office or on our website

Nomination papers should be returned to the school in an envelope marked "Nomination Paper - for the attention of the Headteacher" by **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**.


### **Census Day Menu - Thursday 19th January 2023**

Caterlink has made a temporary change to this week's menu, please see below

- **Wednesday 18th January**
  - Option 1 - Spaghetti Bolognese with Garlic Bread
  - Option 2 – Vegetable Fajitas with Rice
  
- **Thursday 19th January (Census Day)**
  - Option 1 - Hot dog
  - Option 2 - Vegetarian Hot Dog
  - Both options served with Chips, Coleslaw and Salad
  - Followed by Syrup Sponge Pudding with Custard

If your child is tempted by these mouth-watering treats, or you would like to amend your booking, please log into your Parent Pay!

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell