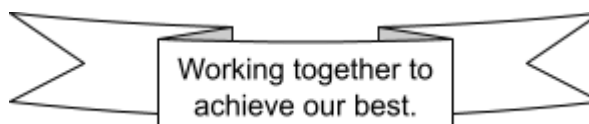




Newsletter

Issue No 17
Date:- 6th March, 2023
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,

Comic Relief's Red Nose Day, 17th March 2023

Friday 17th March is Comic Relief's Red Nose Day and we would like everyone, pupils, staff and visitors to the school to support this worthwhile cause by wearing something **Red**. This could be a t-shirt, jumper, socks, hair decorations, face paint, red noses, or all of the above!

Donations can be made via the ParentPay link below, but we will also have a bucket on the gate for any donations the children might like to make.



Donations link - [**The Firs Lower Comic Relief, Red Nose Day Donations Page**](#)

You can also share this link with family and friends, anyone and everyone is welcome to contribute towards our fundraising day, you do not need a ParentPay account to help us raise funds. Thank you for your continued support.

Parents Evening, Online Booking: <https://firslower.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

If you haven't already done so, please book your 10 minute 'Face to Face' Parents' Evening meeting with your child's teacher on Tuesday 14th March or Thursday 16th March 2023.

Appointment booking is now and will close midday on Monday 13th March.

Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office. office@firslower.org

Y1 Reading Breakfast Events

Over the last two weeks, Holly and Maple class have enjoyed the Reading Breakfast events that have given children the chance to read to a parent / carer.

These were really important opportunities to raise the profile of reading and show children how enjoyable it is!



Thank you to all the parents / carers who kindly gave up their time to join us for the two events.

Also a big well done to all our Y1 children, who joined in so positively and successfully!



World Book Day, Book Fairs and Book At Bedtime

On Thursday 2nd the school celebrated World Book Day with all the children and staff coming in dressed as a character from a favourite book. We started off with a special assembly to mark the occasion and continued with a linked set of activities in each year group.



Saplings joined in with the fun too!



The day was preceded by our usual Book fair, which was very well attended and very much enjoyed by all the children.

We really benefit from the commission we receive from the Book Fairs, which we can use to buy books for school.

Our celebration of World Book Day ended with another of our ever popular Book At Bedtime events. A huge thank you to the PTFA for supporting this event with refreshments and a cookie for all the children attending!



Thank you to all our parents / carers for all your fantastic support, finding costumes for children, for purchasing books at the Book fairs and for attending the Book at Bedtime event.

Y2 Accelerated Reader Update

Later this week there will be an update letter for the Y2 parents/carers whose children have begun Accelerated Reader. This letter explains the printed AR generated letter that will accompany it, for each Y2 child on AR, setting out some information about the recent online reading Star Test they completed.



Parent Forum

We held another Parent Forum Session on Tuesday 28th February. These sessions are so useful in giving us essential feedback on the school, and so important in providing a voice for parents / carers. We discussed a range of topics including children's experience of lunchtime (including feedback from the School Council), meals at lunchtime, plans for lunchtime clubs, reading and attendance.

If you want to know more about discussions on the Parent Forum you can download the minutes that are made available on our [Parent Forum website page](#), once approved at the next meeting.

Y4 Bikeability - 10/3/23 (Oak) and 17/3/23 (Willow)

Every year we run Bikeability sessions for Y4, to give children the opportunity to improve their cycling skills. This is an important life skill and a very useful exercise, to ensure that children develop their skills, just prior to going to Grafham Water, so they can enjoy and get the most out of the cycling activity that is part of their residential visit.

There are Bikeability Sessions for **Oak Class** on **Friday 10th March** and **Willow Class** on **Friday 17th**.

Children will need to bring their bikes to school for their session. Please bring them in through the normal gate. They will then need to be wheeled round and left in the garden where the stage is (the one you walk through just before walking out of school through the Y4 garden).

Thank you in advance, to all our Year 4 parents and carers for their support with this.

Year 4 Children Walking to and from School from 18th April

In Year 4 a number of children walk to and from school on their own or with friends in preparation for their move to a new school in September. As part of our efforts to ensure the safety of all children, it would be very helpful to have a clear record of those children who have been given permission to walk to and from school un-escorted by an adult.

The year 4 children will be bringing a letter home this week. We would be very grateful if you could complete the reply slip at the bottom to indicate your intentions in this matter.

If your child attends Kids' Club but you no longer require your booking from Tuesday 18th April, you must inform Kids' Club via email by no later than 20th March, 2023, in advance of the issue of the April invoices.

PTFA Creative Fair - Friday 10th March

The Firs Lower School PTFA are hosting our very first Spring Creative fair on Friday March 10th between 5-8pm in the school hall.

They have a variety of amazing artists and makers, selling a variety of wares, from candles & greetings cards to prints & even handmade bags! Some of the sellers have a close connection to the school & preschool and we are really excited to see this come together. Everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee so please come along and bring your friends & family!

There will be a bar, with wine & beer, tea & coffee and of course
There will be cake!

They will be running a raffle with prizes donated by our vendors and various other local businesses! The top prize will be an amazing family ticket to AmpProms!!

This is an event that our PTFA have worked really hard to put together and we would love you to join us and show your support!

We look forward to seeing you there!



Saplings Outdoor Area

The funding we kindly received from the Local Authority to build The Saplings was enough to construct the building and to tarmac the outdoor area but we have needed to fund the further development of the outdoor area ourselves. In the last few weeks we have seen major developments in this programme, with the painting of the roadway in 'The Paddock' and more recently, the completion of the new astro turfed area. The children are really enjoying these new enhancements as you can see from the pictures!



A big thank you to Angie Dvorkin (Saplings Leader) and Kerry Mercer (Early Years Leader / Deputy Head) for their work in the design/planning work. Also a big thank you to Katherine Jukes (Business Manager) for the hugely important work she has done, in finding grants to support the work (see below) and for managing the installation projects.

The Bedfordshire Education Association, Waitrose, Ampthill Flexi Rotary, Ampthill Round Table and The Firs Lower School PTFA have supported the funding of this project, which we are very thankful for!

Finally, we would like to say another thank you to Martin Lees (Premises Manager) for his work on re-modelling the fencing.

Yours sincerely,

Adam J G Campbell