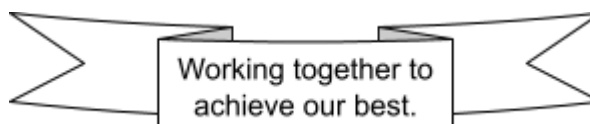




Newsletter

Issue No 18
Date:-20th 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,

Ofsted

With only 1 day notice of an Ofsted inspection, it was a very busy time both once we received the call and on the two days of the inspection. We were so proud of our children, many of whom were involved with the inspection, being part of observed lessons, being observed whilst reading with a member of staff and in the focus groups organised, so the inspector could ask children about the provision we were making. All our children were, as usual, amazing ambassadors for our school and its values... well done to them all!

I wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the staff and Governors for their hard work during the inspection and the fantastic sense of teamwork that is always a great strength of our school. I also wanted to say thank you to the many parents who contributed to the Parent View survey and for the many supportive messages the Inspector shared with us. We are very fortunate to have such an amazing community of children, parents, governors and staff at The Firs!

The inspection we had was what is called an 'Ungraded Inspection' which is the type of inspection schools receive where they are already graded as 'Good'. Schools are not allowed to share any details about the findings from an inspection until all the checking processes are complete. Once that is finished (it can take just short of 2 months) then a short report in the form of a letter from Ofsted, will be published on the Ofsted website. At that point we will of course ensure it is shared with all our parents and placed on our own website too.

Y4 Grafham Water Residential Trip - Wednesday 22nd March - Friday 24th March

It's not long now until our Year 4 children go to Grafham Water and you should have received the final letter with all the information you need. Please let us know if there is anything else you need to know and we will be very happy to help.

Whole School Swimming on our School Site!

We are very excited to be able to announce that in partnership with [Elite Swimming](#) we will be offering every child at The Firs, including our Saplings children, swimming lessons on site from **5th June**, for **4 weeks**. This will be situated on the KS2 playground for the duration! This is being funded by our Sports Premium allocation, money that is set aside for promoting sport and fitness related activities.

During this time, we will also be offering an after school swimming club for any parent who wishes their child to take part.

We will have qualified swimming instructors at all times and more information will be sent out to you in the summer term.

At The Firs we believe passionately in offering a curriculum that meets the broad development needs of children and in that spirit, with swimming being such an important life skill, we are so pleased to be able to offer this fantastic opportunity to our children.





Y4 Bikeability

Both year 4 classes have now completed their Bikeability sessions which they have thoroughly enjoyed and all the children who have taken part have been given their certificates and badges. Well done to all the children.



Again, as mentioned above, we want children to develop key life skills as part of our curriculum and the Bikeability sessions and of course the Grafham Water experience are key parts of this provision.

PTFA Creative fair

The PTFA organised a Creative Fair which took place last Friday. There were many stalls set up in our school hall from local artists, designers and makers and it was a very successful evening. The PTFA raised over £500 through running this event and we would like to thank Frankie Cooper, and her team for making this evening possible.



The PTFA does a fantastic job for our school, raising money throughout the year to ensure our children have the best experiences at The Firs! We are so grateful to have such a great team of parents willing to devote their time to our school - thank you!

SEND Support - Update from Central Bedfordshire re Their 'Local Offer' Information Booklet.

The new co-produced local offer website was launched in October 2021 following workshops held with multi-agency organisations, professionals, parents and carers and young people. Parents/carers, young people and our staff have worked together to make the information in the Local Offer relevant and informative.

The [Local Offer](#) sets out in one place what information on support and services are available to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) from birth to 25, as well as how to access these services and organisations. We want to continuously improve our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Local Offer to ensure that it is meeting the needs of local families and individuals.

The SNAP PCF survey conducted in early 2022 outlined the need for further work to improve the reach of our local offer and as a result Central Bedfordshire Council agreed steps, as outlined in the [SNAP Action Plan](#), to address this. As a result Central Bedfordshire Council and SNAP PCF have worked together to co-produce a Local Offer SEND Information booklet to share with families.

- These links are available on our website on the [SEND Local Offer](#) page.
- Hard copies will be placed in all schools, early years settings, children's centres, libraries, along with designated health settings through the Spring Term.

Lunchtime Clubs Update

Having processed all the applications for lunchtime clubs submitted on the Google Form sent out recently, we have the following feedback regarding the allocation of club places:

Club	Year(s)	Staff member(s)	Allocation of places	Day of the week / Location
Chess	Y3/Y4	Mr Campbell	All children who requested a place.	Monday - one of the Y3 classrooms
Games	Y4	Mr Rushby / Mrs Rogers	All children who requested a place.	Tuesday - one of the Y4 classrooms
Science	Y2/Y3	Miss Webb / Miss Hamilton	Oversubscribed - you will receive a note letting you know who has been allocated a place and who is on the waiting list*	Thursday - Hazel
Sewing	Y3/Y4	Mrs Mercer	All children who requested a place.	Wednesday - Hollows
Chit, Chat and Colour	YR	Mrs Fuller / Ms Cox	All children who requested a place.	Wednesday - Pine
Lego	Y1	Ms Gamble	All children who requested a place.	Wednesday - one of the Y1 classrooms

*The note will be handed out **week beginning 27th March**. Clubs will then resume, after Easter, in the week beginning 18th April (Chess club will be Tuesday that week).

Red Nose Day!

Last Friday was Red Nose Day, which is always a popular event with all our children, who all dressed in something red for the occasion.



Events like this add to the sense of fun in school, which is very positive. They are also a very important way that we reinforce our caring ethos and extend it, to look beyond our immediate school community and encourage our children to recognise the need to think about and care for the needs of others. Thank you to everyone who contributed. With your help we managed to raise an impressive £370.

Yours sincerely,

Adam J G Campbell