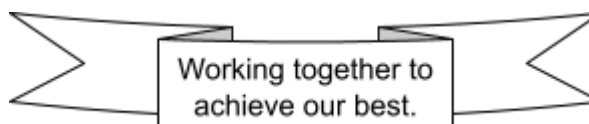




Newsletter

Issue No 20
Date:-24th April, 2023
www.firslower.co.uk



Chair of Governors: John Ashley

Governors: Annette Anderson, Franco Cameli, Adam Campbell, Kerry Mercer, Stuart Hobbs, Grant Chaney, Amaritpal Uppal, Sarah Walker and Claudia Wallis.

Dear parents/carers,

Ofsted Report

With this newsletter you will find a copy of the report following the 'Ungraded Inspection,' which took place on March 8th and 9th last term. The report is also available on our [website](http://www.firslower.co.uk) and will be published on the Ofsted website in a week or so.

You will also find an accompanying letter from us about the report. I am very pleased to inform you that the key finding of the inspection is that The Firs remains in the 'Good' Ofsted category. The accompanying letter picks out some of the key findings from the report and adds some thoughts of our own about the content of the report. (The letter is also available on the Ofsted reports page of our [website](http://www.firslower.co.uk)).

As I said in the letter, the many positives in the report are a reflection on all the hard work, support and positivity from children, parents, staff and governors and demonstrate the strong sense of teamwork that is such a strength of our school community.

Summer Holiday Club 2023 - [Firs Summer Holiday Club 2022 Booking Form](http://www.firslower.co.uk)

The Firs will be opening again over the summer for a two week 'Summer Holiday Club' from Monday 24th July to Friday 4th August 2023.

For all children of the Firs Lower School and Saplings Pre-school aged 3 years old and over, we are offering the following sessions: -

- Full Days (9.00am - 4.00pm) for £31.50
- Mornings (9.00am - 12.30pm) for £15.75
- Afternoons (12.30pm - 4.00 pm) for £15.75

Please find above a link to our registration form to book your child's place.

Further details, and all future communications for the Holiday Club, will be from the email address holiday.club@firslower.org. Please ensure this address is added to your contacts to avoid any communications going into your spam folder.



The Firs 'Wear Yellow Day'



The Firs Lower School held a 'Wear Yellow Day' today, to raise awareness and much needed funds for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust. This event has been organised by our Deputy Preschool Leader, Michelle, who will also be taking part in The London Marathon this Sunday – good luck Michelle!

Thank you to all our families that have made a donation, Michelle has already raised over £3000, with even more collected in school today. This is a charity very close to Michelle's heart, if anyone would like to make a donation please visit her fundraising page at:

<https://2023tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/michelle-watts>.

Anything you can give will be very gratefully received. Thank you so much for your support.

New Governors

I am very pleased to announce that we have two new parent governors Amaritpal Uppal and Sarah Walker, who joined the governing board at the end of last term.

They are very enthusiastic and have already begun to make a strong contribution to our dedicated team of trustees. We are very lucky to have such a strong group of trustees and this is a good opportunity to thank them for their dedication and all their hard work on behalf of the school.

Hannah Wadsworth

Congratulations to Hannah Freeman, teacher of Holly Class, who got married over the Easter holidays. From now on she will be Hannah Wadsworth. Her children are already doing a good job beginning to remember to use her new 2nd name!

Website Photo Day

On Thursday 27th a photographer is visiting the school to take photos to renew those in use on our website.

As usual, children should be smartly dressed in their Firs school uniform for the day. As Year 3 will be having their sessions with Triline in the afternoon, we are asking that they bring their Firs PE kit into school so they can get changed for this. This is to ensure that when the photographs are being taken at their tables, all the children look the same. As it's Maple and Willow's PE day, they do not need to wear their PE kit on Thursday but please could they bring trainers for their PE lesson.

Strike - 2/5/23 Reminder

We would like to remind parents/carers that, as we let you know in the letter on 20th April, the National Education Union is taking industrial action on a series of days, continuing this term. The action will result in class or whole school closures across the country and teachers at The Firs will be taking industrial action again on: Tuesday 2nd May

I explained in my previous letters that as nearly all the teaching staff have elected to take lawful industrial action, I will have no choice but to close the school to most pupils but we will be able to remain **open partially** for the children who were eligible as '*Critical Workers*' and also children who were identified as benefiting from being in school during our last strike day.

Please note, we will not be expecting any additional children to the ones who attended school on 1st February and 15th March, 2023.

As I said in my 1st letter to you on the strike action in the spring term, lost learning time is a concern and these are very difficult circumstances to manage and I would like to thank you for your continuing patience and understanding.

Year 1 Reading

Before Covid we used to regularly have parents / carers who came in to hear children read. This was very useful in giving children additional opportunities to read and was very much enjoyed by the children concerned.

Y1 teachers are looking for parent/carer volunteers to come in and hear some readers. We will need to do a DBS safeguarding check, which we will help you with. Once you can start, you will be based in a group room (such as the Owl room opposite the school office) and the children will come, one after the other to read to you.

If you think you could spare some time (preferably in an afternoon) to help us with this, please let the office or your child's class teacher know. We really would be very grateful for any time you could spare us.

Year 1 Coopers Hill Walk

Year 1 took full advantage of The Firs nature reserve on our doorstep by going on a spring walk as part of their science learning. The children were able to observe many signs of spring, such as buds, catkins, blossom and new leaves starting to burst through.

The children were really thrilled to have this great opportunity and they all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. One of the children, who saw a leaf unfurling from a bud said, "I've never seen that before, and it's totally amazing!!



Open Days

We will be holding our open days for parents of children who are due to start school in September **2024** on Thursday 6th July, Monday 10th July and Thursday 13th July all starting at 9.30am. Please contact the school office on 01525 402735 or email sue.acourt@firslower.org if you would like to attend one of the open days.

Piano Lessons

Louiza Savvides is a piano teacher who can offer piano lessons to our children during the school day. If you would like your child to take up piano lessons, please email Louiza at louizalovespianos@hotmail.com

Yours sincerely,

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

Adam J G Campbell