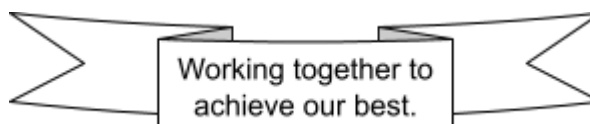




Newsletter

Issue No 21
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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,

'Wear Something Yellow Day' thank you from Michelle

I would like to say a big heartfelt thank you to everyone that took part in the Wear Yellow Day/Week at The Firs/Saplings Preschool to help me raise money for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust, a charity very close to my heart.

Thanks to all of your very kind donations, from parents, teachers and staff, I managed to raise a huge £749.80 just from this event alone! Absolutely amazing! It takes my total London Marathon 2023 fundraising to £4097.80! The marathon itself was certainly tough but I got through it and even managed to beat my previous time from when I completed it five years ago! Thank you all once again.

Michelle Watts.



Summer Holiday Club 2023 - [Firs Summer Holiday Club 2022 Booking Form](#)



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.



Can You Help With Swimming At The Firs?!

As we announced in Newsletter 18 last term, we are very excited to be able to offer on site swimming after half term, funded by our Sports Premium allocation for the year. This will be a very exciting and important addition to our provision for children this year and we want to make the most of the opportunity for all our children.

We are currently working on the rota for the 4 weeks of swimming. Children will swim in half class size groups and we are designing the rota to ensure that each group is changed and ready to begin their swimming session so we get maximum use of the pool each day.

To help with this, we will need parent / carer support to help run our swimming sessions over the 4 weeks.

We will need volunteers to help escort children to and from the classroom, support children during swimming sessions e.g. if they need to go to the toilet etc and help supervise them changing before and after sessions.

(We will need to undertake the DBS check process with parent/carers swimming volunteers.)

If you can help with some of these sessions, please complete the [Swimming Help Google Form](#) we are sending out today. We will use all the offers of support to create a rota for the four weeks and then get back in touch with volunteers, to confirm which sessions we will need help with.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Hear ye, hear ye!

It is our pleasure to announce the recent visit to The Firs Lower School by none other than the Ampthill Town Mayor, Mr Bishop and our very own Ampthill Town Crier, Mr Horton!

During their visit, the Mayor and Mr. Horton spoke passionately about the upcoming coronation of His Royal Highness King Charles III. They took the time to share all the exciting Coronation activities that the Ampthill Town Council will be hosting in celebration of this momentous occasion!

The visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. The children and staff alike were captivated by the knowledge and enthusiasm of Mr Bishop and Mr Horton. It was a fantastic visit that will be remembered for a long time to come.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Mayor and our Ampthill Town Crier. Their visit was deeply appreciated, and we look forward to seeing them again soon.



Coronation Day at The Firs



This Friday, 5th May we will be having a Coronation celebration at The Firs. We are asking that the children come dressed in red, white and blue as this will be a **non-uniform day**.

The children have been spending some of their time decorating the bunting which will be displayed around the KS2 playground (weather permitting) or in the school hall.

On Friday we are delighted to have The Ampthill Town Band come and play for us during lunchtime, either outside or in the hall when the children will be having their Coronation lunch. The lunch will be fish fingers or vegetarian sausages and both will be served with mushy peas or beans and chips. There will also be decorated red, white and blue cupcakes for dessert.

We hope that the sun will be shining on Friday for this very special event.

School hire rates, Saplings Pre School and Kids' Club charges freeze

Every year the Senior Leadership Team and School Governors review our charges for school hire, Saplings Pre School and Kids' Club. We appreciate that a lot of the current financial pressures are impacting families as well as us as a school. To support parents / carers during this time the decision has been made to freeze prices for the academic year beginning September 2023. Our Charging, Remissions and Letting Policy has been updated including amendments to Kids' Club late collection fees. Please find the policy attached to the newsletter.

SNAP Parent Survey

Central Beds have asked us to send this [SNAP SEND Survey](#) link and the attachment accompanying this newsletter to parents / carers. It is a link to the SEND survey that SNA are conducting in April and May and will help the LA gauge the impact of SEND services for parents/carers and their children in CBC.

Coronation Bank Holiday

The school will be closed on Monday 8th May as it is a Coronation bank holiday.

Alameda Y4 Friendship Forms

Please remember that the Alameda Y4 friendship forms should be completed by Wednesday 10th May - thank you.

Class and Leavers Photographs Years R - 4

The photographer will be in school earlier than planned and we have a revised date of Tuesday 9th May. We changed the date due to the fact that the swimming pool will be with us during June and we did not want the children to be photographed with wet hair.

On Tuesday 9th May we are asking that all the children come dressed in their school uniform with their jumpers and cardigans and wearing their school shoes (regardless of whether it is their PE day). The children who normally have PE on a Tuesday will be able to take part in their school uniform.

Yours sincerely,

Adam J G Campbell