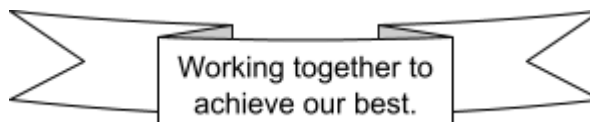




Newsletter

Issue No 27
Date:-14th July, 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.

PTFA Summer Party

The PTFA Summer Party was a huge success on Friday evening, with lots of interesting stalls and activities for all the family.

We had our own fantastic DJs for the afternoon, a big thank you Blake and like Humphries who provided a fantastic musical backdrop to the event!

The event was really well attended, with many children and families enjoying the evening sunshine. It was also really lovely to see many past pupils coming back and taking part.

Children really enjoyed the staff run stalls which presented an enjoyable range of different games and activities and as usual, the decorated cups were very popular and gave children a fun activity to do before the day!

The evening concluded with the 1st appearance at The Firs of the local 'Somewhere 2 Sing' choir, whose amazing performance was a really enjoyable climax to what was a super event.



A huge thank you to all the families who came along, to the many staff who took part and of course to the PTFA who rounded off a really successful year with a very memorable and amazing event!

Swimming



It was so lovely to see the extent to which children enjoyed their swimming lessons this term.

The swimming was a big investment but has proven to be a very good use of our Sports Premium money.

At a recent School Council meeting, the Councillors all said how much their confidence in the water had grown and how much they had enjoyed the opportunity to swim at The Firs.

A huge thank you to our intrepid group of parents, without whom we would not have been able to deliver this fantastic experience to our children at The Firs.

Year 2 Theatre Trip

Year 2 went to Abingdon Park and The Royal Derngate Theatre for their school trip. The children had a picnic at the park, followed by playing games.

The children then went to the theatre to watch Zog inspired by the Julia Donaldson book that Year 2 have been looking at in Literacy.

The children were all so well behaved and finished off their day with some popcorn for the journey back to school. Well done Year 2! Miss Wallis and Miss Webb are so proud of you for your amazing behaviour on our trip!



Year 3 Trip to Holdenby House

On Tuesday Year 3 had a fantastic trip to Holdenby House. The children were evacuated from Ampthill by coach and greeted by Mrs North and Stella who immersed them into the experience of a 'Day in The Life of an Evacuee'.



The children began the day by preparing food for the wounded soldiers, making pom-poms and rag rugs. They were then taken down into an air raid shelter where they practised an air raid drill, put on their gas masks and practised first aid on the soldiers.

This brought a close to our fascinating World War 2 topic and we all had a brilliant time. Thank you to the parent helpers who made the trip possible.



Year 2 and 3 Girls Football Tournament

Last weekend girls from Year 2 and 3 created a team to enter into the Ramsey Manor Football Tournament for girls. This is the first time that this team has played together and they did themselves proud!

They approached all games with a positive attitude, showed great communication and support for one another and scored some brilliant goals.

They were so fantastic that they achieved the fair play award. Well done girls!!



Girls Football Training Session



The Firs football coaches will be running a girls only training session on Saturday 22nd July, 9am - 10am, on our school playfield.

All girls are welcome, no previous experience needed.

Please see the poster attached, and use the QR Code to register your players interest.



School Library Books



Can parents please ensure all books borrowed from the school library are handed back in by Wednesday 19th July, so that our library can be restocked and made ready for our return to school in September.

School Reports

The school reports will be emailed out to you this evening and attached to this newsletter is a letter with information about assessment for children in YR - Y4, which we hope you will find useful. Also attached is a report response form for you to complete, once you have read your child's report.

Annual fee review

Every year we meet with the school governors to discuss fees for our Saplings, Kids' Club and school meal provisions. Any changes agreed come into effect in September, the start of the academic year. We understand that the current financial climate is impacting upon us all and we want to support parents and carers during this time. We have therefore decided to keep fees the same from September 2023.

We are finding that we spend a growing amount of time chasing payments for overdue invoices for both Kids' Club and Saplings fees. We would like to remind everyone of the importance of making payments by the due date, which helps to reduce our administration time and cost. This will support us to keep the fees that we charge as low as they can be.

A plea from Pine

We would be very appreciative of any of the following items for Pine:-

- babies
 - baby clothing
 - large cars (for outside use)
 - large diggers (for outside use)
 - candles, especially numbered candles
 - Orchard games-aged up to 5
 - small shoe boxes (for jigsaw puzzles)
 - white/grey socks for girls/boys (shoe size 9-13)
- Many thanks

After School French Club

Please see attached information regarding our after school French Club for the next academic year.

Staffing Update

We have a number of staff leaving us at the end of the year:

We will be saying au revoir to **Miss Wallis** at the end of the school year, as she begins her maternity leave. As we won't see her in school again for a while, this is a good time to thank her for all her hard work and dedication this year (including serving as a staff governor) and wish her well.

We will be saying goodbye to **Mrs Ware**, who will be leaving The Firs to take up a new position in the NHS. She has worked so hard to develop our Forest Schools provision over the years, which has been a fantastic and important part of our curriculum. With her caring nature she has added so much to Pine and we will miss her greatly. We wish her the very best of luck however, in what is an exciting new opportunity for her.

We will be saying goodbye to **Miss Webb**, who will be leaving us to take up a new role in September. We will miss Miss Webb's energy and enthusiasm and so will all the children, I am sure. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and her important contribution to the school in her time with us at The Firs. On behalf of everyone, I would like to wish her the very best of luck as she embarks on a new stage in her career.

We will also be saying goodbye to **Miss Arulrasa**, who will be leaving us to make an exciting move abroad. We will also miss Miss Arulrasa and the great care she showed to all her pupils and the commitment to the school, for which we are very grateful. As I said above, I am sure all the children who worked with Miss Arulrasa will miss her too, as will we all. I would like to thank her for all her dedication and support for the school and its children in her time with us. On behalf of everyone, I would like to wish her the best of luck for the future.

We are welcoming 4 new staff to the school:

Maria Cameli will be joining us to teach 1 day a week in Pine Conkers and 1 day a week in Elm. Maria has done a great job covering classes for us in the past and we are delighted she is joining us next year.

Holly Boyes will be joining us to teach 3 days a week in Holly class. We are really looking forward to working with her and welcoming her to the staff team.

Heather Jamieson will be working with us in Beech class next term. We are also really looking forward to Heather joining our staff in September.

Finally, **Robert Lacey** will be taking over the teaching responsibility for Hazel class in September and we are eagerly anticipating working with him as well.

In addition, **Sarah Donbavand**, who is not new to The Firs and has worked as a teacher here in the past, will be stepping up to take responsibility for Pine Acorns 2.5 days a week. We are delighted that she will be taking a teaching role at The Firs again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Adam J G Campbell".

Adam J G Campbell