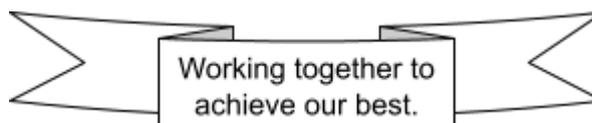




Newsletter

Issue No 28
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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.

Sports Days at The Firs 🏆 🥈 🥉



Well done to all our pupils, for taking part in their sports days over the last week, they all did so well enjoying a variety of events.

Each sports day started with team round robin activities, such as egg and spoon races, hurdles, long jump and javelin, followed by individual sprint races.

The sports days were brought to a close with a medal ceremony, awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd places to our individual winners.

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for cheering our competitors on, and for the staff who organised each event.

Saplings Graduation Ceremony

Last week Saplings had their graduation party for the children heading to school in September. The children did a brilliant job at singing the songs they had been learning, to all of the parents and carers. At the end of the ceremony all the children received a graduation certificate and threw their mortarboard into the air! We are going to miss them all very much!

Summer Reading Challenge

To take part, children can sign up at their nearest library at any time over the holidays. If they don't already have a library card they can join on the day or [join the virtual library online](#). Children aged 7+ are given a free book, *Rebel Girls Kick It*, sponsored by Nike, on sign up.

As well as reading library books, children can download e-books, magazines and audiobooks for free using their library cards and the [Libby and Borrowbox apps](#).



Stickers will be given as rewards along the way and after reading three books, children receive a mini frisbee! All children who complete the challenge by Saturday 9 September will be rewarded with a certificate, stickers and a medal. They'll also be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £50 Lego voucher.

Ampthill Gala 'Proud To Be Me!'

Thank you to our PTFA for organising The Firs' Gala Parade entry this weekend, such a colourful display! There were a lot of our children and parents in the parade, making it such a fun occasion enjoyed by all.



Pirates vs Mermaids

Well done to our Year 4s! They have worked so hard this term learning their lines, songs and cues for their leavers' performances. This week they have delivered three fantastic shows, one to all the children at The Firs, and an afternoon and evening performance to parents and grandparents.

Their outfits and stage make-up looked amazing, anyone booked to attend each show was treated to something quite special.

Thank you to all parents for providing so many creative outfits, and to all the staff involved in supporting the children and production, from teachers taking rehearsals and staff creating the stage and props, such a great team effort.



End of Year Achievement Data

There is less of a focus on data compared with the past. Y4 data is no longer collected by the local authority and this is the last year for statutory assessment in Y2.

We are very proud of the officially collected data however as it is an indicator of the high standards achieved by our children and so we are sharing an overview of this with you here:

a. EYFS-

- EYFS Baseline analysis arrived at the conclusion that **66.7%** were at expectations on entry in September.
- Upon final assessment in summer 23 however, **74%** achieved a Good Level of Development. (For a child to have a GLD they need to be expected in all the Prime areas as well as all the aspects of

literacy and numeracy). This is 8% above the LA average for 2022 and 2% above the last National figure we have (2019).

b. **Phonics** - Y1 Phonics and Y2 re-tests

Y1:

- We were delighted that an amazing **98%** of our Y1 pupils passed the National Phonics screening test this year!
- This is **23%** more than the 2022 National results (75%) and **16%** more than the higher pre-covid national 2019 result (82%)

Y2 Recheck:

- With all our Y2 rechecks complete, **95%** of the children in Y2 have now met the standard (compared with 87% nationally in 2022 and 91% in 2019).

c. **Year 2** - Final Results Summer 2023

Firs Year 2 EXS+ 2023 Target		National 2022 EXS (2019)	LA 2022 EXS	Firs % EXS+ Sum 23
Reading	84%	67% (75% 19)	69%	86%
Writing	81%	58% (69% 19)	56%	81%
Maths	84%	68% (76% 19)	68%	82%

Firs Year 2 GDS 2023 Target		National 2022 GDS (2019)	LA 2022 GDS	Firs % GDS Sum 23
Reading	33%	18% (25% 19)	21%	37%
Writing	11%	8% (15% 19)	8%	11%
Maths	19%	15% (22% 19)	15%	26%

A super set of data, thank you to all the staff who have worked as a team to produce these results and a massive well done to all the children!

School Swimming:

Sporty Scholars who provided us with the swimming pool in June completed a swimming assessment on each child in year R - year 4 their final swimming lesson. The children did fantastically well! We are pleased to share with you the following results:

- 76%** of pupils were able to demonstrate self rescue
- 97%** of pupils demonstrated improved water confidence
- 73%** of pupils were able to swim more than 25 metres

A fantastic way to end the year with so much success... well done to all our young swimmers!

Farewell and Have a Lovely Summer

Farewell to all our leavers today, from our year 4s who will be moving onto their middle school, our preschoolers who will be starting their school years in September and a number of valued members of staff who are moving on to start new adventures.

We wish you all the very best of luck for wherever your new paths take you, always remember though that you will remain part of our 'Firs Family', and we would love to hear how you are getting on!

To all our pupils, parents, families and members of staff, we would like to wish you a lovely summer break, and look forward to welcoming everyone else back to school on Wednesday 6th September.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Adam J G Campbell". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Adam J G Campbell