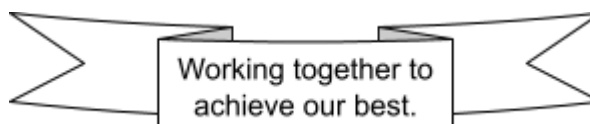




Newsletter

Issue No 1
Date:-12th September, 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 and Sarah Walker.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome Back!

I would like to welcome everyone back to school for the autumn term. I hope you all had a great summer break. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new pupils who started with us this week throughout the school. It was lovely to see you all and look forward to everyone working together as we go into the new academic year. Thank you to all the many children who have helped new children to settle into their new class. It has been lovely to see children on the playground living our 'Care' value by looking after new children and ensuring they are included in their play.

Summer Holiday Club - Fun in the sun!

The children who attended our summer holiday club had a great time. Each day had a special theme, such as 'Minibeasts Day', 'Kings and Queens' Day, 'Space', 'Aliens' and 'Jungle Day'. They particularly loved the 'Under The Sea Day' and 'Pirate Day'!



Children enjoyed cookery every day and made their own snacks. They took some of their creations home, which we hope you enjoyed!

A big thank you to Ellen Ashby, our ICT administrator, for leading on the booking process and to Debbie Davana and Michelle Kensall and their intrepid team of staff volunteers who did such a fantastic job planning and running the sessions.

Pine Induction Week

It was lovely this morning to welcome our new Acorns children into Pine. This afternoon, it was the turn of our Conkers children to be introduced to The Firs. Both sets of children had a lovely time, enjoying playing in Pine and our staff really loved getting to know all the new children.



Thank you to all our Pine staff for creating such a lovely and nurturing environment for the Children in Pine and a big well done to all our new Pine Children!

Class Welcome Letters

The class welcome letters will be going out today. These letters are very important and hopefully informative, giving you details such as homework arrangements, PE times, teacher email addresses etc.

School Uniform - Important Update

We are aware that some parents have been thinking about our school uniform and the difficulties of keeping the white polo shirts clean.

We like to give children the opportunity to go on the field to play at lunchtime, as they really enjoy using this space for their social time, often enjoying digging in the soil! The difficulty here for us, is that the very sandy soil then leads to them getting soil stains on their clothes. When talking to parents about this over the years, we have discussed the fact that we are very fortunate to have such a lovely setting and these types of activities really enrich children's social time. At this age, their uniform is like their play/work clothes and does not have to be totally pristine!

Over the years, we have made changes to the school uniform, to try and simplify things and reduce costs for parents. (Reducing uniform costs is a directive to schools from the DfE). We stopped insisting on children wearing the white top with The Firs' logo, to enable parents to buy much cheaper alternatives from supermarkets and we would not want to withdraw this cheaper option for parents.

In listening to the feedback we have received and to provide parents with as much choice as possible we have liaised with Prestige and they have agreed to move to selling both the white polo top with a Firs Logo and a new green top with The Firs Logo. Parents will in future have three options regarding the polo top:

- The White Polo shirt from Prestige (with a Firs Logo)
- New Green Polo shirt from Prestige (with a Firs Logo)
- Cheaper white, unbranded polo shirt (from any shop)

To ensure that we do not compromise the smart look of our uniform, please note that we ask that you **do not** purchase a green polo top other than the official one from Prestige. (in the specific shade of green that matches our uniform!) We hope you will appreciate the expanded choice this gives you going forwards.

'Studybugs' - A new way to keep us informed when your child is absent.

We're pleased to announce that The Firs Lower is introducing a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs.



If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

[Get the app or register now \(https://studybugs.com/about/parents\)](https://studybugs.com/about/parents)

Reporting that your child will not be in school is incredibly important and we want to reassure you that we will look every morning at the information we receive from Studybugs and we will of course have to contact you if we have no information about your child's absence.

Further information is available in the letter accompanying this newsletter.

Friday Tennis

Friday Tennis is starting this Friday for Years 1 -4 and will run until 20th October. The price for 6 sessions is £30 and you can email hello@sportyscholars.com or telephone 07511 194 319 to book.

Before School Dance Club

Christina Marks will be offering the students of The Firs Lower dance classes every Tuesday before school. Class times will run from 8am-8:45

Please follow the link below to book.

<https://christina-marks-sopa.class4kids.co.uk> If there are any problems you will need to contact me on my email address or phone number.

Email- Christinamarksschoolofperformingarts@hotmail.com

Tel- 07525850232

Before School Musical Theatre Club

Christina Marks will also be offering the students of The Firs Lower BRAND NEW MUSICAL THEATRE classes every Monday before school.

Class times will run from 8am-8:45

Please follow the link below to book.

<https://christina-marks-sopa.class4kids.co.uk>

Guitar lessons

Our guitar teacher John Earley is in school every Tuesday afternoon and has spaces available for any pupil who wishes to learn how to play the guitar. For more information, please Contact John Earley on 01582 410412 or 07733230261 E-mail johnearley@hotmail.com.

Violin/Viola Lessons

We also have spaces for violin and viola lessons - please let the school office know if your child would like to learn the violin or viola or send an email to office@firslower.org.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell