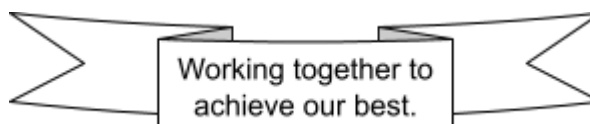




Newsletter

Issue No 2
Date:-25th 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,

The Firs Way

Developing a school community and belonging is very important to us all at The Firs.

We are developing our School values and what it means to be part of The Firs Lower School. We value friendship, care and love, collaborating together to develop a community that is built on respect and being responsible for ourselves and our school.

We believe that it is important to catch everyone doing their best and celebrate the efforts that we can all make to ensure that your school is the best place to be. The Firs Way builds on the idea that we can all work together to be good role models, be thoughtful and follow our school values.



To recognise these efforts, we have introduced The Firs Way tree to our reception area. Any member of the Firs School community can be nominated for a leaf for the tree. The leaf recognises how the child or adult has followed 'The Firs way...' and this is also celebrated in assembly. Nominations can be made from both adults and children. Already in the first week we have had 45 nominations for a 'Firs way...' leaf with fantastic efforts in being kind, being respectful, using growth mind-set, and being collaborative and patient. We have had a great start to the school year and making positive steps along the 'Firs way....'

School Dates Sheet

With this newsletter is our date sheet for the autumn term. It will also be placed on our website in the [letters home](#) section.

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

We let you know last week 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. **We are asking that all parents sign up and use Study Bugs as the method to contact us when children will not be in school... thank you.**

PTFA Fun Run - October 12th

We would like to give you advance notice of the upcoming PTFA Fun Run that will be taking place all day on Thursday 12th October. This is a very important fundraiser for the school and the PTFA will be sending out a sponsorship form which we hope you will use to support this traditional event at The Firs!

On the 12th, the children will be taking it in turns, one year group at a time, to run round a course on the school field. Staff will be on hand to record how many laps they do and parents are invited to come, watch and cheer the children on!

So that you know when you will be able to come along and support your child(ren) the rota is displayed below:

9:10 - 9:55	Year 4
10:00 - 10:45	Year 3
10:45 - 11:10	Saplings
11:15 - 11:55	Pine
1:40 - 2:25	Year 2
2:30 - 3:15	Year 1

The PTFA have kindly agreed to provide refreshments, so we hope lots of parents will come along and support this fantastic event!

Our Value for September - Democracy

In school, we have explained to the children that democracy is about having rights and responsibilities. We have been thinking about how Democracy functions in the UK and how elections work. At the Firs, children experience democracy through their involvement in the School Council, firstly during the election and then by making decisions that benefit their own, and the wider community. They may also volunteer to carry out jobs for the benefit of the school community – for example, being a Firs' Friend in Y4, a buddy to look after someone new, doing litter picking, tidying the classroom etc.

We are asking parents/carers at home to send in a note if they think their child has demonstrated democracy, describing how they showed this value. We will celebrate some of their achievements in assembly (if they are happy with this). Examples of engaging with democracy, might be:

- Taking an interest in news events.
- Expressing their opinions on topics but listening to and respecting the views of others too.
- Regularly watching and taking an interest in CBBC news.
- Improving their public speaking skills, perhaps by joining a theatre group.
- Joining a group that involves itself in the local community, e.g. Brownies or Cubs.
- Treating their friends and family fairly and equally, e.g. making sure everyone gets an equal share of their attention, rather than focussing on a 'best friend', and giving everyone an equal amount of time at a favourite game or activity.

What people have said about Democracy...

- We always hear about the rights of democracy, but the major responsibility of it is participation. **Wynton Marsalis**
- Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education. **Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- Freedom and democracy are dreams you never give up. **Aung San Suu Kyi**
- A full and fair discussion is essential to democracy. **George Soros**
- It is the duty of government to make it difficult for people to do wrong, easy to do right, **William Gladstone**
- Government of the people, by the people, for the people. **Abraham Lincoln (quoting John Wycliffe)**

School Council Elections

As mentioned above, our School Council is an important way that we give children an experience of what the democratic process entails. It also provides children with an important voice within the school.

This week and into next, children in Y1 - Y4 will be thinking about the SC elections and may be involved in writing some ideas about why they would like to be a school councillor and what they feel they have to offer. The election is open to any children who were not a school councillor in the previous year. This is just to give as many children a chance as possible to participate.

They will be given an opportunity next week to present to their class and then on Monday 2nd, we will be holding our School Council Elections.

Club and Music Tuition Reminders from last week

Before School Dance Club

Christina Marks will be offering the children 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 children 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.

PTFA AGM

Letters were emailed out to you last week regarding the PTFA AGM which is being held in the school hall on Wednesday 11th October at 7.00pm. I attach the letter again just in case you missed it along with a poster. We hope to see you there - thank you for all your support, it's greatly appreciated!

Parent Information Workshops

Please see attached information regarding some parent information workshops which are available at Flitwick Leisure Centre.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Adam J G Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Adam J G Campbell