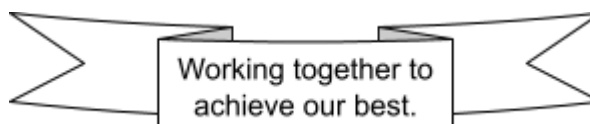




Newsletter

Issue No 3
Date:- 9th October, 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,

School Council Elections

Last Monday it was school council Election Day at The Firs! The hall was all set up as a polling station and some children from Y4 took turns to act as Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk in the hall during the day, as each class came in to cast their votes!



A big thank you to Mr Lees for creating a voting booth for us again this year, it made the process so much more fun for the children and helped them to learn about how elections work. Our new School Council is elected and will be meeting for the 1st time in the week before half term.

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

We let you know previously 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>)

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.**

Request from Kids' Club

If anyone has any barbies, buggies, babies or toy cars that they no longer need, Kids' Club would love to have them. Please email kids.club@firslower.org, and either leave with the school office or Kids' Club if you drop off / pick up from there.



Year 1 and Year 2 Multi-skills Festival



Well done to our Year 1 and Year 2 multi-skills festival team. The children took part in activities that focused on different aspects of basic physical skills such as coordination, agility, running and throwing, approaching each task with their Growth Mindsets switched on enabling them to try their best and challenge themselves.

Please visit our [Facebook](#) page and [Instagram](#) post to see further photos for this event and other activities in and around school.

The Firs School Ambassadors open Aldi's doors

We were very fortunate to be asked by Aldi's PR Account Executive, Tilly Davis to open Aldi's doors today, 28th September at 8.00am.

Our Year 4 School Ambassadors went down to the store this morning to officially open the store, alongside Silver medallist, Ryan Owens, the British track cyclist who won his medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. The children did a brilliant job when lots of photographs were being taken and then back to school for more photo opportunities.

Ryan Owens then visited The Firs and led our morning assembly, speaking to the children about his opportunities to go onto be a silver medallist, representing Great Britain at international competitions. The children loved listening to him and asked many questions at the end of his presentation.



The winner of the Aldi 'Design a Poster' competition was one of our Year 4 pupils, who created a lovely informative healthy eating poster and was awarded with a £20 voucher to spend at any Aldi store. Well done to all our pupils involved in such a memorable event.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We will be joining the world's biggest coffee morning on Friday 13th October in aid of the MacMillan nurses charity who do amazing work to support families through the most difficult times. The school hall will be open to parents, grandparents and members of our local community from 9:00am until 11:00 am - you can pop in briefly or stay for longer.

Come and join us for a chat, a warm drink and a delicious slice of cake and make a donation to a very worthy cause.

Of course, we will need lots of cakes to offer our guests that morning, so we are asking everyone to get baking! If you can and send in any of your wonderful creations on Thursday 12th or Friday 13th please. Could we ask that you don't use any nuts and that you let us know what kind of cake it is and the ingredients to avoid any difficulties with allergies - thanks. If you are not able to bake then a shop bought donation would be just as appreciated!

Bring your family, meet with friends and hopefully, we will see you there! Any cakes left will be on sale after school and we will let you know on the day.

WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Photographer in School

The photographer will be in school on **Tuesday 10th October** in the morning to take individual and siblings (who attend our school) photographs. As usual, please send your child in their school uniform with their jumpers or cardigans. If you have a Saplings child who does not attend preschool on a Tuesday, please come into our school hall for 9.15am when they can have their photograph taken individually and if they have a sibling attending our school, they can be photographed together.

If your child has PE tomorrow please come in school uniform.

If you have any questions relating to this, please pop into the school office where we will be very happy to help.

Harvest Assembly

A letter was emailed out to you last week to let you know that we will be asking for Harvest Festival produce such as dried fruits/pasta, tinned products and cereal to be brought into school on **Wednesday 11th October** in the morning and this will be displayed ready for our assembly. The produce will be donated to The Need Project foodbank who support people in the Central Bedfordshire and surrounding area who are suffering from deprivation. Thank you for your continued support.

Messages from Central Bedfordshire

Autumn of SEND : Local Offer Drop-ins

SNAP PCF told us in their SEND 2022 survey report that they would like to have regular local offer drop-in sessions where parents can receive an online tour of the Local Offer and be assisted to navigate and access the information.

We have listened and as part of our Summer of SEND are delighted to be able to offer some webinars where you can join

Music Centre Open Morning



Are you looking for a new Saturday morning activity for your children with a musical twist? 🎵 Come along to the Music Centre FREE open morning on 7 October. The Leighton/Linslade centre has a wonderful session suitable for young people with special educational needs or disabilities.

[Book your free taster session on Sensory Explorers](#)

us for a tour of the Local Offer Website and find out how it can help you find support for your family.

No need to book, just join via one of the links below:

Thursday 2nd November 2023, 1:00 – 2:00 pm - [Link to join the meeting](#)

Tuesday 7th November 2023, 7:00 pm – 8:00pm [Link to join the meeting](#)

If you have any questions about these events, please contact local.offer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Parent Forum

Thank you so much to all the many parents who came along to our parent forum on Wednesday 4th October.

We talked about induction into Pine, transition arrangements across the school, 'The Firs Way' - developing a restorative culture and school uniform.

It was a very positive and informative discussion and getting to know what a sample of parents think on a range of issues is a really important part of our school improvement process.

The minutes of the meeting will be made available on our website shortly.

Thanks again to everyone who took part.

RWI Presentation

On Monday 2nd, Mrs Mercer and I talked to parents about our Read Write Inc. literacy scheme. Thanks to all the parents who attended. As we promised during the evening, the presentation we used will soon be available on the [RWI Page](#) of our website.

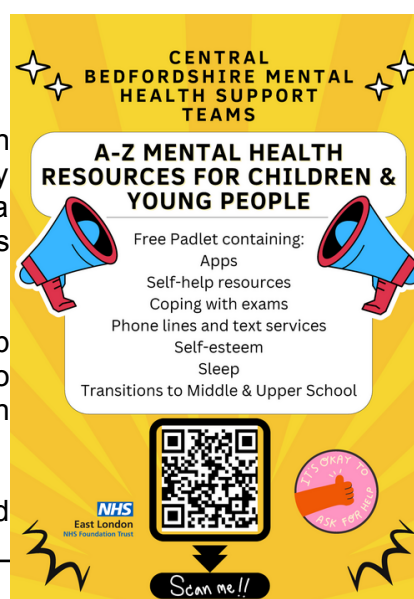
Fun Run Reminder!

We would like to remind you about the upcoming PTFA Fun Run be taking place all day on Thursday 12th October. This is a very fundraiser for the school and the PTFA has sent out a sponsorship form which we hope you are using to support this traditional event at The Firs!

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

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

9:10 - 9:55	Year 4
10:00 - 10:45	Year 3



that will important

at a time, record and

support

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!

Please note that children should come into school in their PE kit on the day.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell