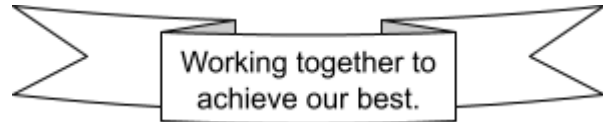




Newsletter

Issue No 7
Date:- 20th November, 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,

Children In Need 2023 - [The Firs Lower School. Fundraising for Children In Need 2023](#)



This was a fundraising non uniform day, with donations collected via the ParentPay link above.

The Firs Marks Remembrance and Armistice Day

On Friday 10th November The Firs marked Armistice Day with a minute's silence at 11:00 am. Mr Campbell held a Remembrance Assembly beforehand to explain the purpose and significance of the event.



Well done to all our Firs children for honouring this event in a very sensible and thoughtful manner.

Children in our Saplings Pre-school also learnt about the meaning of the poppy and create their own poppies to take home.

On Sunday 12th November, members of our School Council, accompanied by Mr Campbell and Mrs Gamble, represented the school at our community's annual Remembrance Day parade from St Andrews Church to the Amphill Cenotaph.

After an address by Reverend Dominic Holroyd there was a 2-minute silence, followed by a reveille and laying of the wreaths, which our School Council members laid on behalf of all at The Firs.

Our School Councillors conducted themselves very well, and we were very proud of them.

KS2 Tag Rugby Festival

Mrs Everett had the pleasure of taking 20 children across year 3 & 4 to a Tag Rugby competition at Samuel Whitbred on Thursday.

The children worked extremely well as a team and showed how much they had learnt about Tag Rugby at The Firs. The referees were very impressed with the values shown by the children at The Firs and the children were awarded the Passion and Honesty value awards.

A huge well done to the children who competed and a big thank you to Mr Kerr and Mrs McQueen for joining us on the trip. Thank you to Mrs Everett for her work in organising this and the other Sports Partnership opportunities this term.



Accelerated Reader and Library books

We have had requests from parents as to whether it is possible to look up books to check if they are part of the Accelerated Reader catalogue. One or two parents have very kindly suggested donating unwanted books to school and have asked if they could check. This can be done quite easily by following these steps:

1. Follow this link to the [Accelerated Reader Book Finder](#)
2. Click on 'parent'
3. Type in the title of the book in the quick search box.

As children now have the opportunity to visit the library once a week they will have a RWI or Accelerated Reader book and a library book.

The children choose library books that they are interested in and they are intended to be a book to share with you at home. The library books have not been catalogued for AR as yet (and may not be at the correct book level) / do not correspond to the sounds children have learned in RWI and so we encourage children to read their reading book, rather than their library book during quiet reading time at school.

Christmas Performances Year R – Year 3

There will be two Christmas performances by each year group, a dress rehearsal for all our Firs children to watch, the second will be an afternoon performance for parents / carers to attend.

Year R Dress Rehearsal. Tuesday 12th December 9.30am start

Year R Afternoon Performance to parents. Wednesday 13th December 2.00pm start

Year 1 Dress Rehearsal. Monday 11th December 9.30am start

Year 1 Afternoon Performance to parents. Tuesday 12th December 2.00pm start

Year 2 Dress Rehearsal. Wednesday 13th December 9.30am start

Year 2 Afternoon Performance to parents. Thursday 14th December 2.00pm start

Year 3 Dress Rehearsal. Thursday 14th December 9.30am start

Year 3 Afternoon Performance to parents. Friday 15th December 2.00pm start

Dress Rehearsal

The dress rehearsal can be watched by younger siblings and grandparents, however as this performance is in front of all The Firs children, spaces are strictly limited to 20. If you would like to book one or two of these allocated spaces, please telephone the school office, or email office@firslower.org where a first come first served reservation sheet will be held. If you are successful, you will be emailed by **Parents will only be able to attend the dress rehearsal if they are unable to attend the afternoon performance.**

Afternoon Performance

Unfortunately, we are limited to the number of guests attending each afternoon performance, therefore, there will be a limit of **two tickets, one per parent**, for each child or siblings in a year group.

Please use the google forms below to confirm your attendance at the afternoon performance.

If you require additional seats, please notify the school office office@firslower.org who will monitor ticket allocations. If we have any additional seats, you will be notified by the school office by email.

Year R Bookings

Year 1 Bookings

Year 2 Bookings

Year 3 Bookings

Katherine Jukes

We are very sad to let you know that Mrs Jukes, our Business Manager will be leaving us at the end of the month to take up an exciting career opportunity outside the education sector.

Mrs Jukes has made a fantastic and extremely valuable contribution in her time as our Business Manager, ensuring the school's financial affairs are managed successfully and leading in the maintenance and improvement of our school site. As a member of our Senior Leadership Team, she has greatly assisted us

in the management and development of the school in many ways that extend beyond her core role. She has been such a positive and caring colleague to work with and we will all miss her very much. She is about to embark on a very exciting professional opportunity however and we wish her the very best of luck in the future.

Jennie Bredenkamp

I am delighted to let you know that we have appointed a new Business Manager - Jennie Bredenkamp, who is currently working with us part time and will be joining us full time after Christmas.

Jennie is very experienced, both in terms of her financial management skills and as a qualified teacher who has served previously as a deputy head, in her knowledge of the school environment. She is currently working with Mrs Jukes, being inducted into her new role and I have no doubt that she will make a great addition to our Senior Leadership Team.

Maple Class

Miss Hamilton left on Friday 10th November to start her maternity leave and she will be back with us after October half term in 2024. We wish her all the very best and look forward to hearing her news soon.

We would like to welcome Mrs Jeannie Jappy who started working in Maple Class last week. Mrs Baker will be teaching every Monday and Mrs Jappy will be teaching Tuesday - Friday. Mrs Jappy's email address is jeannie.jappy@firslower.org.

Y4 SHEU Survey

Like last year, our children will be taking part in the Local Authority School's Health Education Unit survey this week and a letter will be emailed to Y4 parents today giving a little more information.

Christmas Tree Festival - Message from St Andrews Church

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will be held at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Ampthill on Saturday 2nd December - 10.00 am – 4.30pm and Sunday 3rd December - 11.00am – 4.00pm

There will be live music, including the Firs Lower School Choir, and storytellers throughout the event

Mulled wine, tea, coffee and a delicious selection of home cooked cakes and refreshments will be served in the Chapter House

We will also be selling our hugely popular Jams, Marmalades, Pickles and Chutneys, along with cards, gifts, books, decorations and raffle.

Entry £2.50 if you are over 14 years of age. If you are under 14 you can come in free!

Yours sincerely,

