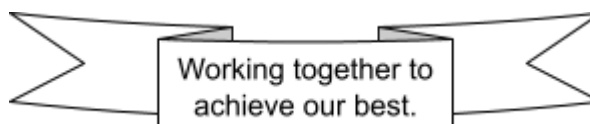




Newsletter

Issue No 8
Date:- 1st December, 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,

Christmas Performances Year R – Year 3

Please see a reminder of dates and times below.

- *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*

Christmas Tree Festival



St. Andrew's Parish Church, Ampthill

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 2nd December
10.00 am – 4.30pm
Sunday 3rd December
11.00am – 4.00pm

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 on Saturday at 11:30am**, and storytellers throughout the event

Please come down, support our choir, and vote for your favourite tree...hopefully our tree with all the lovely Christmas Carol inspired decorations! :)

Entry £2.50 if you are over 14 years of age. Under 14s are free!

PTFA Christmas Activity Craft Fair



A huge thank you to our PTFA for all their hard work planning and hosting their Christmas Activity Craft Fair on Saturday, what a lovely way to start Christmas at The Firs.

Along with music from Mr Lacey, a visit from Santa and being welcomed by a blizzard, there couldn't have been a better atmosphere.

Thank you also to the many parents and past pupils who supported the PTFA, running all the fantastic activities and crafts tables, as well as the very popular Christmas Café!



Kids' Club Charging and Late Collections

Our Wraparound provision, Kids Club, is finding that a number of parents are collecting their children after their booked session times. We staff our Kids' Club according to the bookings made by parents, and any late collections result in staff having to stay on beyond their hours.

We ask that if you will be collecting your child from Kids' Club later than the session that you have booked, please inform us as soon as possible, and be more aware and respectful of the finish times of the colleagues working at Kids' Club. Thank you.



A reminder of the Kids' Club fees policy can be found below:

If you have booked until 5pm but collect after this time you will be charged for the additional 5pm - 6pm session, plus an admin fee. Late charges may be applied beyond 6pm per child as follows:

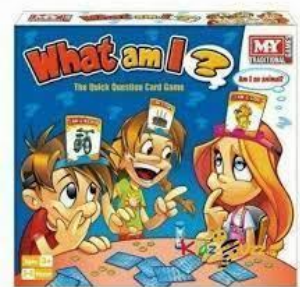
- Collection between 6 pm - 6:20 pm £10
- Collection beyond 6:20 - 6:30 pm £20
- Collection beyond 6:30 pm £30

Late charges are in place to cover the cost of overtime payments accrued due to staff staying beyond their normal working hours. Staff staying late without notice will also have an impact on their personal lives, so we ask that you please collect on time. If you are late collecting your child on a number of occasions your Kids' Club booking may be withdrawn.

Thank you for your support.

Kids' Club Request for Donations

If anyone is having a 'pre-Christmas' sort out, please keep Kids' Club in mind. Now the evenings are getting dark and cold, the children will be inside more and we would appreciate any games, puzzles, books, buggies or even more Barbies and their clothing. Please drop off at Kids' Club, or leave with the office staff. Thank you.



Social Media

Please look out for our Facebook and Instagram pages, we aim to post weekly and would love to have more followers, likes and shares.

- [The Firs Facebook page](#)
- [The Firs Instagram page](#)



Pine Class Autumn Walk



Pine children had a lovely time going on their autumn walk, exploring Cooper's Hill. They found lots of signs of autumn including acorns, squirrels, mushrooms, pine cones and different coloured leaves, enjoying ticking items off their checklist and collecting some in their bag!

As part of the walk, we talked about the significance of the war memorial and spotted other signs of nature such as ladybird larvae!

The children were incredibly sensible and we were very proud of them!



Can you help?

If you have any second hand children's tights, girls or boys pants that are no longer required, please can you bring them into the school office so that we can stock our spare clothes cupboard. Thank you for your support.

Hair Accessories

Can you please make sure that your child's hair accessories are green, white or black. Several children have been coming into school with different coloured hair accessories which are not part of our school uniform. Please support us with this.

Christmas Panto

Our Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 children were treated to a Panto this week, organised by our PTFA. Judging by the laughter, shouting and heckling we could hear from the office, they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and got into the panto spirit!



Thank you PTFA from all the children, and the staff, that attended. Saplings and our Reception Class have a special event next week to look forward to.

Christmas Dinner – Monday 18th December



At The Firs we will be having our Christmas dinner on Monday 18th December. Please pre-book by Wednesday 6th December via ParentPay so that the kitchen can place their orders and we have enough stuffing balls to go around.

Thank you.

Christmas Jumper Day – Monday 18th December

Christmas Jumper Day is an annual fundraising campaign in the UK organised by the charity 'Save the Children'.

We are inviting all the children to come dressed in a Christmas jumper, or something Christmassy, on Monday 18th December.

Please Note: - this is a non-uniform Day



Please do not feel that you have to go and buy a Christmas jumper for your child if you do not have one. The children would have a lot of fun decorating a jumper they already have, or they can just wear something festive.

Further information on how you can donate to this worthwhile cause will be sent out shortly.

Book Fair

Thank you to all the many parents who supported our book fair sessions recently. We hope your children will love the books you bought! Thank you to all the staff who helped with the sessions. The school earns commission on all sales, which we can put towards purchasing books for our library and to support our Accelerated Reader books. Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,