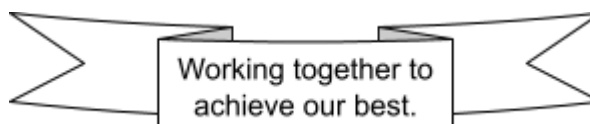




Newsletter

Issue No 9
Date:- 19th 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,

Year 2 Theatre Trip

Year Two ended their term with a trip to the Royal and Derngate theatre to see 'Stick Man'. For many of the children, it was their first theatre experience, and they were captivated by the story which took the children through the seasons with Stick Man, culminating with a ride through the snowy skies with Santa and Rudolph. This experience will set the children in great stead for their 'Stick Man' Literacy work in the Spring Term.



We are so proud of all of the children and want to thank the parents who helped make the trip possible for us, and the Year 2 staff who organised it and ran the trip, not forgetting Jessie, our work experience student. - Well done Year 2!

SEND Christmas Holiday Swimming Sessions

Our Leisure Centres are offering swim sessions for children, young people and families with SEND during the Christmas Holiday. The SEND swimming session is an opportunity to share the pool exclusively for an hour with other families who have a child or young person with SEND.

For more information and how to book, visit the [Local Offer](#)



Do you have an Autistic Child?



Do You Have An Autistic Child?

Being a Parent of an Autistic Child is a free course for local parents and carers of children with autism (they do not have to have received a diagnosis).

This interactive and informal course is delivered online via Zoom. It is run over ten weeks by trained parent group facilitators who have first-hand experience of the joys and challenges of having a child with ASD.

In the course, we will explore:

- The experience of being a parent of an autistic child
- Understanding your autistic child
- Help with communication, interaction and playing with your autistic child

Year 3 Faith Tour

Our Year 3 children had the fantastic opportunity to visit 3 places of worship as part of a 'Faith Tour' linking to their RE learning this year.

The children visited the Guru Nanak Gurdwara, the Jamia Masjid Gulshane Baghdad mosque and the All Saints Parish Church.

The presentations in each of the places of worship enriched the children's learning of the faiths and they were given opportunities to explore and ask questions to gain further understanding.



The children represented The Firs exceptionally well, demonstrating our golden rules 'Ready, Respect, Safe' throughout and we are extremely proud of them.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the year 3 team for organising the trip as well as the staff and parent volunteers who attended.

Christmas Nativity Week

What an amazing week we had with a full programme of Christmas Nativities.

Each year group held their morning dress rehearsal performing in front of the rest of the school children and grandparents, followed by their afternoon performance to a packed hall of parents.

Well done everybody, after weeks of hard work and preparation, you all did an amazing job.

Thank you to all the staff for working with our performers, making the props and stage sets, and thank you to all our parents for creating such fantastic outfits.

The PTFA did another amazing job adding to the festive spirit providing refreshments, mince pies and raffles at each performance.



Christmas Jumper Day



What a festive day, everybody in their finest Christmas outfits, teachers sharing the joy of Christmas dinner in the school hall with the children, jingle bells playing in the background and everyone singing along.

Thank you for all your support with fundraising for Save the Children, we are already at £256, room for a few more donations though!



<https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fun.../CJD230000279>

Violin Performance

On Monday 11th our young violin and viola players entertained us with a selection of music that they have been practising this term. They gave a fantastic performance and it was a great opportunity to congratulate them on their performance and their skills and to say thank you to Mrs Perry, the fantastic peripatetic teacher who has, for many years, helped our young players to achieve musical excellence!

Snapper Raffle Winners



Well done to our lucky Snapper Raffle winners, and a big thank you to Waitrose for donating these lovely gifts.

We had so many raffle entries, and the draw caused a lot of excitement at this morning's Christmas Assembly.

Christmas Lunch

Our children really enjoyed their Christmas lunch on Monday 18th with our staff serving the children their Christmas dinners. Our Kitchen team, led by our Kitchen Manager Hannah Howlett produced a fantastic festive lunch which everyone enjoyed, thank you to them for all their hard work.



Final Assembly

Today we held our final assembly.

We announced that Oak class had won the [Accelerated Reader trophy](#) and that Elm class had won the [Attendance Trophy](#) for the autumn term. Congratulations to Oak and Elm. More details are available on our website - see links above.

Our assembly was an opportunity to thank all the adults in school and the PTFA and congratulate our children on all their hard work over the term. We enjoyed singing Christmas songs we had been practising in Friday assemblies, including our traditional rendition of The 12 Days Of Christmas, children choosing a member of staff to hold each of the picture cards for each line.



After this, Father Christmas made an appearance and delivered lots of presents to all the classes. The children were very excited and then went back to class to enjoy opening their presents.

End of Term Thoughts

We have come to the end of another busy term and the staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents / carers for their help and support.

All the children have worked really hard all term and it is lovely that they have enjoyed a variety of Christmas activities in the last few weeks. They have taken great pleasure in watching each other's Christmas concerts and there have been very enjoyable Christmas parties for everyone to end the term.

This is a time when we can reflect on the many adults who make a huge contribution to life at The Firs and we thought about this and thanked them for their contributions in assembly.

Finally, and on behalf of all the staff and Governors I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and Happy New year. We look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Wednesday 3rd January.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan H. Carpenter".