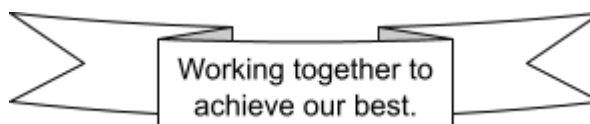




Newsletter

Issue No 15
Date:- 16th February, 2024
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,

Helping with reading...Your School Needs You!

Like we said last week, we are passionate about helping our children learn to read and we realise that every moment children spend practising their reading skills is precious.

Educational research indicates that children make better progress in reading if they read daily for 30 minutes or more. In school, we provide at least 15 minutes reading time (much more in KS1, where children are developing their reading every day as part of their RWI lesson) and ask parents to encourage their child to read daily at home (and for 15 minutes in KS2).



If you could read daily (or at least regularly, a few times each week) it will make all the difference to the progress they make. For help with approaching this, see the help sheet included with this newsletter, also available on our [website](#).

Before Covid, we had a lot of parents and grandparents, who came in to help hear children read during the school day. We are seeking out your help with our effort to get this going again. Thank you to the parents who have already responded. If you think you could help please complete the Google Form below.

[Helping with Reading](#) Google Form

Mrs Mercer and I will contact all the parents who volunteer to arrange a brief induction session which we hope will help to make the sessions as successful as possible. Thank you in advance for your support!

PTFA 'Wear What You Love' Disco



Thank you PTFA for hosting their Wear What You Love Disco on Valentines Day

The children all had a fantastic time. on another memorable occasion made possible by the efforts of the PTFA.

Thank you to all the staff and parents who worked together to support the children, so they could have a fantastic disco experience!

Y2 Coming into School Arrangements

We wanted to update Y2 parents that to allow Y2 staff to welcome their children to the classroom and settle their class so they are ready to start the day's learning, there will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team (usually Mrs A'Court or Ms Gamble) on duty at the entrance to the Y2 block each morning.

This will give them a chance to welcome the children into school each morning and ensure that if there is any information you want to give to the teachers, they are there to take the message for you.

Lunch Clubs

If you submitted a request for a lunchtime club, your child will be coming home today with a slip indicating if they have a place. Some clubs were heavily oversubscribed and so your child may have a slip saying they are on the waiting list in case anyone drops out. I'm sorry if this causes any disappointment and of course, if a place opens up, we will be in contact, to let you know.

Clubs will all be at lunchtime as follows:

Club	Year(s)	When?	Staff in charge
Choir	Y2-Y4	Monday	Mrs Wadsworth and Mrs Jamieson
Lego Club Y3	Y3	Tuesday	Mr Lacey
Sewing Club Y3 & Y4	Y3 & Y4	Tuesday	Mrs Mercer and Mrs Donbavand
Chit Chat & Colour Club YR / Y1	YR & Y1	Tuesday	Ms Cox and Mrs Fuller
TT Rockstars Club Y3 and Y4	Y3 & Y4	Tuesday	Miss New
Board & Puzzle Club Yr1 / Yr2	Y1 & Y2	Wednesday	Mrs Boyes and Mrs Jappy
Drama Y3 & Y4	Y3 & Y4	Thursday	Mr Campbell
Gardening Club	(Y4)	Thursday	Mrs Rogers and Mr Rushby
Firs Friends	(Y4)	Monday	Ms Gamble

Occasionally, the day a club is on will need to change but we will let children know if that happens.

Thank you to Mrs Ashby and Mrs A'Court for help with communications and to all the staff of course for planning and running clubs that I am sure children will very much enjoy.

Y1 Reading Breakfasts Reminder

A reminder to Y1 parents that the Holly and Maple Class reading breakfasts are just after half term:

- Holly Class - Monday 26th
- Maple Class - Tuesday 27th

Both sessions will take place in the hall, starting at 9:10 am and we look forward to welcoming you for what we hope will be a really enjoyable occasion that promotes the importance and the enjoyment of reading!

- see the letters on the [Letters Home](#) page of our website for more details.

The Book Fair Returns to The Firs!

Leading up to our celebration of World Book Day later this term, we will be holding a book fair in school after half term.

The Book Fair sessions will be on the following dates after school (3:45 - 4:15)

- Thursday 29th February
- Friday 1st March
- Tuesday 5th March

As you will know from previous fairs you will need to scan the code provided in the hall to make payment on the Traveller Books website.

The commission we earn from the Book Fairs helps us to purchase books to compliment our reading scheme and I would like to Thank you very much in advance for your support!

Parents Evening and Online Booking Reminder: <https://firslower.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

We would like to invite all parents/carers to attend a 10 minute 'Face to Face' Parents' Evening meeting with your child's teacher on **Tuesday 12th March** or **Thursday 14th March** 2024. This is for all parents who have children in Years 1-4. Parents of Reception children will continue to have their Focus Child meetings, so are not required to attend the parent evenings.

Appointments can be made until Monday 11th March, 9am.

Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office. office@firslower.org

Please visit <https://firslower.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointment, where you will be asked for your name, email, your child's name and their date of birth.

Individual reminders and a link were sent out on the 13th February.

New Governors wanted!

We are very lucky to have a very conscientious and hard working team of trustees on our Governing Body, who do a fantastic job, helping us to manage and develop the school.

We are looking for people who would be interested in coming forward to join this dedicated team. If you are interested, I know our governing board would love to hear from you!

Please contact the School Office in the 1st instance.

ParentPay Invoices, Kids' Club, Saplings and School Meals.

Invoices have now been added to ParentPay for Kids' Club and Sapling Pre-school fees, for care booked after half term. Please check you accounts and make payment via ParentPay or childcare voucher by the due days.

- Kids' Club due day - Monday 4th March 2024
- Saplings Pre-school due day - Monday 26th February 2024

The current school menu will continue through to the end of the Spring Term, we will be returning to school on week 2 of the menu rotation. Can we ask that all parents who wish for the child to have school meals, please pre-book, this allows Caterlink to plan ahead and place their weekly order with minimal waste.



Thank you for your support.

SEND News and Updates

Please use the link below to view Central Beds Half Term SEND News Bulletin, which includes information on:

- February Half-Term Activities
- Kids Time

- DisCo Spring Term 2024 Prospectus
- SNAP PCF Spring Term Events
- BDCPS Toy Library
- Skills 4 Success Wellbeing event - Autism Bedfordshire
- Children Centres SEND Stay and Play sessions



Central Beds 'Central News' - @SEND Half Term Bulletin

I hope you all have a lovely half term and we all look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 26th February.

Yours sincerely,

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