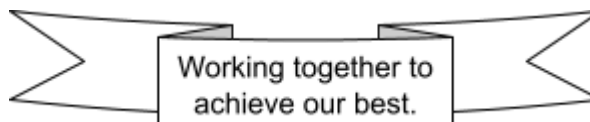




## Newsletter

Issue No 18  
Date:-28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024  
[www.firslower.co.uk](http://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,

### Parent and Carer Questionnaire

Our school are invested in supporting the emotional and mental health needs of our school community. It is important to us that we capture your feedback as this will help us to develop our work, and make sure we are meeting everyone's needs.



The information from the questionnaire will be used to help us develop our strategy to creating a whole school approach to mental health. This short questionnaire (taking no more than 5 minutes to complete) is anonymous so we will not be able to match any personal details with your answers.

Taking part in this questionnaire is optional, and if you would like to find out more please contact the school directly. Please follow the link to access the questionnaire.

<https://app.myedupod.com/survey/d5f4da55-f920-414b-a2a0-51350d7bc9bf/care-givers>

### ParentPay - Invoices, Kids' Club, Saplings, Summer Events and School Meals

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

- Kids' Club due day – Wednesday 10th April 2024
- Saplings Pre-school due day - Monday 15th April 2024

We will be returning to school on week 1 of our new 'Summer Menu', which will take us through to the end of the school year. Can we ask that all parents who wish for their child to have school meals, please pre-book, this allows Caterlink to plan ahead and place their weekly order with minimal waste.



For Year R, 1, 2, and 3, we have Summer events to look forward to. Please check your ParentPay account as we are asking for Parent Helpers for each year group.

- Year R - Hertfordshire Zoo
- Year 1 - Theatre Trip
- Year 2 - Seaside WOW Day
- Year 3 - Holdenby House

Finally, we have started confirming Holiday Club requests, please keep an eye out for an email invoice for your booking with your due date for payment.

We still have full availability across the two weeks of Holiday Club, please use the following link to book your place - <https://forms.gle/yb2uPjhNew2NAndq7>

Thank you for your support.

## Grafham Residential Trip



We were so proud of all our Y4 children, who all took part so positively and successfully in our Grafham Water residential visit. All our children entered into the activities demonstrating determination, perseverance and a willingness to support each other to achieve their personal goals.

The children's behaviour was fantastic throughout and it was a pleasure to experience the 3 days with them, observing how they were all getting the most out of all the opportunities offered to them... a huge well done to all of our amazing Y4s!

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the staff who took part, as always we had a fantastic group of staff who all looked after the children conscientiously and made sure they all had a great time. I would also like to say a special thank you to Alyson Baker, for her hard work arranging everything and a thank you to all the staff who covered in school where needed!

Please visit our photo gallery page on the school website to see more photos from Grafham  
<https://www.firslower.co.uk/gallery/?pid=243&gcatid=17>

### Accelerated Reader Award

We want to encourage children to read and so all the KS2 classes participate in an AR Trophy competition.

The Trophies are awarded termly, to the class with the most number of words read!

In assembly today we said a big well done to Oak class who won the trophy having read **2,386,070** words since September!

### Attendance Trophy

Good attendance is so important and research shows, is directly linked with high rates of pupil achievement. For this reason we want to encourage good attendance and so every class YR - Y4 participates in the Attendance Trophy competition. The Trophy is awarded termly, to the class with the best attendance!

In assembly today we said a big well done to Elm Class who won the trophy for the spring term with an attendance rate of **96.4%**

### Mrs Rogers

Today we shared the sad news that Mrs Rogers will be undergoing chemotherapy treatment for a cancer diagnosis and will not be in school next term. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

### Safety On The Service Road

In the letter we sent out 2/2/23 we discussed the fact that our staff car park, service road and Saplings parking area is getting increasingly busy at the beginning and end of the school day, which brings many safety concerns. This letter is available in the [Letters Home](#) section of our website if you missed it.

Despite indicating how unsafe it is, we have continued to have many parents using the service road inappropriately and our staff and colleagues from Alameda have reported incidents where parents were very aggressive, leading to staff feeling very upset afterwards.

Next term, we will be introducing more frequent staff monitoring at the entrance to the service road to ensure it remains safe for all authorised users and there will be more information about this after Easter.

Following The Firs Way, we expect all our interactions with each other in our community to be kind, calm and respectful, so that nobody is ever left feeling upset or disrespected after a conversation.

Please support us, both in terms of the use of the service road and in adhering to the Firs values, thank you.

### **Pre-School Administrator Vacancy**

We have a vacancy for a pre-school administrator to start work from 25<sup>th</sup> April or as soon as possible. All the information is attached to this email.

Maria Lydon who is currently our pre-school administrator and has been for many years will be taking up a new job opportunity during the next term and we will all miss her so much. She has done and is doing a fantastic job at The Saplings ensuring that the office runs smoothly and efficiently. This is due to her dedication and hard work as always. We wish her all the best when she leaves us for her new post.

### **Easter Bunny Visit**

Our Firs' children had a surprise visit at assembly this morning, from a very cute Easter bunny who hopped into our hall to deliver mini Easter Eggs to all the children and to help our PTFA hand out raffle prizes.

The children were thrilled and very excited to see who had won a large egg!



The bunny then hopped over to visit our Saplings Pre-school children for more mini eggs and raffle prize giving out, thank you Easter bunny, you did an amazing job!

Thank you to our fantastic PTFA for organising this visit, and to all the families that purchased raffle tickets.

We hope you all have a good Easter break and we look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Monday 15th April.

Yours sincerely,

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

