

www.firslower.co.uk

Chair of Governors: Sarah Walker

Governors: Jade Brown, Joseph Burton, Adam Campbell, Grant Chaney, Suzi McIntosh, Amaritpal Uppal, Hannah Wadsworth and Claudia Wallis

Dear parents/carers,

Governor update

I wanted to let you know that sadly, Stephanie Bedford has stepped down as a Governor. We would like to thank her for her valuable contributions to the Governing Board last year.

There are two vacancies on the Governing Board; would you or anyone you know like to be involved in shaping the strategic direction of the school and make a meaningful contribution to our local community?

We would welcome anyone with good communication skills and an enquiring mind, there is plenty of online training available to help you become an effective member of the board. We would particularly value anyone with experience in HR, or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or children's mental health to expand the current board's skillset.

It is a mixture of daytime and evening commitments. Enquiries are welcome from parents, grandparents (retirees make excellent Governors!) or members of the local community. Please email a bit about yourself to office@firslower.org FAO Sarah Walker, Chair of Governors.

Jennie Bredenkamp

I wanted to share with everyone that Jennie Bredenkamp, our School Business Manager will sadly be leaving us at the end of October.

Jennie has worked very hard since joining us, quickly getting up to speed when she first started with us and ensuring all our financial affairs are in order and all our financial processes are conducted appropriately and in a timely manner.

She has led the process recently of enhancing the way we work with governors to manage financial and premises related matters, a process that has greatly increased our efficiency but which involved her in a lot of additional work. Recently she has also led on the move to a new financial accounting system.

Jennie led the project which ended in a successful bid to the DfE to renew our heating system and she has worked with Martin Lees our Premises Manager, to oversee a number of maintenance projects, as well as leading on health and safety matters and working with Sue A'Court to enhance our cleaning arrangements.

We will really miss Jennie's contribution to the wider responsibilities of the Senior Leadership Team and the support she has given the school in a number of matters which went beyond her key areas of responsibility.

Issue No - 2 Date - 22nd September 2025

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of the whole school community, for all she has done for us and wish her the very best of luck in all her future endeavours.

New School Business Manager

We have been very fortunate that we have been able to recruit a new School Business Manager, Claire Nash, who will be starting with us on 20th October. This will mean that Jennie Bredenkamp will be available to give a handover to Claire before she leaves.

Autumn Term Date Sheet

With this newsletter is a copy of our Autumn Term 25 Date Sheet. The sheet will also be available on the [Letters Home](#) section of our website.

New CBC Support Hub for Parents and Carers

Central Bedfordshire's Public Health team have developed a support hub for parents and carers to access trusted resources to help support a young person's wellbeing. Within the hub you will find local and national support, advice and guidance. Please see the [poster link](#) and the [website link](#).

International Peace Day

In assembly on Thursday, we thought about International Peace Day, how it came about and the meaning of Peace in different contexts.

Additionally, children at The Firs have been thinking about what peace means to them, including how we demonstrate our Peace Value in school, and in our lives and they have been recording those ideas and creating pictures for our display outside the school.



Thank you to all our children for their enthusiasm for this and for the lovely ideas they have shared.

Issue No - 2 Date - 22nd September 2025

Parent Teacher Autumn Consultations Tuesday 21st or Thursday 23rd October 2025

We would like to invite all parents./ carers of pupils at The Firs to attend a 10 minute 'face to face' Parents' Consultation with your child's teacher.

- Consultation evenings for Conkers and Y1-Y4 are either Tuesday 21st or Thursday 23rd October.
- Consultation evenings for Acorns are either Tuesday 11th or Thursday 13th November.
- Bookings with teachers (other than Acorns) can be made online from Monday 29th September and will close Monday 20th October 2024.
- Bookings for appointments in Acorns will also open on Monday 29th September and will close Monday 10th November 2024.
- 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.
- If you require any assistance, please contact the school office. office@firslower.org

Parking on Station Road

This week, a text message was sent out to all our parents regarding the very dangerous parking on the yellow lines on Station Road, opposite our school.

There was a near miss when a child could have got knocked over if the parent hadn't intervened.

We really need your support with this and ask that you **DO NOT PARK ON THE YELLOW LINES OUTSIDE OUR SCHOOL**. Please help us with this, so that by working together, we can keep **ALL** our children safe.

The school has notified Central Bedfordshire Traffic Department about this.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Campbell
Headteacher