

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,

Y4 Swimming

Y4 children have started their weekly visits to Flitwick Leisure Centre for their course of swimming lessons. I wanted to take this opportunity to say well done to all the Y4 children who had 2 fantastic sessions and have been complimented by the staff for their sensible behaviour, for listening well and making a great effort in the pool.

Remembrance Service

On Sunday 9th November, The Firs was represented by members of our School Council, who took part in the parade through Ampthill and attended the service at The Cenotaph.

All our School Councillors were so sensible and responsible in the way they conducted themselves and deserve a huge well done for their great team effort.



A particular thank you to the team of Y4 School Councillors who presented the school wreath for us as part of the Remembrance service. They were understandably nervous as their moment drew nearer, with the large crowd watching, but when the big moment came they did a fantastic job and represented our school brilliantly... well done!

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be visiting our school soon and you will be able to come in and purchase books on the following days:

Thursday 20th November 3.45pm – 4:15pm

Friday 21st November 3.45pm – 5:15pm

Tuesday 25th November 3.45pm – 4:15pm

The children will be given the opportunity to have a look at the books prior to this, so that they can talk to you about it at home.

You can buy book tokens to spend at the Book Fair if you wish by clicking on this [Book Fair Gift Vouchers](#) link.

If purchasing books on the day, you can scan the QR code on display in the hall which will take you to the online payment link



at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay where you can select our school from the drop down menu.

For more information see the 'Invitation' leaflet attached, which is also available on our [letters home](#) webpage.

Anti Bullying Week

This week we have marked anti bullying week with activities that children have been participating in across the school.

In Year 2 for example, children spent time in circle discussions learning how to recognise signs of bullying both in the classroom and on the playground. The children enjoyed completing word searches and taking part in Odd Socks Day to celebrate their uniqueness and individuality.



In Year 4 children talked about the significance of wearing odd socks and how it symbolises that everyone is different. They created their own odd socks with a focus on their own personalities. They discussed bullying, how to prevent it, who we can ask for help and we explored various scenarios and actions we might take.

To finish the week, they created posters with positive messages such as "Words matter - be kind to everyone" and "Power for Good" to display proudly in our classrooms.

On Thursday we took part in our own 'Odd Socks Day' to coincide with our Anti Bullying assembly and we thought about what bullying is, how we can use '[The Power Of Good](#)' to stop bullying and how we can get help if we are unhappy.

Y4 Bikeability

The Bikeability Trust is a charitable organisation that aims to ensure everyone has the confidence to cycle and enjoy this skill for life. The Trust manages, develops and promotes the Bikeability programme on behalf of the Department for Transport.

Once again this year, our Y4 children have greatly benefitted from and enjoyed their bikeability sessions, despite the bad weather that impacted on the Willow class sessions on Friday.

Unfortunately, due this very wet weather on Friday, we had to postpone the afternoon session for Willow Class. We have had conversations with the organisation responsible for Bikeability and we have provisionally re-booked for Monday 8th December and we will be sending more information to parents nearer the time.

Y4 SHEU Survey

Like last year, our children will be taking part in the Local Authority School's Health Education Unit survey next week and a letter will be emailed to Y4 parents this week giving a little more information.

Children in Need – A Big Firs Lower Thank You!

A huge *thank you* to our wonderful Firs Lower community for the kindness and generosity you showed during our Children in Need fundraising day. You never fail to amaze us!



Thanks to online donations, selling Pudsey Bears and Pudsey Ears, and our dress-down contributions, we have already raised **over £610!!**

The children looked absolutely fantastic on Friday. There were big smiles, bright colours, and lots of Pudsey pride. It was a day full of fun, laughter, and togetherness, all in support of a brilliant cause.



Our JustGiving link will stay open a little longer, just in case anyone would like to add a final boost to our total. [Firs' Children in Need Just Giving Page](#)

Thank you again, Firs family – we are so proud of you all!

Christmas Performances

We have found over the last few years that there is increasing demand for the very limited space we have for adults in the audience for our dress rehearsals in the morning of our performance week.

The children really love members of their extended family to watch their performance and so it is really important for us to facilitate that to the best of our ability.

For this reason therefore, we have made a change to the way we organise the Christmas performances this year that we would like to trial. This year we are going to hold our dress rehearsals for the rest of the school to watch in the week preceding our advertised performance week.

This will enable us to offer **two** performances, one in the morning and one in the afternoon for parents / families and allocate 4 tickets in total (2 for each performance) to each child's family, so you will have more flexibility to arrange which members of your family are going to attend.

To help us to prepare, could you please complete the Google Form below to request the places you would like to book, thank you.

[Year R Christmas Performance](#), Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th December

[Year 1 Christmas Performance](#), Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th December

[Year 2 Christmas Performance](#), Thursday 11th & Friday 12th December

[Year 3 Christmas Performance](#), Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th December

Parent Carer Workshops

Please see the attached leaflet for details on Workshops over November for Understanding Emotions and Behaviours of children that are Neurodiverse



Parent Workshop

Just a reminder, we will be holding an Autumn Term SEND **Coffee and Catch up** at The Firs on Monday 17th November at 9.00am. Information regarding this is attached... thank you to Ms Gamble for organising this event.

Message from Mark Smith, Town Councillor

Mark Smith has emailed our school as he is concerned about pupils riding their scooters down Sidney Road, with cars backing out of their driveways and at the junction with Ashburnham Road, where parked cars can obscure those on scooters. Please can parents please supervise their children when they are using their scooters to come to school and be aware of the dangers when passing driveways.

Kids' Club, December Invoices



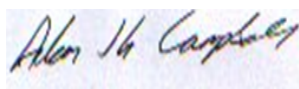
December invoices for Kids' Club have been issued, on **17th November**. To secure your child's place, please ensure payment is made by **Monday 1st December**.

Kindly note that any requests for changes to bookings received **after 17th November** will be applied from **January's Wraparound Care** schedule. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

1:1 Teaching Assistant required as soon as possible

Please find attached to this newsletter information regarding a vacancy for a 1:1 Teaching Assistant. This advert is also posted on our website www.firslower.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Adam Campbell
Headteacher