



14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

# High Firs Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

Court Crescent, Swanley, Kent BR8 8NR Tel: 01322 669721 Fax: 01322 615997

Visit our school website at [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

### Message from Mr Kilbride

It has been a very busy start to the new term in school. We have been so impressed with the level of engagement in Resolution Read at Home this week - hopefully even more children will be collecting their housepoints next week. Equally, the new house challenge for Times Tables Rockstars is underway and Chestnut enjoyed a crushing victory this week with nearly double the points of Beech, who came in second. Let's see if Ash, Oak and Beech can reel them in next week.

You will see that we are circulating links to parent feedback forms. This is the first time we have tried this online - we hope that this will make it easier for you to complete the forms 'on the go' on phones etc. and that our analysis of the results should be more streamlined as well. We would be very grateful if you could take the time to complete the relevant form; feedback on our efforts is one of the best ways to help us identify areas to develop. We thank you in advance for the time and effort you put into this - I anticipate the surveys taking not more than 5 minutes to complete.

Parking on the estate related to school drop-off and collection continues to take up more of my time than I would choose. After my appeal for people to only use the allocated parking bays on Court Crescent, I thought it looked better for a while - but I am now seeing children being dropped off on double yellow lines in 'no stopping' areas once more. I was advised by a parent today that they were nearly hit by a car mounting the kerb and I have received recent correspondence about driveways being blocked in Cranleigh Drive. Sadly what this means, is that I will need to reserve a proportion of my time to engage in activities that are not related to improving your children's attainment and progress - having meetings and conversations to try to improve the parking situation surrounding school. Every minute that I spend doing this is one missed where I could have been in classrooms monitoring and guiding the standards that drive your children's education.

A further ask I have of you is related to allowing people access to the school gate at dropping off time in the morning. Once you have dropped your child, if you are looking to catch up with another parent or two, please could you move away from the school gate - possibly to the other side of the road - to have these conversations. This will allow children who are nervous about dropping routines to have the best possible experience of being dropped at school, where the dropping parent has a clear line of sight through to the school gate and beyond and there are no dogs for children with that particular fear to have to worry about and navigate. Thank you very much.

### School Website

Don't forget that lots of our general information is available on our school website [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

This includes class details, lunch menus & meals payment link, uniform orders, clubs, term dates and past copies of all letters home and our Newsletters... plus much more! We will be updating with this term's dates soon too.

### Attainment Reports

Thank you to all the parents who have returned their Attainment Report responses via <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/reports/> This form will close on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Responses will then be shared with class teachers, who will get back to you if there are any queries.



### Retirement

Our Premises Assistant, Mr Payne, will be leaving in

February. He has kept our school grounds and buildings in great shape and we will be sending him off with our very best wishes for his very well-deserved retirement!



### Parent Surveys

We would be very grateful if you could spare a few moments of your time to complete our parent survey by Friday 28th January, using the links below. This will help us to continue to improve both your and your child's experiences of school.

#### For Reception Parents:

<https://forms.office.com/r/s5R8ekfsqm>

#### For Parents of Years 1-6:

<https://forms.office.com/r/EPTpu9hbx5>



Achieving more together



### Special Mentions

This week, our special mentions go to:

- Teddy M – trying really hard with blending his sounds this week.
- William B – super home learning: recognising coins.
- Morgan J – amazing learning this week in all areas.
- Danny B – fantastic Science.
- Anumeya – settling in so well to her new class.
- Connie R & Michael C – great effort with their newspaper reports.
- Jack B – creating, cooking and evaluating a Chinese meal.
- Alan Z – fabulous research about the Shang Army.
- Millie WS & Evie T – consistent efforts with their home learning.
- Isla S – brilliant questions to ask Charles Darwin.
- Alec G – great participation in English about our new book and a fantastic piece of art of an Ancient Maya temple.



### In our classes this week

Reception – talked about their superhero powers!  
 Year 1 – are enjoying reading “Lila and the Secret of Rain”.  
 Year 2 – learned about the basic needs of humans.  
 Year 3 – learned about the story of Saul.

Year 4 – are enjoying their learning about The Shang Dynasty.  
 Year 5 – are practising extended multiplication.  
 Year 6 – explored inheritance by finding out about cross-breed dogs.

### Register Rabbit

Congratulations to this week’s winners of Register Rabbit for their excellent attendance:



YEAR 1  
 YEAR 3



	This Week	Top Scorers this week
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>193</b>	Morgan J, Harrison C, Mickey L
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	<b>187</b>	Grace F, Elizabeth P
<b>OAK</b>	<b>196</b>	Walter A, Amy V, Eloise W
<b>ASH</b>	<b>188</b>	Poppy G, Isabella T, Jack B, Lucy E



### Resolution Read at Home

Well done to all the children who read at home this week and who have been awarded a special certificate today. It’s not too late to take part; throughout January, children will be given one house point for every night that they read at home and that their contact book or reading record is signed to show this when it is checked by a member of staff in the morning. There will be certificates at the end of each week for those children who have read every night and a special reward for those who read every night for the whole three weeks!

### Times Tables Rockstars

Well done to **CHESTNUT** who were the winners of this week’s Times Tables Rockstars challenge!



Our top scorers were:

<b>BEECH</b>	Chanelle M, Tommy B
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	Amelia B, Ruby B
<b>OAK</b>	Casian C, Millie
<b>ASH</b>	Veda T, Elija V



KS2 children don’t forget to log in this week to take part in this week’s challenge.



Achieving more together



We are now recruiting for a  
**CARETAKER**

5 days a week  
22.5 hours per week

Visit [www.kent-teach.com](http://www.kent-teach.com) for more  
information and application form

### Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming parents to the following class assemblies taking place this term:

**CLASS ASSEMBLIES**

- Reception – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10.10am
- Year 1 – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 10.10am
- Year 2 – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10.10am (followed by Yr2 SATs meeting)
- Year 3 – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10.10am
- Year 4 – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 10.10am
- Year 5 – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10.10am
- Year 6 – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10.10am (followed by Yr6 SATs meeting)

Please can we remind parents that we request face coverings are worn.



### INSET DAYS

**No children in school**

Fri 27 May 2022

Mon 27 June 2022

### Coming up...

Clubs start Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January onwards

## Energy Saving Week

17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Saving energy is really important to help save our planet. What could you do to save energy at home?

If you do anything to save energy throughout the week, let Eco Club know. We'd love to hear from you! You can send us a photo or email using our email address:

[ecoclub@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ecoclub@high-firs.kent.sch.uk)



## Spring Special Menu Day

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January

### Main

Breaded chicken goujons  
with sticky BBQ sauce (3)

or

Margherita pizza (v) (1,3,6,11)

### Served with

Chunky potato wedges,

Baked beans & vegetable crudities

Handmade Bread (1,3,6 m/c 11)

### Dessert

Snap crackle & pop chocolate  
krispie cake (3)

or

Fresh Fruit



Achieving more together

