



20 January 2023

# High Firs Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

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

## Message from Mr Kilbride

You may have noticed that learning logs for the term have altered slightly. In response to parent feedback which indicated a level of concern about managing to fit all the homework in, amongst clubs and out of school commitments, we have introduced a greater degree of flexibility into the offer. The major change is that for learning logs, we are building in some leeway, such that in a typical 6 week term, the expectation will now be that a minimum of 4 tasks need to be completed. This allows for a week or two 'off' or for the undertaking of a larger task, with the effort spread over several weeks. The option is there for all to continue completing one task in every week, should your circumstances allow.

Underpinning the learning log tasks, all children are expected to read at home on at least 4 occasions per week, recording in reading records/contact books. Younger children should have access to practise number bonds on Numbots and older children times tables on Timestables Rockstars – work on this is optional, but ideally should be attempted on two or three occasions during the week. Equally, younger children can access Teach Your Monster to Read for phonics and reading games, where older children have a login to Spelling Shed to practise their weekly spellings.

As a guide, children should not spend more than 30mins on any given homework task and for younger children, this may be more like 10-15mins. If tasks are not complete, do not worry – hand in what has been achieved in the reasonable time spent. We hope that this offer creates the flexibility for all to enrich their school learning at home, but in a way that does not detract from family life and participation in other out of school activities.

## School Website

If you have been on our school website this week you may have noticed it has had a makeover! We really like the new look and hope you do too. Due to the transition period we know a couple of the pages now need updating and we will be doing this over the next few days... along with making some other changes to the layout to hopefully ensure it is even easier to use and full of useful information for our parents and others interested in our school.

Take a look at [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)



## Young Voices at the O2

Fourteen of our choir members had the amazing opportunity to sing alongside 8700 other children in the Young Voices concert at the O2 on Tuesday this week, in front of a packed arena audience, and with special guest appearances by Heather Small and violinist Heather Phoebe. It was an incredible day – and our attending families and staff had a brilliant time too!



## Strike Action

As you may be aware, all members of the NEU teaching union have been balloted to undertake strike action on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Whilst teachers who are members of the NEU are not under any obligation to strike, the school must recognise the right of staff to do so if they wish. Members are not required to let the school know in advance of their intention to strike and this obviously places schools in a very difficult situation with regards to closure of classes. We appreciate that this can be disruptive for parents so should there need to be any changes to school routines or class arrangements we will let you know as soon as possible.



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### Governing Body updates

We held our first Governing Body meetings of 2023 this week. These included an Extraordinary General Meeting at which one of our Parent Governors, Steve Geary, was appointed as our new Chair of Governors. Steve succeeds Mrs Sheila Wilmot, who has left the Governing Body after serving (for a second period) since 2019. Mrs Wilmot has been a very committed member of the GB who has been a great support and showed a real interest in all aspects of school life. We wish her all the best and thank her for her service to our school. In the past few weeks we have welcomed Ms Linda Scheuermann and Mrs Elaine Mayle into school to undertake governor monitoring activities. Before Christmas, Ms Scheuermann met with Miss Rennie to discuss the extensive provision and future plans we have in place for our children with Special Needs and Mrs Mayle visited this week to discuss our current Maths focusses with Miss Allin and met some of the children.

### Special Mentions

Well done to all of our children who received a Special Mention and certificate from their teacher in assembly today –

- Hazel McN – super independent writing.
- Oscar P – super independent writing.
- Jack W – excellent listening and safe use of equipment in PE.
- Anastasia P – being a celebrated author for her super sentences describing a birthday party.
- Sadie B – her detailed letter asking to be part of Ernest Shackleton’s crew.
- Millie B – trying her best in all lessons.
- Omolayo O – always giving 100% to all his learning.
- Lilia G – her enthusiasm in Maths.
- Scarlett T – being a celebrated author for her amazing newspaper article.
- Honey B – working so hard to improve her spelling and reading.
- Harrison C – working hard to improve his spelling.
- Liam S – always working hard and trying his best.
- Lacey G – excellent effort in Maths.
- Chanelle M – an excellent fact-file about Mary Anning.
- Evie B – a fantastic labelled drawing of a lizard adapted to live in a desert.



### HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	180	1515	Millie B, Edward S, Zoe L
CHESTNUT	195	1602	Roman T, Annie-Grace G, Elizabeth P
OAK	196	1556	Jamie W, Joshua E
ASH	189	1348	Tenuki A, Sadie B, Darcie D

### In our classes this week

Reception – compared amounts.  
 Year 1 – learned about the world’s continents.  
 Year 2 – wrote their own stories based on the book “Lost and Found”.  
 Year 3 – learned about 1066 and the Battle of Hastings.  
 Year 4 – learned to programme a turtle in Computing.  
 Year 5 – learned how mountains are formed.  
 Year 6 – learned about ratio and proportion in Maths.



### Register Rabbit

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

YEAR 1  
 YEAR 5



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### Class Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming you to the following class assemblies, all starting at 10.10am:

Year 6 – Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – followed by SATs talk for parents

Year 5 – Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

Year 4 – Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – followed by Multiplication Check talk for parents

Year 3 – Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar

Year 2 – Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Mar – followed by SATs talk for parents

Year 1 – Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Mar

Year R – Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar

**CLASS  
ASSEMBLIES**



#### *Coming up next week...*

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

7pm: FHF Meeting – all welcome, please come along.

**INSET DAYS No children in school**

*Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023*



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