



27<sup>th</sup> Jan 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

Plenty to digest this week so I will be very brief. Lovely affirmation of our efforts from our KCC School improvement Advisor, who visited on Tuesday. He commented that he always enjoys coming to High Firs and that it is a little bit better each time he visits. It is lovely to have an occasional pair of eyes notice improvements that are not always immediately apparent to those of us immersed in school every day. Showing our advisor round High Firs was a real pleasure and we really enjoyed seeing the progress being made by children after a detailed study of their exercise books.

## Uniform ordering

We have changed the way that polo shirts, sweatshirts & cardigans with the school logo can be ordered; we will no longer stock these items in school but they can now be purchased direct from Brigade Clothing online at <https://www.brigade.uk.com/parents/school/HI4500DS/>

Orders are placed in a queue until the 15th and 30th of each month and delivered into school up to 14 days after. They will then be distributed via the children. Please note that home delivery charges will apply during the summer holidays. For more information, see the flier later on in this Newsletter.

For polo shirts without the school logo most supermarkets offer these but we would currently recommend Next ("yellow") or Marks & Spencer ("gold") as these are the best colour matches to our branded uniform.

All other items, such as water bottles, bags & hats, can still be purchased via our office.

**SCHOOL**  
Uniform



## PE Kit update

For PE, we will be making the phased change to plain (no logos), round-neck t-shirts in your child's house colour (royal blue/red/green/ yellow) rather than white. So, if you need to replace your child's PE t-shirt please buy one of these in future - we would ask that all children please have a t-shirt in their house colour by Sept 2023.

## Strike Action

All members of the NEU teaching union have been balloted to undertake strike action on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Whilst teachers do not have 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. However, we can confirm we now intend for school to be open on this date.

## RSPB Birdwatch

Our classes enjoyed learning about the annual RSPB Birdwatch in their assembly on Wednesday this week. If you would like to take part this year then all you have to do is watch and count which birds you can spot in about an hour over the next few days – it might be on a walk, from your window or in your garden. There is a tick-sheet at the end of this week's Newsletter. If you would like to submit your results directly to the RSPB you can visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/> or you can bring your sheet back to school by **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** so our Eco Club can count all our results. There will be a certificate for all the children who take part.



## Parent Surveys

We would be very grateful if you could spare a few moments of your time to complete our parent survey by midday on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 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/e/Sun5T8VuJj>

For Parents of Years 1-6: <https://forms.office.com/e/6SEx49CAqm>



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### Resolution Read at Home – it's not too late!

Next week is our final week of Resolution Read at Home and it's not too late to take part! The 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 for those children who have read every night and a special reward for those who read every night for the whole three weeks.

### Park and Stride – volunteers needed

We are really pleased that our Park and Stride is becoming increasingly popular. We are now at the point where we need to ask for parent volunteers' help to ensure we can accommodate all the children that want to take part; we cannot commit any further members of staff to this venture - two TAs every day, mornings and afternoons is already much more than most other schools who run similar ventures allocate. We are therefore looking for parent support in supervising the Walking Bus for both our morning and afternoon walks. If you are already walking that way – or just like the exercise and want to help out – **please do let the office know**. We don't need you every day or every session... every volunteer counts! Many thanks.

**We NEED you.**  
**Can you HELP?**

**Morning drop-off:** meet us on Goldsel Road (side road – opposite entrance to garages for Winton Court) between 8.35am and 8.40am.

**Afternoon collection:** leave school at 3.15pm and walk to Goldsel Road (side road – opposite entrance to garages for Winton Court) 3.20pm and 3.25pm.

### Special Mentions

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

- Jamie W – super improvement in his reading.
- Harrison F – for always showing great enthusiasm in all areas of learning.
- Willow W – always working hard.
- Henry RW – trying really hard to focus in lessons.
- Roman T – his good use of ambitious vocabulary in lessons.
- Faye R – always producing a high standard of home learning.
- Ellie R – always producing a high standard of home learning.
- Daisy W – a lovely annotated diagram of a volcano.
- Albert B – for his continued hard work in maths.
- Belle Z – a fantastic newspaper report about the disappearance of Brightstorm.
- Jack M – his improved attitude to writing.
- Lily M – a fantastic biography about Charles Darwin.
- Eloise W – brilliant work with algebra.
- Zoë L – an excellent piece of home learning about Lonesome George.



### HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	201	1716	Jaxon M, Ella V
CHESTNUT	242	1844	Luiza P, Lily M
OAK	190	1746	Teddy C, Lacey G
ASH	234	1582	Hannah N, Mabel R



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## ECO CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This year, we are hoping to raise some money for eco charities. We would like to run a stall selling items made from recycled materials.

### PLEASE DONATE...



Kitchen roll tubes



500ml or 2 litre plastic bottles



Empty pringle tubes (big or small)



Craft beads



String or wool

If you have any items you would like to donate, please send them to Miss Selby in Year 5. We will be collecting until Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you.

### In our classes this week

Reception – learned to use the words past and present.

Year 1 – estimated numbers on a number line.

Year 2 – wrote non-chronological reports about the Emperor Penguin.

Year 3 – investigated magnetic objects.

Year 4 – learned about tectonic plates.

Year 5 – learned about the features of mountains.

Year 6 – drew the sky beast from their new book "Darwin's Dragons".



### Register Rabbit

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

YEAR 1

YEAR 4



### INSET DAYS

No children in school

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

### Coming up next week...

Inclusion Meetings by appointment.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – no Eco Club today

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February – 10.10am  
Yr6 Class Assembly & SATs meeting

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

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**THE ORCHARD THEATRE DARTFORD 2023 CHRISTMAS PANTOMINE**  
**Beauty and the Beast**

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Christmas is still a long way off, but once again we are offering you the opportunity to treat the family to a great Christmas production at a discounted school rate. The Friends have obtained a reservation on a block of tickets for **Saturday 30th December 2023 at 5 p.m. at The Orchard Theatre.**

With our discount the cost to you will be £16 per person which will also include a free ice cream.

As before, all children need to be accompanied by their parent(s) or equivalent and families need to make their own travel arrangements to and from the theatre.

Please can full payment be made to secure each seat. Alternatively, a non-refundable deposit is required of £1.00 per ticket. However, this will need to be accompanied by a post-dated cheque of the full amount which will be deposited the beginning of September.

If you wish to purchase tickets for this event, please complete the order form below enclosing payment for each ticket required. Please make any cheques payable to "Friends of High Firs".

Please complete the slip and return it to the school in an envelope clearly marked "Friends Panto" by **Tuesday 28th February 2023** enclosing your payment.

Tickets are non-refundable and non-returnable as in previous years.

If your child is currently in Year 6 and would like to go to this pantomime, please complete your address details too, as we will need to send your tickets to you.

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**FRIENDS OF HIGH FIRS – PANTOMINE TRIP – SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER AT 1PM**

No. of Adult Tickets Required ..... @£16.00      No. of Child Tickets Required ..... @ £16.00

Name: ..... Contact No: .....

Address: .....

Child's Name and Class: .....



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## Order Your School Uniform Online

**BRIGADE**

### Free Delivery to School Service

Orders are placed in a queue until 15th and 30th of each month and delivered into School up to 14 days after.

#### IMPORTANT SUMMER HOLIDAY ORDER INFORMATION

Last order date for free delivery into school is **15th June** then service switches to home delivery until **15th September** (Place your home delivery order by **22nd July** for delivery before the start of term)



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Register today to avoid missing out on Brigade promotions or important notifications by logging onto [www.brigadeparents.info](http://www.brigadeparents.info)

#### HOW TO MEASURE YOUR CHILD

Measure the actual body measurements as this is far more accurate than measuring over clothes.

**CHEST:** Measure around the chest at the fullest part, placing the tape close up under the arms.

**COLLAR:** Measure around the base of the neck where the collar sits, inserting two fingers between the neck and tape to allow growth.

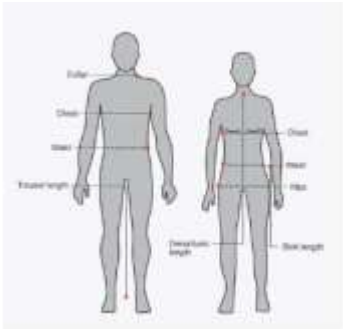
**WAIST:** Measure around the natural waistline.

**TROUSER LENGTH:** Measure the inside leg from crotch to floor without shoes on.

**HIPS:** Measure around your hips, 20cm (8") below your natural waistline.

**SKIRT LENGTH:** Measure from the waist down to where you would want the hem.

**DRESS & PINAFORE LENGTH:** Measure from nape of neck to length required.



#### HOW TO USE THIS SERVICE

##### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Log onto [www.brigade.uk.com](http://www.brigade.uk.com)
2. Click on the parents click to order button
3. Enter your child's school name
4. Select the school from the drop down list provided
5. Follow the online instructions to place your order

PLEASE SUBMIT SCHOOL ADDRESS ONLY IN THE DELIVERY FIELDS AND INCLUDE YOUR CHILD'S NAME INTO SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION — SUMMER HOLIDAY ORDERS

Please note that the last order date for delivery into school before the summer break is 15th June

Orders placed from 16th June — 15th September will be processed through our home delivery service and standard shipping costs will apply (order by 22nd July for delivery before start of term)

Orders are placed in a queue until 15th and 30th of each month and delivered into school up to 14 days after.

# MATHS WorkShOPS FOR PARENTS

Great opportunity for parents to learn about the types of mathematics that their children are learning in the classroom, activities that can be used at home, and strategies to help them with their homework!

**Please join us on:**

**Years 5 & 6 – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 2.15pm**

**Years 3 & 4 – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2.15pm**

**Years 1 & 2 – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15pm**



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