



3rd Feb 2023

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Visit our school website at www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Message from Mr Kilbride

Well done to all the children who have taken part in Resolution Read at Home this January – the response has been great – many certificates will be given out next week and we hope that a few more children will now embed the reading habit that will drive their educational progress. Children in Reception and Y1 will continue to have two books a week sent home to read – one from our Little Wandle phonics scheme and the other a chosen book from the library. In Years 2-6, children’s daily reading of library books all feeds into them taking a comprehension quiz about the book they have just read, ‘banking’ the word count of that book and earning certificates as a result – through our Accelerated Reader System. Reading book selections are monitored across the school and children in all year groups can only choose books that are categorised by difficulty, and matched to children’s performance in termly reading comprehension tests.

In learning review week this week, our Senior Leadership Team of myself, Miss Rennie, Miss Allin and Miss Selby have enjoyed visiting classes across the week, speaking with children and teachers about their learning sequences and studying the progress children are making closely through their exercise books. Highlights included seeing Y6 children excited to receive their penpal letters from children in our linked French school, children enjoying coding in their classrooms with the new chromebooks, a range of excellent interventions taking place to support and extend the learning of children who needed a little extra and seeing a great number of children benefitting from their active outdoor sessions in the woods.



Flying the flag!

Our Eco Schools flag is finally flying high and proud outside the school on our new flagpole! We hope you like it. Keep an eye out for different flags as the year goes on...

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association Supporting Our Children’s Education Registered Charity No. 1137633

Second Hand Uniform Sale

*We have lots of school uniform
for sale at brilliant prices!
All sale proceeds go to FHF.*

**Wednesday 8th February
3.15pm**

MOVIE NIGHT

**KS1 - Weds 22nd Feb
KS2 - Thurs 23rd Feb
3.30pm - 5.30pm**

**SAVE THE DATE!
MORE INFO COMING SOON...**



No dogs, please!

Tilly has been trained specifically to be in school, and we are insured for her to be here, but this is not the case for any other dogs. Please could we therefore remind you that dogs (other than Tilly or disability support dogs) are not to be brought onto the school site – even if they are being carried! If you are waiting with your dog outside school can we please ask that you keep them under control and clear of the school gate. Thank you for your support.



Achieving more together



RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch



RSPB Birdwatch

Lots of our children (and staff!) enjoyed taking part in Birdwatch last weekend. Everyone who has returned their survey has received a certificate and Eco Club will be busy next week counting up all the results. We'll let you know what we spotted!

Voluntary Fund

Thank you to all those parents who have already made this term's Voluntary Fund payment. We greatly appreciate these donations which are used to support many of the extra activities undertaken in school by the children. The suggested payment is £2.50 per child or £6 per family and can be paid in cash to school or via our SchoolMoney app.

What is the Voluntary Fund used for? The termly voluntary fund money is used to pay for lots of different things! Essentially, it is used for expenses which we are not allowed to allocate to government funding but which we believe lead to a broader educational experience for our children or which support our community & families links. This also means we do not have to charge parents every time! Just a few examples of this spending are:

- Concert & performance costumes
- Refreshments for parents & visitors at school events – Nativities / Assemblies / class meetings etc
- Cookery ingredients
- Celebration of commemorative events – Whole School Jubilee Day party etc.
- Expenses for Open Evening & events
- Visitors in to school
- Additional resources for school visits

We believe that visits and these other experiences are a vital part of our children's education – thank you to all those parents who support us in this way.



Clubs

Please note there will be no Gym or Computing Clubs on Thursday 23rd February due to the KS2 Movie Night.

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 10th February. Thank you.

In our classes this week

Reception – made their own playdough!

Year 1 – learned about using past tense in their writing.

Year 2 – practised using apostrophes for contractions.

Year 3 – learned the rules of curling!

Year 4 – used descriptive language to describe characters.

Year 5 – found out about mountain climates.

Year 6 – tackled some challenging algebra.



Register Rabbit

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

Year 2

Year 6



Achieving more together



Special Mentions

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

Gloria G – showing a good understanding when comparing amounts using vocabulary of more, less and the same.

Charlotte G - showing a good understanding when comparing amounts using vocabulary of more, less and the same.

Jonas C – working hard in all his lessons.

Stanley W – working hard to improve his handwriting.

Henry T – being a kind and caring friend.

Lewis C – being brave and trying new things during swimming lessons.

Smilte M – always having a positive attitude in school.

Poppy C – producing high quality home learning.

Holly P – excellent effort using descriptive language in English.

Connie R – always working quietly and doing her best in class.

Ella V – always working hard and challenging herself in Maths.

Ezra W – always working hard and challenging himself in Maths.

Olivia G – brilliant annotated drawings of the sky-beast from our book “Darwin’s Dragons”.

Ruby Bay – brilliant annotated drawings of the sky-beast from our book “Darwin’s Dragons”.



HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	131	1847	Robert L, Aayden C
CHESTNUT	172	2016	Gloria F, Annie-Grace G, Bella O, Evie T
OAK	157	1903	Jamie W, Lily, Poppy, Smilte M
ASH	140	1722	Michael K, Hannah N, Imogen T, Leo W, Ruby Bur, Umaiza H



Coming up next week...

Weds 8th February – Yr5 Class Assembly 10.10am
FHF Uniform Sale 3.15pm

Thurs 9th February – Girls Football Match at St
Bart's 3.30pm

Friday 10th February – Boys Football Match at Horton Kirby 2.30pm



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