



10th March 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

Please find at the end of this newsletter the outcomes of our parent/carer surveys. We had 113 responses across the two surveys – a Reception survey and one to the rest of the school – which shows a really excellent level of parent/carer engagement. Thank you very much for taking the time to complete the survey and share your views with us. There were some really lovely comments that recognised the hard work and commitment of staff and that really valued the provision and opportunities available at High Firs. The greater flexibility we have introduced surrounding approaches to homework has been strongly welcomed. I am delighted that we have found a happy medium where families can support their children as much as they are able to and the system accepts that this may reasonably vary from week to week.

Alongside a summary of the responses, you will find some ideas relating to next steps in areas we are drawn to think about in relation to the Reception induction packs, how we feedback to you regarding your child's attainment and progress, and how we respond to children who have difficulties with self-regulation and behavioural choices. We have had a lot of fun in school today with Book Day and the book fair goes on into next week. Children are choosing a class to go to this afternoon to hear a story read to them by a different teacher. It was great to hear children talk about book characters in assembly and confidently explain why they chose to be who they were.

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

Secretary

Needed

[Friends of High Firs Needs you!](#)

Responsibilities

Include:

- Writing Committee meeting minutes and circulating
- Organizing letters
- Helping event leads with simple but necessary forms.
- Helping to organise events like Summer Fun Day, Movie Nights, Discos, Christmas and Easter.

The Friends of High Firs is a great team with everyone supporting each other in their roles. No one is asked to take on more than they feel they can offer. Over the years great Friends teams have left helpful systems to make everything simpler.

If you feel you can help us, please either let your class rep know or speak to the school office.

SCHOLASTIC
COME TO THE
BOOK FAIR

FILL YOUR SCHOOL WITH FREE BOOKS WHEN YOU BUY FROM THE BOOK FAIR*

FIND HUNDREDS OF THE BEST NEW BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99!

LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO DONATE OVER £2.2M BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

NEW *Gangsta Granny Strikes Again* £7.99
NEW *This is Me!* £7.99
NEW *Roald Dahl's George's Marvelous Medicine* £3.99
NEW *Cat Kid Comic Claw* £8.99
NEW *The Creek* £6.99
NEW *The Gecko and the Echo* £4.99
NEW *Algebra Dixon* £7.99

**Every day in the hall until
Weds 15th March.**
Cash only, please. Don't forget your £1 vouchers!



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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!

**Year 1 & 2 parents please join us on
Thursday 16th March at 10.30am.**


Coming up next week...

Monday 13 March
Deadline for Parents Consultation appointment requests
Book Fair after school

Tuesday 14 March
pm – District Cross Country event at New Barn Park
Book Fair after school

Wednesday 15 March
Book Fair after school

Thursday 16 March
Year 1 Class Assembly – 10.10am
Yr1/2 Maths Workshop for parents 10.30am



Hextable Wind Band performs





A concert for children 'Movies and Musicals'

A selection of music from the movies, performed live, for children. Music from The Lion King, Frozen, The Greatest Showman, Annie to name but a few ...

We encourage the children to sing and dance as we play!!

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL 2023
High Firs Primary School
Court Crescent, Swanley, Kent
1.30 pm to 3 pm

Tickets available from sjarvis64@hotmail.co.uk
Children £2 Adults £5

All monies raised will be donated to Beams Charity in Hextable.







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Book Day 2023

What a lovely day we have had celebrating Books!
Here are just some of the selection of characters we saw today... can you guess who they are?



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Parent/Carer feedback surveys

Y1-6 Parents and Carers – 92 completed

Over 95% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the following:

- Their child is happy at this school
- Their child feels safe at this school
- They would recommend this school to another parent

Over 90% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the following:

- Their child is well looked after at this school
- The school is well led and managed

Over 85% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the following:

- Their child is taught well at this school

Over 80% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the following:

- Their child makes good progress at this school
- Their child receives appropriate homework for their age
- The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved
- The school deals effectively with bullying OR they have no experience of bullying
- The school deals well with any concerns raised
- They receive valuable information from the school about their child's progress

Reception Parents and Carers – 21 completed:

Over 80% of respondents rated these statements as either excellent or good:

- 'Taster visits' for children to experience Reception
- Home visits
- First day of school
- How well their child settled into school
- Learning we have asked children to do at home or to bring in from at home
- Their child's enjoyment of school
- Communication from school about their child
- Pop in and play afternoon

Over 75% of respondents rated these statements as either excellent or good:

- Information packs and meetings for new parents
- Availability and response of staff at the beginning and end of the school day



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From the Reception surveys, we are currently reviewing the information packs sent out to new parents and we will take into account some feedback received about duplication and the amount of form filling. Unfortunately, starting a new school always brings a degree of this paperwork, but we will see if there is anything we can do to slim this down for future new starters.

We read two common threads into the feedback from the Y1-6 responses:

1. that there is more parental confidence about children feeling happy and safe in school compared with valuing the information from school about children's progress and attainment.
2. there were a minority of parent views expressed relating to how we respond to children who have difficulties with self-regulation and behavioural choices.

Regarding the first point, I would like explain what we do share with parents currently and to outline some plans that have evolved in response to this feedback received. Feedback regarding how your child is getting on can be divided into formal and informal opportunities.

Our formal feedback comes in the guise of parent consultation meetings and written reports. There are parent consultation meetings in October and March, and additionally, appointments to meet teachers can be booked following receipt of your child's end of year report in July. At the end of the Autumn Term and Spring Term, a data sheet is sent home reporting on your child's attainment in a range of areas depending on the year group they are in – some of the data you might receive here includes: Teacher Assessment of whether your child is Below, Towards, At or At Greater Depth within the age expected level; Standardised scores in Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning; Reading Age score; Spelling Age score. Currently, our written progress and attainment report in July does give targets for children to work towards in the year ahead, but the data sheet does not. We are planning to find a way next year to report on targets, potentially for your child to work on in the end of Autumn and Spring Term data sheets, in addition to the usual figures communicated.

Informal opportunities for feedback regarding your child's progress and attainment come in various guises. Firstly, parents have the opportunity to speak to class teachers at the end of most school days and you can make an appointment to discuss any concerns you have at any point. Equally, at any time, you can email with a query relating to your child's progress at any time – we will always endeavour to respond to you and speak or meet as soon as is possible. Class assemblies offer the chance to understand more about your child's work and often to look through their tray with them, as can also be done during parent consultation meetings. One thing we would like to explore is to begin some Open Morning opportunities for you to come into class and see your children learning first hand. The exact details of this will be announced at a later date.

Regarding the second thread we picked up, our Behaviour Policy is reviewed annually and a revised version will be approved by governors in May. Therefore, I would like to invite parents to come into school on Wednesday 19th April 7-8pm and share with me what they feel is currently working well and what they would like to see changed or developed.



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