



9<sup>th</sup> June 2023

# 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

Welcome back after the summer half term holidays. It is always a very busy term as children take end of year tests, prepare for sports day and engage in transition activities to prepare for moving onto their next class in September. In the background, teachers are busy writing end of school year reports, on top of their usual teaching commitments. With all this preparation and reflection, it is always a pleasure to see the progress children have made across the academic year. This is of course, propped up by regular ongoing support from home in the shape of nightly reading, regular times tables/number bonds practise and work to learn spellings.

Our school attendance this year is a real success story, reflecting a great deal of hard work by professionals in school and families alike – we are getting close to pre-pandemic levels of attendance since Easter, which is very encouraging. We can only help your children to learn when they are here – and we can only make more progress with your children than those at other schools, if your children are here at least in line with national levels of attendance. The current figure for the school across the whole year is 94.6%, which is about 1% above national average – but still about 2% behind what we would have expected to see prior to the pandemic. Every term this year, attendance has fallen away in the second half term, approaching the longer holiday – I am very keen to see if we can buck this trend in Term 6 – if we all work together to support our children's attendance in school, then I am sure that we can achieve this.

We look set for a continued spell of warm, sunny weather, so please ensure that your child comes to school in the morning with sun cream applied.

### Sports Day Arrangements

Sports Day will be held on **Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, with KS1 sports starting at 10.30am (Pedestrian Gate opens 10.15am) and KS2 at 1.30pm (Pedestrian Gate opens 1.15pm);** we regret we are unable to invite parents to stay with us on site over the lunch period. Should the weather on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June not be appropriate for the event to take place parents will be notified by text as soon as possible and it will be rescheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

**If you are coming to KS1 Sports in the morning, rather than going home after dropping off at 8.55am, please do come into the hall between 9am & 10.15am to give a hand with preparing for the Fun Day on Saturday. We will be doing lots of preparation on Friday throughout the day so please do pop in to help if you can!**

Please may we remind you that the children are in school session as normal during the sports events and must remain with their teacher / supervising staff at all times. This will be explained to the children and your cooperation with this would be much appreciated, as would your cooperation with health & safety measures in place on the day.

Please ensure that your child has their water bottle, sun-hat and suitable trainers, as well as their normal PE kit in school. Sun cream may be required! We look forward to a very enjoyable day.



## Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education Registered Charity No. 1137633

We raised a fantastic **£183.80** at our BINGO NIGHT before half term – thank you to everyone who came along and joined in the fun!



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 –



- Aaron B – for having a super focus on his phonics.
- Sophia S – huge improvements in her reading.
- All of Year 1 – their fantastic assembly!
- Henry T – working hard to improve his handwriting and presentation of work.
- Morgan J – his good effort in Geography.
- Beatrice J – her extra effort in reading.
- Oscar S – working really hard and being an enthusiastic learner.
- Evie T – working really hard in Maths this week.
- Honey B – super progress in swimming.
- Freya T – for working really hard to improve her writing.
- Aayden C – becoming more focussed when completing tasks.
- Mabel R – always being so enthusiastic about our topics in school.
- Marvelous K – excellent effort using a compass to draw circles.
- Evie T – brilliant work on her story writing and a great use of speech.

### Register Rabbit

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

**YEAR R**  
**YEAR 6**



### HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>3453</b>	Annabelle B, Chanelle M
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>4010</b>	Henry F, Isabelle Z
<b>OAK</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>3357</b>	Eleanor A, Harry F
<b>ASH</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>3222</b>	Alan G, Lola H

### WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK from 12th to 16th June

We are asking all families to try to walk to school every day in Walk to School Week - if you live too far away from school to walk all the way, you could park a few roads away from school and walk the last part instead; this will still count as walking to school! Each class will have a chart to record the children who have walked to school each day. There will be a house point for each child that walks each day and a certificate at the end of the week for children who have walked every day.



#### Walk to school with the staff!

As well as our usual Park & Stride which will continue as normal, members of our staff will be at various points around the local area to meet and walk to school with our families on the following dates –

Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June at 8:40am	Meet us on the corner of Pinks Hill and Cranleigh Drive (top junction)
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June at 8:40am	Meet us on the corner of Charnock and Court Crescent
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> June at 8:40am	Meet us on the corner of Waylands and Pinks Hill

#### Assemblies

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

**Rec – Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> June at 10.10am**



#### Year 5 Secondary Transition information

For those of you who missed the meeting before half-term, information about Year 5 Secondary School applications can be found



Achieving more together



**Yr2** – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 10.10am

**Yr5 & Yr6** – Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> July at 10.10am

This term you will also have the opportunity to view your child's tray of exercise books after their assembly.

We also have the following special assemblies which parents of participating children are welcome to join us for:

**Rocksteady** – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm

**Flute & Clarinet** (Yr5 + Yr6 continuers) – Weds 19<sup>th</sup> July at 10.10am

**Year 6 Leavers** – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 10.10am

at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places>

If you are interested in applying for your child to take the Kent grammar school selection test then please ensure you register your child for this by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Information is available at:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>



**SALE**  
**Second Hand Uniform Sale**

**MONDAY 26TH JUNE**

**All proceeds to Friends of High Firs**

*Do you have any good condition uniform you no longer need? Donations for us to sell or keep as spares are much appreciated - please bring in to school. We especially need smaller sizes at the moment. Thank you!*

#### In our classes this week

Reception – learned about using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in sentences.

Year 1 – practised spelling days of the week.

Year 2 – used books and the internet to research David Attenborough.

Year 3 – learned to name body parts in French.

Year 4 – investigated whether or not gas has weight.

Year 5 – learned about the Greek Gods.

Year 6 – investigated micro-organisms and looked at the mould they have grown!

**THIS WEEK'S  
LEARNING**



**INSET DAYS**

**No children in school**

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Coming up next week...**

**Walk to School Week**

**Monday 12th June**

Walk to School Week

2pm: Teddy Bears Picnic for Reception September 2023 intake

**Tuesday 13th June**

8:40am: Walk to School with the staff - Pinks Hill and Cranleigh Drive (top junction)

**Wednesday 14th June**

8:40am: Walk to School with the staff -corner of Charnock and Court Crescent

**Thursday 15th June**

8:40am: Walk to School with the staff - corner of Waylands and Pinks Hill

10.10am: Reception class assembly

Year 3 trip to Sevenoaks Wildlife Trust

**Friday 16th June**

Walk to School Week



Achieving more together





#Stay Safe  
Get Active

Got to drive?

Park and stride!

Sign up to join us at -  
<https://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/park-stride/>



No Parking

Think before you stop.  
Choose a safe spot...

... and please show consideration  
to our neighbours.



**Are here to help**

Swanley & District Foodbank is a registered charity supporting those in crisis.

We are affiliated with the Trussell Trust who do great work for those who are in food poverty. We work with a number of organisations and churches who can refer you to our Foodbank.

**If you need help just ask us.**

**Telephone: 07798 872 573**

**Email: [info@swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk)  
[managerfbs4@gmail.com](mailto:managerfbs4@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk)**

**You can find us on Facebook as well just look for Swanley & District Foodbank**

Foodbank vouchers are available from all local churches, and local schools, Carers First, Childrens Centres, Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley Mental Health Teams, Disabled Childrens Teams, Kent Community Health Teams, Kent Probation, Macmillan volunteers, Moat Housing, NHS/KCC Mental Health, We Are Beams, West Kent Housing Assoc., Homestart, and the Citizens Advice Centres to name a few.



Achieving more together

