



14th July 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

Message from Mr Kilbride

A further busy week as we enjoyed waving KS2 children off to the annual music concert at Benenden, where our children join other schools to enjoy a fabulous day of music and recreation, before a grand performance to a packed audience in the evening.

Well done to our athletes who came a creditable third in the district competition earlier this week – further details below. Continuing the sporting theme, we enjoyed a visit from Julie Sutherland from Dartford FC, who led football workshops for all of our Yr1-5 children. Julie was immensely impressed by our children's behaviour and engagement in the sessions.

It has been a pleasure in recent weeks to read and write in every single one of our children's end of year reports. I was struck by the great level of commitment towards their learning that came across in many children's reports – this comes from a school community all pulling in the same direction, so I thank you families for your support of your children's education – and well done to all pupils for their own achievements and progress this year.

Tuesday afternoon saw all children move up to the new classes for the afternoon – an exciting opportunity to meet new teachers and familiarise with new classrooms.

For the second summer in a row, we are planning some significant redevelopment work over the summer holidays. This year, we are relocating some internal walls, with the aim of increasing classroom sizes and providing some small group room environments for learning interventions and meetings. Yr2, Yr3 and Yr5 will have a little more space when we return in September – and new learning spaces will be constructed in the Activity Area and adjacent to the hall, where the PE resources are currently stored. Our Nurture Room and our KS2 cloakroom will be swapping places, bringing the cloakrooms into the area next to the classrooms – helping with the smooth running of the school day. In addition, we are replacing most of our lights with LED fittings and Kent County Council are funding a new fire alarm and detection system.

District Athletics

Our Year 5 & 6 athletics team had a great morning on Wednesday taking part in this year's District Athletics Festival against other schools from the Swanley & District partnership. The children all did their best and we had several first placings for individual events. They were very proud to come away from the event with a bronze medal to recognise their 3rd place overall – well done!



High Firs Has Talent!

Congratulations to all our High Firs Has Talent class winners who performed to a packed audience at the conclusion of our Open Evening this week. We enjoyed a range of acts covering singing, instrumental performances and gymnastics. Thank you to our Year 6 hosts who also did a brilliant job introducing each act.



Achieving more together



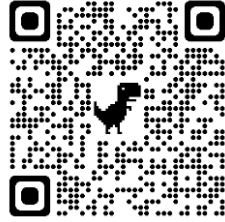


Water Bottles

Please can we remind parents that we do ask that the children only bring water bottles to school that are of the type shown – these can be purchased directly from school or other retailers online. We are frequently experiencing that other bottles are much more fragile and are often breaking; the ones with “rounder bottoms” are particularly less stable in a classroom environment and are very prone to falling over, causing breakages as well as lots of disruption to lessons when they bang loudly against the table! Thank you for your support.

Annual Reports

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to acknowledge and provide feedback on their child’s Annual Report. We are very grateful for the many very positive comments; if you have requested further information or your comments require a follow-up we will be in touch shortly. Please complete feedback by **Tues 18th July** at <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/reportfeedback> or click on the code.



Forest School – volunteers needed!

We are looking for a volunteer or two from September who would be interested in supporting our Forest School Lead Teacher in providing our children with fantastic woodland opportunities. For any regular volunteers, we are happy to offer Forest School training. If you enjoy the outdoors and would like to find out more please contact the office.



Please return all school library books and reading scheme books by TUES 18TH JULY

Big Butterfly Count

This year, the Big Butterfly Count is running from Friday 14th July - Sunday 6th August. The Big Butterfly Count is a UK-wide survey aimed at helping assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) we see. If you want to take part, all you need to do is spend 15 minutes in a sunny spot and record how many butterflies you see. You can use the record sheet attached and enter your results at www.bigbutterflycount.org



Eco Club Update

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our sale last week - the turn out was overwhelming. The children in Eco Club have worked so hard throughout the year to make the items that were on sale. We raised just over £80, which is fantastic! Once again, we are now putting the final touches to our Green Flag application for this year. Fingers crossed we will be able to continue proudly flying our Green Flag next year!



CLASS OF 2023

THANK YOU FROM YEAR 6 FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We raised an amazing £150 at Yr6's cake sale yesterday!

In our classes this week

- Reception – made 2D shapes using other 2D shapes.
- Year 1 – learned to tell the time.
- Year 2 – wrote setting descriptions about the town of Black Rock.
- Year 3 – learned about the life cycle of a flower.
- Year 4 – enjoyed their football session with Dartford FC.
- Year 5 – sewed Greek myth storyboards.
- Year 6 – planned and made their own Pan de Muertos – Mexican Bread of the Dead.



Achieving more together



	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	95	3893	Robert L, Ella V
CHESTNUT	99	4406	Harry H, Julia R, Annie-Grace G
OAK	66	3752	Eleanor A, Lacey G
ASH	77	3613	Joshua W, Isabella T, Teddy H

Special Mentions

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

- Harry W – for trying really hard with his reading.
- Alice H – super effort in her phonics.
- Sofia M – her enthusiasm in all lessons.
- Teddy C – for his enthusiasm in Forest School.
- Oliver M – improvement in the detail and presentation of his writing.
- Annabelle B – her detailed setting description.
- Smilte M – always working extremely hard in all lessons
- Scarlett T – always remaining positive and working hard.
- Laquisha MD – great improvement in swimming.
- Olivia W – super story writing.
- Elsie W – for always working hard and trying her best.
- Ezra W – showing brilliant sewing skills when making his Greek textile storyboard.
- Tommy B, Eloise W, Millie WS & Mason T – working well together as group making their Pan de Muertos.


Register Rabbit

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

YEAR 1
YEARS 5 & 6



Summer Term finishes on Friday 21st July at 3.15pm.

Autumn Term starts on

Monday 4th Sept (Yrs 1-6) or Wednesday 6th Sept (Rec).


INSET DAYS

No children in school

Friday 1st Sept 2023

Tues 2nd Jan 2024

Coming up next week...

All after school activity clubs have now finished.

Only paid FOSC provision is running before / after school.

Monday 17th July

2.30pm - Rocksteady Concert (parents of participating children are invited to attend)

Tuesday 18th July

Please return all school reading scheme and library books by today

Deadline for Annual Report feedback

Wednesday 19th July

10.10am – Yr5/6 flute & clarinet assembly (parents of participating children are invited to attend)

1.15pm – District Rounders tournament at Horton Kirby Primary School

Thursday 20th July

10.10am – Yr6 Leavers' Assembly (parents of participating children are invited to attend)

Yr6 Water Activity Afternoon

Friday 21st July

Yr6 can wear Leavers' Hoodies and bring shirts to sign

2.55pm – Yr6 Leavers' Photos

3.15pm – End of Term



Achieving more together



Spend 15 minutes
in a sunny spot

Use this chart to note how
many of each species you see



Small Tortoiseshell



Large White



Small White



Speckled Wood



Common Blue



Painted Lady



Comma



Small Copper



Holly Blue



Gatekeeper



Please note: Images not to scale. Males and females of some species vary and are not all illustrated on this chart. Please refer to the Big Butterfly Count app or website for more information on how to identify butterflies and moths correctly.

Submit your sightings at
www.bigbutterflycount.org

Or download our free app
by scanning the QR code!



Peacock



Green Veined White



Red Admiral



Brimstone



Silver Y



Ringlet



Marbled White



Meadow Brown



Six-spot Burnet



Jersey Tiger

