



21st July 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

What a great year it has been in school. Your children have worked so hard for their achievements this year and it has been lovely this week to read all of the very kind and generous comments you have made in response to receiving your child's report.

The end of the year brings the outcomes for pupils across their subjects and year groups. We have reported our statutory attainment data at the end of today's newsletter. We are very proud of the results we have achieved this year. Highlights include our continuing excellent provision in reading as 80% (KS1) and 83% (KS2) comfortably exceeding national figures. We are equally happy with our maths outcomes too – they represent an improvement on last year's picture and are reflective of a great deal of professional development work that we have undertaken in maths this year. I am very proud of our phonics result of 73% in Year 1, which represents a great step forwards from a cohort who came out of Reception with 63% of children having reached a Good Level of Development (GLD), and this year's Reception GLD figure is the best we have seen in many years. Much of our improvement work next year will focus on developing our creative writing approach. We have made several changes in this area too over the last year, but the incremental improvements we see in children's writing have not yet made a big impact on the data. We will leave no stone unturned as we refine our approach next year to ensure that our writing data keeps pace with recent improvements in reading and maths.

As with every end of year, this week has seen the culmination and celebration of pupil endeavours across the school. Highlights have included the Benenden concert, the Rocksteady concert and a recital to parents by our flute, recorder and clarinet players. Yesterday morning Y6 had us all in reflective mood, as we joined their recollections of the past seven years and bid them farewell and good luck for their next steps into secondary education. They have been a fabulous year group of responsible children who have been great role models for our younger pupils to aspire to.

I wish you a lovely summer holidays – may they bring relaxation, fun and happiness in equal measure. Stay safe everybody and we look forward to welcoming you all back again on Monday 4th September.



We hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday!

The Autumn Term starts on Monday 4th Sept (Yrs 1-6) or Wednesday 6th Sept (Rec).



Year 6 Leavers

It was lovely to welcome our Year 6 parents and families into school yesterday for the children's Leavers Assembly. They have been a fantastic class throughout their time at High Firs. We wish them all the very best as they leave for their secondary schools; we are sure that they will all continue to do well and wish them every success for the future. Keep in touch!



CONGRATULATIONS CHESTNUT HOUSE POINT CHAMPIONS 2022-23



The final totals were:

CHESTNUT – 4407

BEECH – 3898

ASH - 3639

OAK – 3599



Rocksteady concert

A number of our children have enjoyed taking part in music lessons with Rocksteady this term and were very proud to share their efforts with the rest of the school and their families at a fantastic concert assembly on Monday afternoon.



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Attendance Awards

We have been really pleased with our attendance this year, with us seeing a return to near pre-pandemic levels; it's great to see that all of our classes in the Summer Term attained over the 95% target.

Many of our children have maintained excellent attendance records over both the Summer term and the academic year, and this was recognised in assembly on Tuesday morning with the presentation of certificates to all children achieving 98%, 99% and 100% attendance. We also celebrated our class attendance; percentages are shown on the right. Congratulations to Year 6 who won both Attendance Awards once again - they managed to squeeze in an Own Clothes Day in celebration yesterday as their reward!

| Summer Term 2023 | Academic Year 2022-23 |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Year 6 – 97.7 | Year 6 – 96.5% |
| Year 3 – 97.0 | Year 3 – 95.9% |
| Year 1 – 96.5 | Year 5 – 95.7% |
| Reception – 95.9 | Year 1 – 94.9% |
| Year 2 – 95.5 | Year 4 – 94.7% |
| Year 5 – 95.3 | Year 2 – 94.1% |
| Year 4 – 95.1 | Reception – 93.5% |

Community Awards

Each year, Community Awards are presented to Year 6 Leavers who have shown a great commitment to the school community throughout their time at High Firs. We were delighted to present this year's awards to: **Joshua, Eloise, Elizabeth, Summer, Lily and Evie T.**



Yr6 Outstanding Attendance

An incredible seven of our Year 6 children – **Ruby, Lucy, Olivia, Evie, Chanelle, Zoe & Francesca** – received Outstanding Attendance Awards for their amazing 98% and 99% attendance during their time at High Firs; an incredible achievement, well done.

Sports Shield

On his retirement, Mr Turtle gifted a sports shield to the school which is to be presented to the pupil or pupils each year who show outstanding commitment, effort, sportsmanship & enthusiasm in sports. This year we were delighted to present this to **Alby**.



Staff News – Long Service recognition

On Tuesday we were delighted to recognise and thank a number of staff for their long service to our school community. We presented Mrs Payne and Mrs Bridle with flowers in recognition of their amazing 25 years at High Firs! Our greatest thanks also go to –

- Mrs McCullough (15 years)
- Mrs Phipps (15 years)
- Miss Durrant (13 years)
- Mrs Ford (13 years)
- Mrs Jarvis (12 years)
- Mrs Warner (12 years)
- Mrs Miles (11 years)
- Mrs Ives (11 years)
- Mrs Barnett (11 years)



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Benenden Music Concert

Well done to all the children from Yr4, 5 & 6 who performed so well at the Benenden concert last Friday evening – what a fantastic event! Thank you to Mrs Jarvis for organising it along with Kent Music and to Mrs Payne, Ms Dedu & Mrs Loftus for their support in attending.



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

As well as saying goodbye to our Year 6 children today, we are also saying a massive thank you and farewell to four long-standing members of FHF who are "retiring" from their posts as their children leave the school. Lisa Ellis, Charlotte Tiller, Gemma Sayers and Rachel Baynton have given incredible service and support in fundraising and offering lots of fun events & opportunities for the school community through their time in role as Trustees of the Friends. THANK YOU.

Special Mentions

Well done to all of our children whose effort and achievement across the whole academic year received a Special Mention and certificate from their teacher in assembly today –

- Rose S – her continuous positive attitude towards all her learning throughout her year in Reception class.
- Harrison F – his positive attitude in his learning and making progress, especially in writing.
- Luiza-Maria P – always giving 100% effort and being a kind friend.
- Willow W – being an enthusiastic learner and always trying her best.
- Emily S – being a superstar for always putting a smile on everyone's face and her enthusiasm in everything she does.
- Henry F – always being his best! For his enthusiasm in his learning and for being a kind and considerate classmate.
- Demi B – great progress and determination with her reading.
- Mariana SG – amazing progress in all areas of learning.
- Samuel S – his amazing progress and attitude to learning, and for his calm, quiet encouragement of others.
- Isabella T – her amazing progress in all areas of learning and for demonstrating a consistently positive attitude to learning and school life.
- Emanuela M - for always working hard and pushing herself to be her best.
- Bella O - for being an excellent role model to others and trying her best in everything she does.
- Chanelle M – making outstanding progress in all areas of the curriculum and especially in writing.
- Lily M – working so hard all year and putting 100% effort into everything you do, whether it's Maths, Writing, PE or art!
Well done on a fantastic commitment to learning.



Congratulations to Unique U who was also awarded a term certificate in recognition of a fantastic term since starting at High Firs – you have worked so hard and your dedication to improving your own work is an excellent quality.



#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.



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HIGH FIRS PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORTING OF STATUTORY DATA 2023

The outcomes of this year's Early Years, Yr1 Phonics, Yr2 and Yr6 statutory assessment are shown below. There were no Statutory Assessments undertaken nationally in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid-19.

| EY (RECEPTION) | % AT GOOD LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2019 | 67% |
| 2022 | 63% |
| 2022 National | 65% |
| 2023 | 72% |

| YR1 PHONICS SCREENING | % AT PASS |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 2019 | 83% |
| 2022 | 79% |
| 2022 National | 75% |
| 2023 | 73% |

YR2 TEACHER ASSESSMENTS (INCLUDING STATUTORY TESTING OUTCOMES)

% at Expected

| | Reading | Writing | Maths | Science | R+W+M combined |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-------|---------|----------------|
| 2019 | 63% | 63% | 67% | 70% | - |
| 2022 | 72% | 62% | 76% | 79% | 55% |
| 2022 National | 67% | 58% | 68% | - | 53% |
| 2023 | 80% | 67% | 77% | 93% | 60% |

2023 National data for KS1 is not yet available.

YR6 STATUTORY TESTS OUTCOMES AND TEACHER ASSESSMENTS

% at Expected +

| | Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling | Reading | Writing | Maths | R+W+M combined |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|----------------|
| 2019 | 73% | 60% | 73% | 77% | 50% |
| 2022 | 63% | 70% | 63% | 73% | 57% |
| 2023 | 72% | 83% | 62% | 72% | 52% |
| 2023 National | 72% | 73% | 71% | 73% | 59% |

% at Above Expected

| | Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling | Reading | Writing | Maths | R+W+M combined |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|----------------|
| 2019 | 27% | 20% | 27% | 30% | 17% |
| 2022 | 40% | 37% | 23% | 20% | 20% |
| 2022 National | - | 28% | 13% | 22% | 7% |
| 2023 | 24% | 17% | 3% | 27% | 3% |

2023 National data is not yet released.



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