

High Firs Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year at High Firs – I hope you all enjoyed the summer holidays and that everyone is well set for a return to school on Monday 4th September.

The first thing to reassure you is that our school is not affected by the concrete roof issues you may have seen in the media over the past few days. An inspection of our roof was carried out during the summer term and we have no RAAC (reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) in the building. Our roof is a metal construction, so we have no risk of collapse or threat of school closure. Equally, I am unaware that any schools locally area affected – therefore, we do not face the prospect of making emergency provision for additional children.

We begin the term with a full quota of 210 pupils, reinforcing the good reputation we enjoy in the Swanley area. Our great team of dedicated professionals work incredibly hard to maintain this reputation in an ever-searching quest to improve and refine our practice as we strive for the very best outcomes and experiences for your children.

The summer has once again been very busy with building projects afoot. The rationale for changes this year was to increase the size of some classrooms and to create some enclosed breakout group room spaces to enable learning intervention groups and meetings to take place away from the thoroughfare of the Activity Area/Library. We have achieved all of this on a budget by moving internal walls to maximise the space within our existing footprint. We are delighted with the outcomes that can be summarised as follows:

- moving Activity Area/Y2/Y3, wall increasing Y2 from 44 to 48 square metres and Y3 from 38 to 45 square metres
- moving Y5/Meeting room wall, increasing Y5 from 38 to 42 square metres
- creation of two new group room spaces in Activity Area
- creation of two new group room spaces in PE cupboard at the back of the hall (PE resources moved into new shed on playground)
- Y3/4/5 cloakroom has moved next to the classrooms, into last year's Nurture Room that was previously the computing suite
- Previous Y3/4/5 cloakroom, beside the hall, has become the new Nurture Room
- LED lighting has been installed into all classrooms and office areas of school

With the changes described above, there will be a couple of alterations to entry and egress procedures. On arrival to school in the morning, Y3/4/5 children will now come into school straight through the cloakroom door at the front of the school building – they will deposit their coats and bags there and then go straight into their classrooms. At the end of the school day, Y5 will now be dismissed from the Activity Area Door onto the playground at the back of school and Y3 will be dismissed through the cloakroom door at the front of the building.



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For the week ahead term gets underway with a head of steam as we welcome all of our new Reception children over Monday and Tuesday for statutory baseline assessments, before their first day together in school on Wednesday. Some Y6 children will be taking the Kent Test on Thursday and Meet the Teacher sessions will be held across the week at drop-off and collection, to enable parents/carers to become familiar with some of the routines and expectations associated with new classes. You are all very welcome to attend - the meeting dates and times are as follows:

- Tuesday 5th – Y6 9-9.30
- Tuesday 5th – Y5 2.30-3
- Wednesday 6th – Y3 2.30-3
- Thursday 7th – Y1 2.30-3
- Friday 8th – Y2 9-9.30
- Friday 8th – Y4 2.30-3

We look forward to welcoming everyone in person on Monday morning.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Kilbride
Headteacher.



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