



8th Sept 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

Welcome back everybody to the new school year. We have had a busy and lovely week settling everyone back into school.

First mention is for our Reception children who started coming in in small groups over Friday, Monday and Tuesday to do the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment. They had their first day all in together on Wednesday and stayed for their first lunchtime today. They have made a terrific start to the school year – we have been so impressed with how quickly they have settled to a large number of new routines, that will become second-nature to them in due course. Well done Reception!

Thank you for attending a busy week of Meet the Teacher sessions this week. I am sorry that we moved a couple of the dates at the last minute – we do of course try as much as possible to avoid doing this sort of thing. As you will see below, if you missed the meeting, you can view the main content covered on the website.

Many of our Y6 children had a big day on Thursday as they undertook the Kent Test. Well done to all who took part for their efforts on a long, hot day – and thank you to all around school who accepted different break times and silent movement around school so early in the school year – really caring consideration was shown by all.

Congratulations to all the children who have earned special positions this week – it was lovely to present these honours to children in assembly today. We greatly look forward to these special representatives carrying out their duties as role models and setting the tone for how to uphold our school values and contribute positively to our school community.



School Council

Congratulations to all our children who were nominated by their class to be their School Council representatives:

- Year 2 – Jaxon & Willow
- Year 3 – Chloe & Lewis
- Year 4 – Oscar & Scarlett
- Year 5 – Izzy & Ethan
- Year 6 – Ronnie & Bella



School Captains

Congratulations to all our Year 6 children who were chosen to be this year's House Captains and Sports Captains:



2023-24	HOUSE CAPTAINS	SPORTS CAPTAINS
BEECH	Harrison Ella	Korlekie Sienna
CHESTNUT	Ezra Belle	Alan Jessica
OAK	Bobby Elsie	Elijah Harry
ASH	Jack Mabel	Emanuela Sam



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Special Mentions

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

- All of Reception Class – settling in so well to their new class.
- Sophia M – working hard and being a helpful member of the class.
- Logan G – settling in well to his new class and working hard.
- Henry T – his great work in maths.
- Jack W – trying his best.
- Oliver M – being focussed all week and doing great Home Learning over the summer.
- Leo A – creating great summer learning.
- Lily G – showing real enthusiasm in all lessons this week.
- Mason T – showing excellent understanding of sound in space.
- Amy V – working hard in all lessons this week.
- Bella C – happily contributing her ideas in lessons.
- Harry F – working hard and making a brilliant start in Year 6.
- Jack M – super efforts at swimming this week.



Register Rabbit

Congratulations to this week's Key Stage winners of Register Rabbit for their excellent attendance: **Year 4 and Year 1.**

Our class attendance was:

Year 4	100.0%
Year 5	99.6%
Year 3	97.8%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 6	96.7%
Year R	95.6%
Year 2	95.2%



Staff News

Congratulations to Miss Durrant who is having a baby in the new year! We will confirm Yr1 teaching arrangements for her maternity leave nearer the time.

We have welcomed Mrs Lindsay to our Midday team.

Julia Yandle, our Family Worker, has moved on to other commitments; we thank her for the support she has given to children and parents during her time with us. We are pleased to confirm that Mrs Kumah has taken on Julia's role this term – details of how to contact her are elsewhere in this Newsletter.



Meet our new Family Support Worker

Hello! My name is Mrs Kumah – many of you may already know me from my work at High Firs as a Midday Supervisor or offering pastoral support to some of our children. My own children were also at High Firs a few years ago! I am here to support parents and children with any issues which are causing worry or difficulties either at home or at school. This could be concerning housing, finance, any challenging behaviour from your children or significant changes which may have taken place in your family, or other factors which are affecting you or your child. I would be happy to meet or to talk to you on the phone and see if I can help in any way so please do get in touch if I can help; I will be available on the school gate each morning if you want to chat to me then or please contact me via the school office.



Class information on website

We hope that those parents who were able to attend this week's "Meet the Teacher" meetings found the sessions useful. A copy of the presentations from the meetings will be put on the class pages of the website over the next few days for your information. On the class pages you will also be able to find copies of the class curriculum newsletters and Learning Logs for this term, as well as any other information shared by your class teacher. To access, visit www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk and click on the "Classes" tab.

Assemblies

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



Year 5 class assembly Thursday 12th October at 10.10am

Year 4 class assembly Thursday 19th October at 10.10am

Year 6 class assembly Thursday 2nd November at 10.10am

Year 3 class assembly Thursday 9th November at 10.10am

Year 2 class assembly Thursday 16th November at 10.10am

Year 1 class assembly Thursday 23rd November at 10.10am

Reception class sharing time Thursday 30th November at 2.30pm

You are also invited to join us for the following assemblies for parents of children in all classes:

Harvest assembly & Macmillan Coffee Morning Thur 28th Sept at 10.10am

Remembrance Day assembly Friday 10th November at 10.40am



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School Office

Please remember that letters can be handed in via your child and do not need to be brought directly to the school office. Similarly, your child's contact book or class email can also be used to request appointments with staff or passing on of other general information, rather than this going via the office. Thank you.



In our classes this week

Reception – have made new friends!
Year 1 – learned about different types of weather.
Year 2 – used nouns and adjectives to write postcards from the seaside.
Year 3 – retold the story of “Stone Age Boy”.
Year 4 – learned about the “Iron Man”.
Year 5 – learned about key events in the Victorian era.
Year 6 – had their first swimming lesson at White Oak!



Starting High Firs – Reception 2024

Although the new academic year has only just started, we are already looking ahead to our new Reception children starting in September 2024! Parents with a child due to start school next year (children born 1.9.2019 to 31.8.2020) are warmly invited to visit our school for a welcome meeting and tour during one of the following sessions:



Tuesday 31st October at 9.30am

Monday 6th November at 11am

Monday 13th November at 5.30pm

There will also be a craft / play activity session for prospective parents & pre-school children on **Friday 1st December at 2pm**. Please do also pass this information on to those friends or family who may be considering applying for a place at High Firs for their child. For more information on Reception admissions and to book to attend a tour and/or the Craft Afternoon, please use the form on our website at: <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/admissions>

School meals

Don't forget that our meal ordering process has changed and that meals can only be paid for online, not in cash. More information is available at <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/meals> or <https://chandco.myschoolmealorders.com/>



No dogs, please!

Tilly has been trained specifically to be in school, and we are insured for her to be here, but this is not the case for any other dogs. Please could we therefore remind you that dogs (other than Tilly or disability support dogs) are not to be brought onto the school site – even if they are being carried! This includes Breakfast Club and After School Club drop-offs and collections. If you are waiting with your dog outside school can we please ask that you keep them under control and clear of the school gate. Thank you for your support.



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.

Health & Safety

Please may we remind you that:

- We ask parents and children to park and to walk around the local area with consideration for both our neighbours and other families. Please do not block our neighbours' drives when parking or stop on the yellow / zig zag lines.
- The school car park is for staff and visitors' use only at **all** times of the day (including during Breakfast Club and After School Club); please do not park or drop off in the school's car park.
- All children, including younger siblings, should be closely supervised when on the school site after school and at events. Please do not allow your children to play on any of our outdoor equipment, in other areas of the playground or on our field.
- Children in Reception to Yr4 may only be collected by an adult (ie someone over 18).



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Class emails

Class emails are available for you to use to contact your child's teacher. These are monitored regularly but please bear in mind that our teachers have a full-day teaching commitment and so they may not be checked at set times or seen before school each day so the contact book is a better method of communication if your message is time-restricted. Due to safeguarding measures emails should only be sent from a parent's email address rather than the child's own if they have one. Our class email addresses are:

Reception – reception@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 1 – yearone@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 2 – yeartwo@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 3 – yearthree@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 4 – yearfour@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 5 – yearfive@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Year 6 – yearsix@high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Please continue to use the office email office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk for any admin queries.

We have a vacancy for a

Midday Supervisor



5 days a week

12pm - 1pm

More details & application information -
www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/staff-vacancies/

Uniform

Thank you to all those families who ensure that their children attend school in the correct uniform; it has been lovely to see all the children coming back to school so neat and tidy. Please may we remind you of the following requirements for uniform:

Smart black or grey trousers – long or short (not sports shorts or tracksuit bottoms)

Grey skirt/tunic *to the knee*

Summer dresses in yellow or yellow & white in simple style.

Gold sweatshirt/polo shirt

Gold cardigan

Black, grey or white **school style** socks or black/grey tights (plain)

Footwear

All children should wear black or grey sensible, flat-heeled shoes/sandals that are secure to the foot. Open-toed shoes are not appropriate. Trainers or sports shoes are not suitable for school day wear and are not part of the school uniform.

Jewellery

Jewellery may not be worn at school. If your child has pierced ears, small stud earrings may be worn at your own risk. However, on PE days, we ask that earrings are not worn. Children may wear watches to school, however, 'smart' watches that can send and receive text messages and can take photographs are not permitted. Please discuss with the school if there is any jewellery you would like your child to wear regarding religious observance.

Hair

Hair that is long enough should be securely tied back during the school day. Hair bands and over-bands should be plain 'school type' bands in yellow or black, without decoration.

PE Kit

House coloured round-neck t-shirt *no logos*

Black shorts *no logos*

Dark coloured tracksuit bottoms *no logos*

Plimsolls – (KS1 & KS2)

Trainers (for outdoor PE use in KS2 only)

Bags

Bags are part of our uniform and therefore only school-issued bags should be used throughout KS1 and KS2.

Please ensure that all items are labelled with your child's name.



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School Volunteers needed!

We welcome parents and adults from the local community to undertake a variety of roles in supporting the school & our children.

Could you help in school by –

- hearing children read?
- playing games with small groups?
- sharing a skill – gardening / sewing / painting / cooking / music?
- talking about or share your job or hobby?
- looking after the books in our school library?
- tidying our outdoor environment?
- helping at or running a lunchtime or after-school club?
- offering specialist skills
- anything else?



It would be great to hear from any parents, grandparents or family friends who would like to come and share their skills with the children in school. It doesn't matter how often or for how long – once a week, once a month or even just once. Please note that the school is required to undertake and receive a satisfactory DBS (Police) check on all adult volunteers undertaking voluntary work with the children in school. All volunteers will also receive and need to agree to the School's "Volunteers in School" policy, including safeguarding requirements.

If you can help then please complete the form at <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/helping> and we will be in touch soon.

A yellow sticky note with a red pushpin at the top left corner. The text "Important Information" is written on it in a simple, black font.

Important
Information

Important Health Information – PLEASE REMEMBER!

We are a **NUT FREE** school – this is **ALL TYPES OF NUTS**. Please can we therefore ask for the support of all our school families in ensuring that none of our children or visitors bring any nuts or nut-based products (eg: Nutella spread / Snickers / peanut butter / nutty cereal bars etc) into school. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping to ensure the safety & wellbeing of those members of our school community for whom these products pose a serious risk.

NUT FREE



THANK YOU
for keeping our school safe!



INSET DAYS

No children in school

Friday 1st Sept 2023

Mon 30th Oct 2023

Tues 2nd Jan 2024

Fri 24th May 2024

1 more date to be confirmed

Coming up next week...

No after school activity clubs (start w/b 18th September)



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