



29th Sept 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

We feel well and truly embedded into the Autumn term now and the summer seems a distant memory. It was fabulous to see so many people in attendance at our Harvest Assembly on Thursday morning. The children loved sharing their various harvest related learning with you all and being altogether in the hall with Reception included for the very first time. During hard times economically, we were humbled by the total raised at our Macmillan Coffee morning – it was nearly double what we made last year and we had not put the prices up with inflation!

We look forward to welcoming parents in to our Open Morning for existing parents next Thursday morning. This is a chance to come and look at the way we teach reading across the school – you need to book in to attend – www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/openmorning. We are seeing increasing numbers of children wearing incorrect uniform at present and the main areas of difficulty are jewellery and hair. Here is a reminder of our policy in these two areas, as shared on 8th September.

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.

If your child comes to school wearing items that do not correspond with this guidance, they will be asked to remove them.

Finally today, a quick appeal from me to ask for more volunteers to help with Park and Stride and Forest School. Ideally, I would like staff to be available in the classrooms as much as possible. However, currently, every morning and afternoon, two support staff are taken away from this 'core purpose' to help with Park and Stride. We now have a regular parent volunteer, which is great, but ideally, I would like especially the parents who use this service to offer themselves, even for one morning per fortnight, to enable this great initiative to run into the future in a more sustainable manner. For Forest School, we are looking for anyone who can make themselves available on Thursdays or Fridays and we would be willing to send any helpers on a training course if they were interested.

If you can help, please email office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK - 2nd to 6th October



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! 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 3 rd October at 8:40am	Meet us on the corner of Pinks Hill and Cranleigh Drive (top junction)
Wednesday 4 th October at 8:40am	Meet us on the corner of Charnock and Court Crescent
Thursday 5 th October at 8:40am	Meet us on the corner of Waylands and Pinks Hill

Our Park and Stride will also take part as usual for those who have booked.



Achieving more together



Dartford Schools FA football tournaments

Well done to our Y5/6 boys and girls who took part in the Dartford Schools football tournament this week. The girls had a mixture of draws and narrow 1-0 defeats and the boys a mixture of wins and narrow 1-0 defeats. Both teams played very well and their efforts represent considerable progress from where our teams were last year. All children behaved impeccably and were a real credit to the school. Well done, everyone! Watch this space for more news about sports teams in action.

Voluntary Fund

This week we are requesting parents to make this term's Voluntary Fund payment. We greatly appreciate these donations which are used to support many of the extra activities undertaken in school by the children. The suggested payment is £2.50 per child or £6 per family.

Please return your donation by 13th October – thank you. You can also pay via our SchoolMoney app.

What is the Voluntary Fund used for? The termly voluntary fund money is used to pay for lots of different things! Essentially, it is used for expenses which we are not allowed to allocate to government funding but which we believe lead to a broader educational experience for our children or which support our community & families links. This also means we do not have to charge parents every time! Just a few examples of this spending are:

- Concert & performance costumes
- Refreshments for parents & visitors at school events – Nativities / Assemblies / class meetings etc
- Cookery ingredients
- Celebration of commemorative events – Whole School Jubilee Day party etc.
- Expenses for Open Evening & events
- Visitors in to school
- Additional resources for school visits

We believe that visits and these other experiences are a vital part of our children's education – thank you to all those parents who support us in this way.



Harvest Assembly – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest Assembly – what a lovely occasion Your kind donations of food meant there was a fantastic range of produce on display (arranged beautifully by our creative TA team) which we have taken to Swanley Foodbank to distribute to those in need in our local community. Thank you also to the all our classes who contributed readings, poems or art work and a particular mention to our Reception children for doing so well in their very first whole school assembly!

Macmillan Cancer Support Morning & Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who came to our Coffee Morning following Harvest Assembly and the Cake Sale after school on Wednesday – we raised an amazing **£225.25** for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you also to the staff and parents who donated delicious cakes for us to sell.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING



We raised...

Individual Photographs

The children will have their individual and school sibling photographs taken on **Tuesday 3rd October**. Any non-school siblings are invited to come into school for photographs between **8am and 8.35am**. Children who are absent on the day will be given the opportunity to have their photograph taken when the photographer returns later in the year to take the class photos. **Breakfast Club will be in Year 5 on Tuesday 3rd October.**

Parents Consultations

Thank you to all those parents who signed up for consultation meetings with teachers. We will confirm your appointment time next week.

Black History Month

As part of our ongoing learning, all classes will be covering Black History Month in October in both lessons and assemblies – our focus this year will be “inventors and innovations”. Once again, we would like to include relevant personal stories, personal heroes and book recommendations from our High Firs families. As an additional option to their “Learning Log” tasks during October all children are therefore invited to bring in information, prepare a talk, make a poster or anything else appropriate that they can share with their class and/or which we might be able to display to support this.



Achieving more together



Safeguarding concerns – how to contact us

Safeguarding our pupils is everybody's responsibility and all those directly connected (staff, volunteers, governors, leaders, parents, families, and learners) are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for our children and have an essential role to play in making our community safe and secure. We have Designated Safeguarding Leaders who have responsibility for the day-to-day oversight of safeguarding and child protection systems (including online safety) in school – these are currently Mr Kilbride, Miss Rennie, Miss Allin & Miss Selby. If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can make an appointment with one of our DSLs to discuss these. Alternatively, we have a dedicated form on our website at <https://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding/> or you can email safeguarding@high-firs.kent.sch.uk Any concerns sent by the website or email will go directly to our DSLs; please provide as much information as you can so that we have a full understanding of the circumstances. We will respond as promptly as we can; however, if you believe that a child is in immediate danger you should always call the police immediately on 999.

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

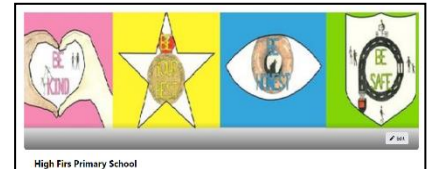
*How to contact us
if you are concerned*

Facebook

Are you a member of our school Facebook page? We use it to share "good news" alongside our text service and Newsletter updates. You can request to join the group using the QR code shown here or by searching for the group "High Firs Primary School". There are a few similar group names so the one you are looking for is the one with our school values banner, shown in the picture here.

To ensure the page runs in a safe way for all of our school community, please note the following:

- Membership will be restricted to those 12+ who are known school contacts. Identifying information will be requested on application to join and will be checked by our administrators before admission to the group.
- Members will be removed when the associated child is no longer a pupil.
- Information and photographs posted on the site must not be shared, downloaded or forwarded.
- Failure of Members to agree and abide to the above conditions, or other conduct concerns, may result in removal from the group.



Special Mentions

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

- Jenson G – trying hard with his name writing.
- George P – being a kind and thoughtful friend.
- Oscar P – fantastic writing about his monster.
- Harrison F – being such a polite, helpful and hardworking member of the class.
- Josh C – his use of ambitious vocabulary when writing his own story.
- Teddy C – trying hard to improve his independent reading.
- Darcie D – always being a focussed and kind member of the class.
- Emily S – always trying her best in her learning.
- Smilte M – her wonderful dairy-free Tudor biscuits.
- Hannah C – detailed description of rich and poor houses.
- Olivia W – working hard in all lessons.
- Albert B – always contributing his ideas in Maths.
- Lola H – brilliant effort (and some great saves!) at the football tournament.
- Emanuela M – an excellent poem about the Blitz.



Register Rabbit

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

YEAR 2

YEAR 4

Our class totals were:

Year 4	98.1%
Year 2	97.8%
Year 6	97.0%
Year R	96.3%
Year 3	95.4%
Year 5	95.0%
Year 1	93.0%

In our classes this week

Reception – sorted objects.
Year 1 – looked at different kinds of extreme weather.
Year 2 – wrote their own pirate adventure stories.
Year 3 – learned about the importance of Skara Brae.
Year 4 – mixed and created colours in art.
Year 5 – measured friction.
Year 6 – learned about the Blitz and re-enacted an air raid.

**THIS WEEK'S
LEARNING**



Achieving more together





	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	72	201	Harrison Y1 & Ella Y6
CHESTNUT	89	295	Bobbi YR, Marco Y1, Teddy M Y2, Laquisha Y5, Ezra and Annie-Grace Y6
OAK	81	186	Sabiha Y2, Amy, Beatrice & Karina Y5
ASH	112	238	Sophia S Y1 & Agnish Y5



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 TBC

Coming up next week...

Monday 2nd October

Walk to School Week

Tuesday 3rd October

Breakfast Club in Year 5

Non-school sibling photographs in hall 8am – 8.35am

Walk to School Week

Walk with the staff – 8.40am at Pinks Hill / Cranleigh Drive (top junction)

Individual school photographs taken during school day

Wednesday 4th October

Walk to School Week

Walk with the staff – 8.40am at Charnock / Court Crescent

Flu immunisations all day for all classes

Thursday 5th October

Walk to School Week

Walk with the staff – 8.40am at Waylands / Pinks Hill

Open Morning – Reading focus (for parents who have booked only)

Friday 6th October

Walk to School Week





Achieving more together

