



10th Nov 2023

High Firs Primary School



NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mr Kilbride

We are finally in a position to share with you the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. After their visit on 12th and 13th October, Ofsted assessed us as achieving a 'Good' grade in all five of the assessed areas. We are of course delighted that the conclusions they have reached recognise the tremendous hard work put in by our team over the last couple of years. They were very positive about changes we have made to our curriculum recently, and they spoke very warmly to us about the behaviour and levels of engagement of our pupils. Their main area identified for our further development is something that we had already identified in our School Improvement Plan – to enable subject leaders to observe more lessons, leading to regular feedback and sharing of best practice to refine the learning experience for pupils. We also discussed an aspiration to create some more memorable community related links and experiences. Engagement with local and national charities is part of this, but anything we do in this regard needs to be balanced with people's capacity to give. As such, we have two occasions we wish to mark next week, that we do not usually mark in an official way. The purpose of these events is predominantly to raise awareness of the work of these charities, rather than to raise significant funds. You can read the report in full here - <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/ofsted>
Next week is also national Antibullying week, and as such assemblies and some lesson activities will engage children in issues around bullying.

Remembrance Day

Thank you to all our parents and families who joined us for today's Remembrance Assembly when the children shared the reasons behind why this is commemorated and why we wear poppies, as well as marking the two minute silence. Each of our classes also contributed to make six lovely displays to recognise this special event:



Wear Blue for World Diabetes Day

In support of next week's World Diabetes Day, we are inviting children to come to school wearing something blue on Tuesday 14th. Children should wear normal school uniform, with one blue item to denote their support for this cause. This is to raise awareness of this day in support of children we have with diabetes. This is **not a fund raiser** – we are aware that at this time of year there are many things already in the calendar for raising funds and donations, with Christmas approaching.



Year 3/4 Football tournament

Well done to our Year 3&4 children who took part in this week's Swanley & District Football Tournament. They had a fantastic time and played really well, coming fifth overall.



Achieving more together





Year 4 Blackland Farm residential

Our Year 4 children had a fantastic stay at Blackland Farm at the start of this week. They tried lots of different activities including sucker archery, crate stacking, gladiator challenge and team building and are all to be congratulated on their fantastic “have a go” attitude when taking part and for their helpful behaviour at our accommodation.



Children in Need

From our School Council: Next Friday, 17th November, is Children in Need. Children will be able to wear an item of spotty or Children in Need clothing alongside their normal school uniform. To raise awareness this year, we will also be collecting coins to create a Pudsey picture. We will then donate the money raised to Children in Need. If they are able to, please could children bring in a few small-value coins on Friday 17th November to add to our picture. Thank you!

Special Mentions

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

- Charlie F – super independent name writing.
- Francis H – super independent name writing.
- Rose S – working hard in phonics.
- Logan G – great ideas in English lessons.
- Jonas C – fantastic effort in Maths.
- All of Year 3 – a fantastic assembly!
- All of Year 4 – for taking part so enthusiastically at Blackland Farm and working hard at school!
- Sabiha M – always being her best.
- Agnish S – working hard in Maths this week.
- Sid P – working hard in Maths this week.
- Elsie W – excellent detailed answers to questions about our new book in English.
- Jessica T – working so hard on your background and silhouettes in art – it looks fantastic!



Register Rabbit

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



YEAR 6
YEAR R

Our class totals were:

Year 6	98.5%
Year 4	97.4%
Year R	95.6%
Year 1	94.8%
Year 2	90.0%
Year 5	89.6%
Year 3	83.9%

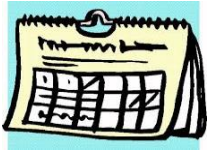
In our classes this week

- Reception – found shapes in the environment.
- Year 1 – learned to use adjectives to describe.
- Year 2 – are enjoying their new class book “Paddington”.
- Year 3 – wrote a diary as a Roman slave.
- Year 4 – enjoyed their “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” theme.
- Year 5 – learned facts about the planets.
- Year 6 – investigated historical artefacts from World War Two.



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INSET DAYS

Tues 2nd Jan 2024

Fri 24th May 2024

1 more date TBC

Coming up next week...

Monday 13th November
5.30pm: Reception 2024 tours

Tuesday 14th November
Wear something blue for Diabetes Day

Thursday 16th November
10.10am: Year 2 Class Assembly
Rec / Yr6 height & weight checks

Friday 17th November
Children in Need – wear an item of spotty clothing with usual uniform and bring in any loose small-value change.



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