



1st Dec 2023

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mr Kilbride

As we anticipate the final 2 weeks before we break up for the Christmas holidays, the rhythm of the school year is very much set with rehearsals taking up some of the school day and keeping the children going with 'normal' timetables and lessons for the rest of the time.

Next week is extremely busy with both performances of the Y5/6 production, both performances of the Y3/4 carol concert, Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day, the in-school Pantomime, donations for the Christmas Fayre and the Christmas Fayre itself! If we are still on our feet after that lot, the following week we look forward to the KS1 performance, the Rocksteady concert, the secrets room and a visit from Father Christmas himself! We will well and truly have earned a rest come the 15th December!

For performances this year, we have removed the booking of individual seats and we have altered the stage layout, so performances will be from the side of the hall to a wide space that does not go so far back. The aim of this is to simplify the process around arranging tickets and to hopefully give larger numbers of the audience a chance of a good view of the action.

Please remember that everyone attending will need a ticket – with the exception of babes in arms.

For the Y5/6 production, you can arrive and queue as you would for a class assembly – at the gates around the side of school. We will open the gates and let people come in and choose their seats from 1.45pm – 15 minutes before the afternoon performance is due to start. For the evening performance, please drop your children at 6pm and we will let you come straight in and take your seats a little earlier.

For the Y3/4 evening carol concert, please bring your children at 6.15pm and you can come straight in to take your seats in readiness for the 6.30pm start – as per arrangements in the letter that went out last Thursday.

Our Christmas Charities

We do not make a charge for our performances so we are very grateful to everyone who chooses to show their appreciation through their support of our chosen charities for this year through our post-performance collections. Thank you for your support for these very worthwhile causes over the next couple of weeks, which have been chosen for their very close personal connections to some of our school families. We are sorry if you nominated a charity and it was not chosen this year – they were all such worthwhile causes.

Nordoff Robbins is our KS1 charity for this Christmas – they support the babies in the Special Care Baby Unit at Darenth Hospital, and their families.



Our donations from the Carol Concerts will be given to **St Mary's Church**, as a "thank you" to them for letting us use their lovely church, and their nominated charity **Home Start**, which supports families with young children who are living through challenging times.

SlideAway is our Yr5/6 charity. They provide support for young people who have been through a bereavement.



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Clubs

Due to our Christmas events **all school clubs have now finished**. We hope the children have enjoyed taking part – club information for the Spring Term will be issued nearer the time. Our paid-for Breakfast Club and After School Club provision continues as normal.

Children's Christmas Cards

We know that some of our children have already written their Christmas cards to their friends! Please could we ask that all the children follow the same arrangements:

- Cards to be brought into school from **next Monday, 4th December**.
- Please label envelopes with recipient's first name, surname and year group
- All cards to be put into the postbox outside Year R/1
- Cards will be distributed by our 'post elves' and then taken home to be opened

Thank you for your support – this will ensure that class time is not spent distributing cards and that they do not get lost around the school during the day.



Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Sponsored Bounce earlier this term – we raised a fantastic **£1492.46!**



In our classes this week

Reception – learned a tricky word song (and did a fantastic job with their first assembly!)

Year 1 – investigated waterproof materials.

Year 2 – made marmalade sandwiches!

Year 3 – learned about levers and linkages.

Year 4 – learned about Diwali and the story of Rama & Sita.

Year 5 – added and subtracted fractions.

Year 6 – wrote missing reports about a character from our book.



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Performances

In addition to the information in Mr Kilbride's message, please could we remind parents attending our performances that:

- We do ask that parents don't get out of their seats and move around during the performances in order to take photographs or to film, or to use flash photography, as this can block the view of other guests and it can be very distracting for our children on the stage - we want them to be able to show you their very best acting and singing skills throughout! We promise there will be "photo opportunities" after every performance.
- Concerns have been raised in the past by some parents that photographs are posted on Facebook or other social media showing children other than the postee's own; please could we ask that you do restrict publication of photographs on social media to your own children in order to respect the wishes of those parents who do not want their child's image to be published on the internet.

Please note there is no onsite parking available either at the school or St Mary's Church.

Special Mentions

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

Eva O – her phonics recognition.

Oliver DQ – trying hard with his letter formation writing.

Glora CF – her enthusiastic learning.

Marco P – amazing maths!

Jaxon M – being a caring and supportive friend.

Danny B – always working extremely hard and being focussed.

Beatrice J – enthusiasm when practising our Christmas concert.

Scarlett T – being a celebrated author for her fabulous retelling of the Diwali story.

Ayotunde O – working hard in maths.

Honey B – working hard and trying her best in lessons.

Daisy W – working hard to improve her maths.

Korlekie A – a brilliant commentary of WW2 combat.



INSET DAYS

Tues 2nd Jan 2024

Fri 24th May 2024

1 more date TBC

Coming up next week...

No clubs this week except FOSC Breakfast Club & After School Club.

Monday 4th December

Deadline for Father Christmas gift money

2pm & 6.30pm: Yr5/6 Production (ticket holders only)

Tuesday 5th December

Own clothes / winter or Christmas Jumper day

Please bring a confectionary or bottle donation for FHF

Christmas Lunch day

Wednesday 6th December

2pm & 6.30pm: Yr3/4 Carol Concert at St Mary's Church (ticket holders only)

Thursday 7th December

Cuddly toy donations for FHF

Deadline for FHF raffle money

Friday 8th December

Christmas Bazaar – KS1 visit in school time, open to all from 3.30pm



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FHF CHRISTMAS AT HIGH FIRS – Reminders

Tuesday 5th December – Non-Uniform/Christmas Lunch

All children are invited to wear their own clothes on this day and we hope that children will wear a Christmas or winter jumper to make the occasion festive! For the enjoyment of doing so we hope you will be able to donate either a full unopened bottle(KS2) or an item of Christmas confectionery(KS1) that can be used for the tombola stall at the Bazaar. Someone from the Friends will be available near the school gate for you to hand your donations to, please do not take them to the office. Christmas Lunch will be served on this day.

Friday 8th December – Christmas Bazaar – open to everyone

- **Before 3.00pm**

To enable our younger children to walk around the Bazaar more freely we would like to invite Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children to visit the Bazaar with their teachers and teaching staff. This allows them to enjoy spending time on the various stalls before it opens to everyone else.

Please allow them to have a small amount of money, a suggested maximum of £2 in change to spend please, and place it in an envelope, marked with their name and send in on the day of the Bazaar.

A special thank you in advance to Year 5 and 6 children who have offered to help the younger children and who will also run a number of stalls.

- **3.30pm**

The Bazaar opens to everyone at 3.30pm, once the children have been dismissed. Please do invite your friends, relatives and neighbours to join in our Christmas festivities.



Monday 11th December – Visit by Father Christmas

Father Christmas will be visiting the school on Monday 11th December. You will shortly receive a letter asking you to return the permission slip and £3.00 per child if you would like your child to receive a celebratory gift.

The slip and envelope should be returned by Monday 4th December.



Secrets Room – Monday 11th December

The children will be able to browse through the “Secrets Room” to buy presents for their family. Samples of the presents will be on display ranging from £1- £3 per gift. The presents come ready wrapped and the children are then helped to write their own labels.

To ensure a wide choice of presents we have had to limit the purchase of presents to a maximum of 3 per child, £9 maximum to be brought into school. **If you wish your child/ren to visit the “Secrets Room” please enclose some money in an envelope clearly marked with your child’s name, year, who they are buying for – to be brought to school with the children on Monday 11th December. Please also bring a named carrier bag so that the presents are easier for the children to carry home.**



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The Grand Draw



We always have some fabulous prizes for this including the popular Christmas Hampers. **Please return your tickets and money to the school by Thursday 7th December in an envelope marked for the attention of the Friends. Thank you.** Please remember that names and telephone numbers of those purchasing the tickets must be written on the back of each ticket otherwise we will be unable to enter them into the Draw. If you require any further tickets your Class Rep will be happy to provide them and, of course, raffle tickets will also be on sale at the Christmas Bazaar.

The Cake Stall



This is a stall enjoyed by everyone! If you are able to donate cakes, biscuits and other goodies for this stall we would be very grateful. We will be asking if Reception parents would please donate a plate of cakes or perhaps mince pies. A plate will be sent home later this month. All donations should be brought to school on the morning of the Bazaar where a member of the Friends will collect them from you at the gate.

Cuddly Toy donations



Any donations of cuddly toys for the soft toy tombola received. If you could deliver them into school on Thursday 7th December there will be a box for your donations at the school gate at the beginning of the school day.



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