



8th Dec 2023

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mr Kilbride

It has been a really lovely week with children enjoying different festive events each day this week. It all got underway with our annual Christmas Tree assembly – we all hung a bauble on the tree and sang some carols to get us in the festive mood. Then Y5/6 performed their ‘Whodunnit’ production on Monday afternoon and evening to their families. On Tuesday the whole school watched the Y5/6 performance, before we all set up for Christmas lunch, enjoying all being in the hall together with some favourite festive tunes at the same time. Wednesday saw Y3/4 go to St. Mary’s Church all day to rehearse their carol concert to parents. After eating lunch in the church hall and dressing up in shirts and ties, the children delivered two lovely performances in the afternoon and evening, singing at the tops of their voices and leaving all assembled with a warm festive feeling by the end! On Thursday we enjoyed watching Robinson Crusoe in the school hall – a very entertaining pantomime for KS2 in the morning and KS1 in the afternoon. And finally, today we had our assembly on Zoom this morning for the first time in a long time, as the FHF set up for our Christmas Fayre, which takes place this afternoon. We look forward to sharing with you next week the amount raised, as well as bringing you news of end of term certificate winners, more school plays, the Secrets Room and a very special visitor!

Christmas Tree Assembly

We held our annual Christmas Tree Assembly on Monday – it’s always one of our favourite events of the year! The whole school came together in the hall to sing Carols and each child and adult had a chance to add their own decoration to our Christmas tree. As is our school tradition, the youngest child in school put the angel on the tree and the eldest did the “switch on” of the lights. Well done to Ziggy and Sam!



Event Feedback

Don’t forget that if you have attended our Years 5&6 production or the Years 3&4 Carol Concert this week to let us know what you thought!

Please do complete the form at

<https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/eventfeedback>

or click on the QR code. Thank you to those parents who have already been in touch – your kind comments have been much appreciated.



Christmas Lunch

The children and staff all enjoyed a fantastic Christmas Lunch together on Tuesday. It was great to see the children wearing their Christmas & Winter jumpers to support FHF donations day, which added that special festive feeling! It was also our opportunity to thank the Midday Supervisors and catering team who work so hard each lunchtime to support our children.



“Treachery at Traitors’ Quay”

Years 5&6 started our Christmas season in style with two great performances of “Treachery at Traitors’ Quay”. Well done to all our children who took part.



Christmas / Winter Card Competition

Well done to all the children who entered this year’s card competition – there were some fabulous entries! We hope that those of you who came into school last Monday enjoyed looking at them too. Congratulations to these children in particular who have been chosen as class winners –

- Rec – Ziggy & Esme B
- Year 1 – Imogen T & Gloria F
- Year 2 – Lenny G & Albert T
- Year 3 – Ellis A & Daisy B
- Year 4 – Scarlett T & Hannah C
- Year 5 – Karina C & Alfie L
- Year 6 – Harrison A & Ella V



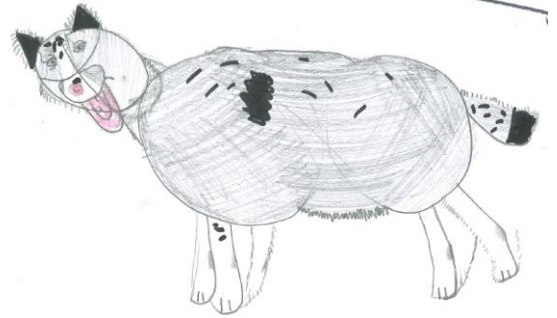
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Tilly Competition We had a super number of entries for Mrs Kumah's competition to draw Tilly! Congratulations to our class winners and to Emelia from Year 4 who was the overall winner:



Year 6 – Annie-Grace



Year 5 – Daisy W



Rec - Penelope



Year 4 - Emelia



Year 4 – Mason



Year 2 - Jake



Rec - Elliott

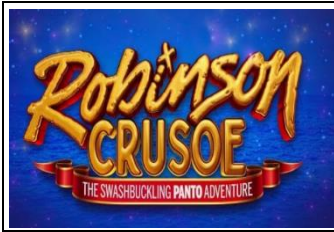


Year 3 - Annabelle



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Pantomime Visit

We welcomed The Panto Company to school on Thursday when all the children enjoyed their brilliant performances of "Robinson Crusoe"

Year 3&4 Carol Concert

On Wednesday, we were treated to two fantastic concerts from our Year 3 & 4 children at St Mary's Church where they sang beautifully to our very appreciative audiences. Well done!

Year 1 teaching arrangements from January 2024

Next Wednesday we will be wishing Miss Durrant all the best as she finishes school for her maternity leave. We are very pleased to confirm that Mrs Bridle will be teaching Year 1 alongside Mrs O'Dwyer from January 2024 to cover this. Mrs Bridle will be teaching the class all day on Tuesdays and Fridays, with one session on Wednesdays, and Mrs O'Dwyer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Many of you will already know Mrs Bridle from her teaching in our other classes and leading our writing support groups; we are very fortunate to have been able to engage such an experienced teacher who is already part of our school community. Mrs Bridle is very much looking forward to joining the Yr1 staff team and teaching the class; she has already met with Mr Kilbride, Miss Rennie, Mrs O'Dwyer and Miss Durrant for discussions on the children's current needs and attainment and has taken the opportunity to undertake classroom visits and teaching days to ensure a very smooth transition for all in the new year.



Our Christmas Charities

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas performances this week for donating so generously to our chosen charities.

Our collections at our KS1 performances on 12th & 13th December will be for **Nordoff Robbins** who support children with psychological, physical, or developmental disabilities through music therapy.



Yr3/4: St Mary's Church / Home Start
£153.31

Yr5/6: SlideAway
£179.55



FHF CHRISTMAS AT HIGH FIRS – Reminders

Monday 11th December – Visit by Father Christmas

Father Christmas will be visiting the school on Monday 11th 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.**



Reception 2024

We welcomed some of our prospective Reception 2024 children and families to a Craft Afternoon last Friday. It was lovely getting to spend some time with them! Don't forget that applications close on 15th January.

In our classes this week

- Reception – learned about the Nativity.
- Year 1 – learned to write instructions.
- Year 2 – found out facts about London landmarks.
- Year 3 – learned to divide and multiply by 8.
- Year 4 – wrote about the real journey taken by Mary & Joseph.
- Year 5 – designed model fairground rides.
- Year 6 – explored Anne Frank's annex.



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Special Mentions

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

- Billy D – for trying very hard with his sound recognition.
- Reggie T – super phonics!
- George N – trying hard to remember the school values.
- Hannah N – creating a wonderful Christmas picture on the Chromebook Paint programme.
- Stanley W – his fantastic explanation in Science written as a letter.
- Anastasia P – working hard to improve the detail in her writing.
- All of Year 3 – their amazing performance at St Mary's Church.
- All of Year 4 – their amazing Carol Concert.
- Clark RW – super writing about an imaginary world.
- Alyah E – always being a kind friend to others.
- Samuel S – excellent knowledge and contributions in Science.
- Bella O – excellent work in History, learning about anti-Jewish laws in WW2.
- Jack B – an incredible model of a WW2 Spitfire.



Register Rabbit

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



YEAR 1
YEAR 6

Our class totals were:

Year 1	92.6%
Year 6	92.6%
Year 5	91.5%
Year 2	90.7%
Year R	89.6%
Year 4	88.1%
Year 3	82.1%

Football Matches

We took two Y5/6 football teams to Holy Trinity Primary School last Friday for the first round of the local schools 'FA Cup'. Our girls' team conceded a goal with virtually the first kick of the game, but recovered their poise to draw 2-2 at full time. Then in a tremendously exciting penalty shootout, they won 4-3. Special mention for Korlekie, who scored both goals in normal time as well as one in the shootout – and for our goalkeeper Lola, for some superb saves in both normal time and the shootout. Lola also stepped up to score her own penalty! The boys competed really well up to half time when they were trailing just 1-0, including a shot from Elijah that hit the post – but Holy Trinity had more energy for the second half as they ran away 6-0 winners in the end. Well done to all who took part, representing our school superbly both on and off the field.

HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	205	1206	Madeline S, Michael C
CHESTNUT	162	1143	Esme B, Harry M
OAK	132	1030	Isla W, Beatrice G
ASH	164	1087	Drew D, Bella C



INSET DAYS

Tues 2nd Jan 2024

Fri 24th May 2024

1 more date TBC

Coming up next week...

No activity clubs this week – FOSC Breakfast Club & After School Club as normal.

Monday 11th December

FHF Secrets Room – please bring spending money in an envelope and a carrier bag (3 people / £9 max)

Visit from Father Christmas

2.30pm – Rocksteady Concert

Tuesday 12th December

2.15pm – KS1 performance: "Lights, Camel, Action!" (Ticket holders only)

Wednesday 13th December

No flute or clarinet lessons

2.15pm – KS1 performance: "Lights, Camel, Action!" (Ticket holders only)

Friday 15th December

3.15pm – End of Autumn Term



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