



5th Jan 2024

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mr Kilbride

Welcome back to Term 3 – Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed the break over the Christmas holidays and return to school this week raring to go!

Children have the chance this year now to earn Values pencils for their actions exemplifying our school values. There is a set of four to collect by the end of the school year and all members of staff will be looking out for children's achievements. At the end of each month, our usual Friday celebration assembly will be replaced with the awarding of that month's values pencils. The pencils match the theme colours of our school values – pink for Be Kind, yellow for Be Your Best, blue for Be Honest and green for Be Safe.

This week I want to signpost parents towards some information and resources to help keep children safe online. I am sure over Christmas that some children will have received gifts of new technology – most of which may well have internet access capabilities. This opens a world of possibility and opportunity, but also exposes children to a wide range of new risks that would not otherwise be present.

The Safer Internet Centre's parent guides are a really comprehensive walk through of all the issues surrounding internet access and tech use - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

The Internet Matters website is full of good advice - <https://shorturl.at/horuX>

Here is Top10.com's view of the best parental control apps for 2024 - <https://shorturl.at/zEM23>

Within the saferinternet guides, there are clear age guides for use set by the providers. Where parents choose not to follow these age recommendations, it is essential that a high level of monitoring of child online activity takes place – for example, daily checking of activity or installing apps that enable child activity to be viewed directly on parent/carer devices. The above Top10 link is full of suggestions here.

I hope that by following some of this advice, parents can create the right conditions for children to get the maximum benefit from using technology, with risks being closely monitored and managed.



Resolution Read at Home

Our annual "Resolution Read at Home" was launched in today's assembly. As part of our ongoing commitment to developing our children's reading once again we are asking all our children and families to make a New Year's resolution to support our annual **RESOLUTION READ AT HOME** challenge throughout January and until 2nd February by reading at home **at least five times a week**. As you will know, it is part of our Home Learning policy that all the children read at home and that an adult then signs their Reading Record or Contact Book to indicate this; we do appreciate that so many of our families do this already and give vital support to their children's reading development. The children will be given one house point for every time that they read at home and that their contact book or reading record is signed to show this when it is checked by a member of staff in the morning. There will be certificates each week for those children who have read at least five times and a special reward for those who achieve this every week during the challenge!

World of Work Week

As part of our commitment to supporting the children's understanding of economic well-being and the wider world, we are holding our "World of Work" week w/b 22nd January. We hope to welcome a number of visitors into school to support this and



Clubs

Bookings for this term's clubs closed at lunchtime today. Staff will contact



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would be very pleased to hear from any of our parents or friends who may be willing to share with the children information about their job or profession. If you can help, please do let us know using the form at www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/worldofwork by Friday 12th January.

parents next week regarding places and arrangements for each club. Clubs will start w/b 15th January (Recorder 22nd January) – only FOSC provision will be running next week.

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633

Our next Friends of High Firs meeting will be on Monday 8th January at 7pm.
Please come along – everyone is welcome!

In our classes this week

Reception – have been describing superheroes.
Year 1 – have been beginning to look at balances and body shapes in gymnastics.
Year 2 – have been learning about the geography of Antarctica.
Year 3 – have learned about the amazing discoveries at Sutton Hoo.
Year 4 – have been learning to send an email.
Year 5 – have been considering the purpose of newspaper articles.
Year 6 – have been learning about the correct use of semi-colons.



Register Rabbit

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



YEAR 1
YEAR 4

Our class totals were:

Year 4	99.3%
Year 3	97.1%
Year 1	96.7%
Year R	95.2%
Year 5	94.0%
Year 6	92.7%
Year 2	91.3%



INSET DAYS

Fri 24th May 2024

1 more date TBC

Coming up next week...

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

Monday 8th January – FHF meeting 7pm



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