



19th Jan 2024

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mr Kilbride

Please note below the tremendous amount raised during the Poppy appeal in November – thank you so much for your generosity.

It is also really good to note the uptick in attendance across the school since Christmas. The Spring Term often is the most challenging time for illness, but after a bout of chicken pox and other seasonal viruses seemed to take hold before Christmas, attendance figures in school at the beginning of this term have been excellent. Keep it up folks – it really makes a difference when your child is here every day and does not miss out crucial steps in their learning.

We are very much looking forward to World of Work Week next week. We have had a super response from parents who have offered to come in and talk to the children about what they do. We launched the week in assembly on Thursday by seeing if the children could work out which members of staff wanted to do which jobs when they themselves were children. Ask your children and see if they can remember who wanted to be: a florist; an architect; a forensic scientist; an artist; a hairdresser; a Yorkie lorry driver and of course, a teacher!

Please see here the Accelerated Reader bookfinder link - <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

I have become aware of some parents and children holding the misconception that only books from the school library can be quizzed on in school – THIS IS FALSE!! You can use this bookfinder tool to enter the title of any book – and the search will tell you if the book is 'on' the Accelerated Reader database – if it is, then there will be a quiz that your child can do in school to contribute towards their class's overall word count – even based on your own books at home. Not all books are on the system, but most common fiction titles are. It will even recognise books by partial title – for example, I typed in 'The Lion the witch...' and not only did it recognise The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, but it also suggested a range of other books about lions and witches! You can also do an advanced search by author and the results tell you what level (BL) the book has been rated as – and you can check that this falls within your child's ZPD range – that is sent home each term in their contact books or reading records.

Finally this week, I was made aware of a near miss on the zebra crossing by the motorbike garage on London Road. This incident took place during the busy rush hour traffic in the morning and essentially involved two vehicles not stopping, despite High Firs children waiting to cross. Fortunately the children were very sensible and waited until all traffic had come to standstill before crossing. Please implore your older children and guide your younger children in taking every similar precaution. Equally, please drive with care and attention yourselves, even if you are running late. A moment of lost concentration could lead to a lifetime of regret – please take the utmost care.

Open Morning

Following the success of our first Open Morning (about reading) for existing parents in October, we now offer another chance for you to come and visit school for the first lesson of the morning – this time to learn about the way your children are taught maths across the age groups.

This next opportunity will be on **Tuesday 30th January** from 9.00am. Click the link below to reserve a place – spaces are limited so book in fast to ensure that you do not miss out on this chance to learn about how children at High Firs learn in maths.

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



Resolution Read at Home

We had even more children take part in Resolution Read at Home this week – well done to all the children who have read at home and particularly to those who were recognised in assembly today for reading at least five times. It's not too late to join in next week and you will get a house point every time you read!



Achieving more together





World of Work Week

We are looking forward to our World of Work Week next week when we will be welcoming visitors into school to talk to the children about their jobs and finding out what the children would like to be when they are older – and what they might need to do to achieve this. We discussed this in assembly yesterday too and enjoyed finding out what some of the school staff wanted to be when they were younger - can you guess which three members of staff wanted to drive the Yorkie chocolate lorry, be a florist or work as a hairdresser? It was lovely to also find out that lots of our teachers always wanted to be teachers even when they were little! There is a **bonus World of Work Week Learning Log task** for all our children this week which they can do instead of their usual set-tasks if they would like to –

Interview an adult that you know about their job.

You can ask what you like but you might want to find out...

What do you have to do for your job?

What skills do you need to be good at it?

What is the best thing about it?

What is hard about it?

Why did you choose to do it?

What qualifications and/or training you need to do it?



In our classes this week

- Reception – learned about mass and capacity.
- Year 1 – found one more and one less.
- Year 2 – solved money problems.
- Year 3 – learned about magnets.
- Year 4 – designed an investigation about the effects of sugar on teeth.
- Year 5 – investigated thermal insulators.
- Year 6 – wrote biographies of Charles Darwin.



Special Mentions

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

- Luna Z – always being a kind friend.
- Ziggy G – working hard with his letter formation.
- Michael K – working hard to improve his handwriting.
- Harry W – his enthusiastic attitude to learning.
- Willow W – super effort in solving maths problems.
- Sofia M – her description of the journey on the Endurance expedition.
- Ivy C – a wonderful Anglo-Saxon pot made from playdough – it was a great shape!
- Lewis C – his use of manipulatives in maths to support his learning.
- Logan T-G – being a celebrated author for his detailed character description.
- Faye R – fantastic progress in spelling.
- Emelia S – working really hard to improve her maths.
- Bradley S – always contributing his ideas in Maths.
- Lily L – persevering with using short division in Maths.
- Elijah B – excellent home learning about Mary Anning.
- Thomas D – fantastic improvement with his reading.



Register Rabbit

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

YEAR 2
YEAR 6

Our class totals were:

Year 6	99.3%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 5	98.1%
Year 4	98.1%
Year 3	97.2%
Year R	96.2%
Year 1	94.8%

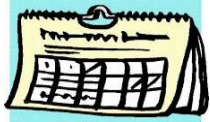


Achieving more together



HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	263	460	Freya Y1, Jack M Y6
CHESTNUT	334	551	Molly YR, George Y1, Sid Y5
OAK	243	430	Oscar Y1, Beatrice Y5
ASH	298	503	Michael YR, Poppy y5



INSET DAYS
 Fri 24th May 2024
 1 more date TBC

Coming up next week...

World of Work Week all week



#Stay Safe
 Get Active

Got to drive?

Park and stride!

Sign up to join us at -
<https://high-firs.kent.sch.uk/park-stride/>



No Parking

Think before you stop.
 Choose a safe spot...

... and please show consideration to our neighbours.



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