



26th Jan 2024

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Court Crescent, Swanley, Kent BR8 8NR Tel: 01322 669721

Email: office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk Website: www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk

Message from Mr Kilbride

We have had great fun this week thinking about the world of work and hearing about different jobs that people do. I even told the children in assembly this week about a long list of Saturday and summer holiday jobs that I have done in the past, as well as employment that I had during a year backpacking in Australia. The children wanted to know which was my favourite job, other than teaching – that was working on a cattle station in Queensland and which job earned the most money – that was working as a door to door salesman in Darwin!

This week working with the Governors, we approved an updated Home Learning policy so I thought I would remind you of the expectations that are included and shared each term via Curriculum Newsletters and Learning Logs.

The summary is:

In Reception, Y1 and Y2, children should spend up to 30 mins completing each learning log activity (9-10 tasks per 12 week term).

10 mins reading 3-4 times a week.

Times tables/Spelling practise – 10 mins 3-4 times a week.

In KS2 children may spend 20-40 mins completing each learning log tasks (9-10 tasks per 12 week term).

15 mins reading 3-4 times a week.

Tables and spellings – 15 mins 3-4 times per week.

Finally, a quick reminder about next Tuesday's Open Morning. Please do book in for the chance to come and see the way maths is taught across the year groups. The morning starts at 9 and will go on until approximately 9.45am. Here is the link to book in - <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/openmorning>

Class Assemblies and information meetings

Parents and carers are invited to join us for the following class assemblies and information sessions this term:

Thursday 1st February at 10.10am – Year 6 (followed by Yr6 SATS information meeting)

Thursday 8th February at 10.10am – Year 5

Thursday 22nd February at 10.10am – Year 4 (followed by Yr4 Multiplication Check information meeting)

Thursday 29th February at 10.10am – Year 3

Thursday 7th March at 10.10am – Year 1 (followed by Yr1 Phonics Screening information meeting)

Thursday 14th March at 10.10am – Year 2

Thursday 21st March at 2.30pm – Reception

If you are unable to attend we will ensure that slides from the meetings are shared on the class website page.

Big Garden Birdwatch

Mrs Verge launched our school Big Garden Birdwatch in assembly on Thursday - this is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are doing. This is being done from 26th – 28th January 2024 and all our children are invited to take part using the tally chart further on in this Newsletter. Please return your completed chart to Mrs Verge by Friday 2nd February.



Achieving more together



How to take part

- 1 Get your free guide and stock up on supplies, with 15% off and free delivery on food and feeders at the RSPB shop.
- 2 Spend an hour watching the birds in your patch, between 26 and 28 January, and record the birds that land.
- 3 Tell us what you saw (even if that's nothing at all!) You can submit your results online or by post.



Choose an hour
between 26 and 28
January



Only record the birds
that land in your patch



Record the highest number
of each bird species you
see at any one time

Across the UK, over half a million people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2023, counting a whopping 9.1 million birds! House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 57% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. Every bird you do – or don't – count will give us a valuable insight into how garden birds are doing.



World of Work Week

All of our classes have explored the "World of Work" this week. They have had the opportunity to find out about different jobs, thought

about what they would like to do when they are older and welcomed visitors to their classes – we are very grateful to PCSO Darling, Mrs Baker, Mrs Barnes and Mr Adegú who have all give their time this week to answer LOTS of questions about their jobs!



School Council

Some of our School Councillors visited the Post Office this week to pay in the money raised for Children in Need – thank you for your donations.

Special Mentions

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

- Meadow W – trying really hard with her phonics.
- Esme-Jayne W – working hard with her reading.
- Jamie W – being an enthusiastic learner.
- Hannah N – her fantastic writing.
- Iyah M – her improvement in her swimming.
- Sabiha M - enthusiasm when writing her interpretation of our class text.
- Emily S – persevering when making her Anglo-Saxon pinch pot.
- Anabelle B – super diagram of an Anglo-Saxon village.
- Lilia G – working hard in maths.
- Lily G – working so hard to improve her writing.
- Harrison C – always challenging himself in Maths.
- Bella C – an excellent newspaper report about Brightstorm's disappearance.
- Jack M – a fantastic biography about Charles Darwin.
- Sam W – excellent work with algebra.



Register Rabbit

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

YEAR 2

YEAR 4

Our class totals were:

Year 4 98.5%

Year 5 97.0%

Year 6 96.7%

Year 3 96.4%

Year 2 94.8%

Year 1 94.4%

Year R 87.0%



Achieving more together





Staff News

We are pleased to be able to let you know the lovely news that Miss Durrant had a baby girl last Friday! We look forward to meeting baby Amelie soon.



THIS WEEK'S LEARNING

In our classes this week

Reception – learned about past and present.

Year 1 – learned about animals' diets

Year 2 – learned why hygiene is important.

Year 3 – measured using mm, cm and m.

Year 4 – divided three digit numbers using different methods.

Year 5 – learned about the features of mountains.

Year 6 – used oil pastels to create dragon eyes in art.



Resolution Read at Home

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 for the final week and you will get a house point every time you read!

HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	238	474	George S Y1; Jack M Y6
CHESTNUT	257	808	Gloria Y1; Annie-Grace Y6
OAK	210	640	Rose Y1; Elijah Y6
ASH	265	768	Leo Y1; Fraser Y5



Coming up next week...

Tuesday 30th January

9am: Maths Open Morning – please book to attend

INSET DAYS

Fri 24th May 2024

1 more date TBC

Thursday 2nd February

10.10am: Yr6 Class Assembly

Yr6 Woodland still going ahead just with shorter sessions!

Friday 3rd February

Yr3 Woodland and Reading Celebration day – wear “own clothes”

#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.



Achieving more together



What did you see?



Can you find a way to make it easy for you to note down the highest number of each species that you see together at the same time? There is room below each bird's name for you to add your idea for doing this.

Your name



Woodpigeon



Blackbird



Carrion crow



House sparrow



Starling



Black-headed gull



Magpie



Blue tit



Robin



Feral pigeon



Great tit



Chaffinch

Did you notice anything in particular about the birds you saw? Differences in how they moved or what they were doing? Or perhaps you managed to see and identify a bird not shown here? If so, note these things in the space on the back or on a separate sheet. Scan code to find out more.



The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207070, in Scotland SC037654. Drawings by Mike Langman. 327-0044-23-24



Achieving more together





Achieving more together

