



8th March 2024

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mr Kilbride

It is a really busy week coming up next week with lots of exciting things going on. Look out for the Book Fair starting on Thursday. Come to the hall and spend your child's World Book Day £1 voucher towards the cost of a wide range of fabulous new books. The sale will run for 5 consecutive school afternoons in the hall from 3.15-3.30pm. We will introduce the event to the children in assembly on Friday next week – and last chance to buy will be Wednesday 20th March in the following week.

As explained last week, we are marking Comic Relief this year. Children can come to school wearing normal school uniform, embellished with a red nose and/or another item of Comic Relief clothing to show their support for the event. Then the cake sale will take place after school in the hall on Friday 15th March. Please come to school on 15th ready with your donations towards this great charitable cause. The Bake Off element to the cake sale will involve one prize winner from KS1 and one from KS2 for the best bake, as judged by the School Council, with a little help from me too!

Once again, I need to mention considerate parking in the newsletter this week. Sadly, such is the extent of people parking illegally or inconsiderately, we are now having to divert significant school resources, that should be preserved for meeting the educational needs of your children, towards managing this problem. This week, I have received a Freedom of Information Request regarding the number of complaints we have received in relation to parking inconsiderately over the past two academic years and what actions we have taken in response. We have received over half a dozen complaints in this period about people parking illegally or inconsiderately as they drop or collect their children from school. Today's message from me is the 10th such request regarding parking over the same period. I have previously attended meetings with local neighbourhood watch over this issue and have an upcoming meeting arranged with local councillors. During this time, we have created the Park and Stride initiative to try and alleviate the pressure on parking in Court Crescent, but now I am receiving complaints from residents of Goldsel Road and Winton Court regarding people continuing to park in private spaces or on the allocated parking spaces in Winton Court. Some days up to 18 children come into school via Park and Stride – so from that point of view it has been a great success – but we commit 60mins of TA time to this venture every day of the school year – that is 190 hours of TA time that I would rather be putting into preparation for classroom support – alongside hours of attending meetings and corresponding with complainants.

So **please**, when you are dropping or collecting your children:

DO NOT BLOCK ANYBODY'S DRIVEWAY

DO NOT PARK ILLEGALLY ON ZIGZAG OR DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

DO NOT PARK IN PRIVATELY ALLOCATED SPACES

DO TAKE TIME TO PARK WITH KINDNESS AND CONSIDERATION FOR ALL IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Following these requests may be slightly inconvenient for you as you may need to park a little further away or arrive a little earlier, but this is a kind act worth doing to ensure that we can pour more of our limited resources into your child's education, rather than to managing the school parking issue.

Online Ordering
CLOSED

Online Ordering closure date

Please note that orders for sun hats, PE bags, school bags, water bottles and bottle lids will close on Friday 15th March and will reopen after the Easter holiday. Uniform orders through Brigade clothing will remain open.

Outstanding payments

Where possible, please make any outstanding payments by Friday 15th March – this will really help our end of year financial processes, thank you.



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Staff News

We will be saying good bye, good luck and thank you to Mrs Miles at the end of this term as she leaves High Firs after 12 years as part of our TA team. We wish her well in her next adventures.

Special Mentions

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

- Rania C – for settling in well & trying hard with her learning.
- Esme B – her enthusiasm in all her learning.
- Emma B – her lovely writing about lions.
- Julia R – trying really hard in lessons.
- Robert L – working hard to use his sounds when writing independently.
- Jack W – his good progress and enthusiasm in reading.
- Morgan J – increase in effort during creative writing.
- Rebecca B – her increased confidence in contributing to class discussions and her great performance in the class assembly.
- Thomas H – great maths skills.
- Isabella O – thoughtful answers in all lessons this week.
- Ellie R – fantastic understanding of fractions in maths.
- Evie T – excellent work in computing using micro-bits.
- Laquisha MD – trying her best in all lessons this week.
- Amy V – working hard, particularly in Maths and English.
- Sienna G – a fantastic non-chronological report about the Galapagos Islands.
- Liam S – working really hard in all lessons and trying his best.



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 99.3%

Year 6 98.9%

Year 3 97.6%

Year 2 97.4%

Year 1 94.4%

Year 5 91.9%

Year R 90.4%



THIS WEEK'S LEARNING

In our classes this week

Reception – learned the features of the Gruffalo.

Year 1 – wrote facts about lions.

Year 2 – compared and ordered heights and lengths.

Year 3 – learned to make a cuboid from a net.

Year 4 – coded micro-bits to test temperature, sound and light.

Year 5 – investigated irreversible reactions.

Year 6 – published non-chronological reports about the Galapagos Islands using computers.

HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	221	1329	Jessica YR; Michael Y5
CHESTNUT	209	1788	Esme-Jayne YR; Lily Y5
OAK	171	1385	Teddy Y2; Daisy Y5
ASH	174	1576	Francis YR; Poppy Y5



INSET DAYS

Fri 24th May 2024

Mon 1 July 2024

Coming up next week...

Mon 11th Mar – Fri 15th Mar – Science Week

Mon 11th-Wed 13th Mar – Y6 Bikeability

Tue 12th Mar – Y5/6 District Cross Country at new Barn Park from 1pm

Thu 14th Mar – Y2 Class Assembly at 10.10am

Thu 14th Mar- Wed 20th Mar- Book Fair after school in hall

Fri 15th Mar – Comic Relief cake sale after school in hall



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SEN COFFEE MORNING

Come along to our SEN Coffee Morning - everyone is welcome whether they have a child on our SEN register or just want to find out more...

**Thursday
21st March
at 9am**

There will be coffee and chat, along with the chance to ask any questions you may have about our provision. We will also be welcoming a representative from BEAMS to talk about the support they can offer.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



COMIC RELIEF

RED NOSE DAY

Friday 15th March

For Comic Relief 2024, High Firs are having a Bake Off!

THE GREAT COMIC RELIEF BAKE OFF

If you would like to take part, please bring your baked entry into school on Friday 15th March.

These could be a cake, cookies, bread, cupcakes - be creative! The entries will be judged by school staff and school council! Then at the end of the school day, the cakes will be sold to raise some money for Comic Relief. Bakes could be Red Nose Day themed, but they don't have to be. Please note, we do not have space to store anything in the fridge so your bake will need to be stored at room temperature.

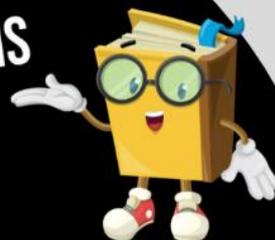


Children are also invited to wear something red or a red nose day t-shirt (alongside school uniform) on Friday 15th March. You could also wear a red nose!

**THURSDAY 14th MARCH to
WEDS 20TH MARCH 3.15pm**

BOOK FAIR

**THE BOOK FAIR IS
COMING!**



Made with PosterMyNet.com



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#Stay Safe
Get Active

Got to drive?

Park and stride!

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

The banner features a blue top section with a white shield containing the text '#Stay Safe' and 'Get Active' above icons of a person walking, a person on a bicycle, and a person on a skateboard. Below this is a yellow section with a white border containing the text 'Got to drive?' and 'Park and stride!' with icons of a car and a family walking. The bottom section is dark blue with white text.



No Parking

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

... and please show consideration
to our neighbours.

MY SCHOOL

The illustration shows a blue car parked on a street in front of a school building. A red 'No Parking' sign is on the car. A yellow 'No stopping' sign and a green 'MY SCHOOL' sign are on the sidewalk. A group of diverse children and an adult are walking on the sidewalk. The sky is blue with a sun and clouds.



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March 2024

High Firs Primary School

FOCUS ON: Geography

There are some exciting lessons being taught this term in Geography. From monitoring Geography this term there is evidence that a range of skills has been taught. Displays in classrooms and activity area showed the children's learning journey. As part of my monitoring, I was lucky enough to be able to spend some time in Year 4 and Year 5 finding out about their current topics. It was lovely to see such enthusiasm from the children about their learning. It was also a pleasure to spend time talking to the children about their lessons and what they enjoy about Geography. It was clear that the children have enjoyed their topics so far and have learnt a lot.

Curriculum overview:

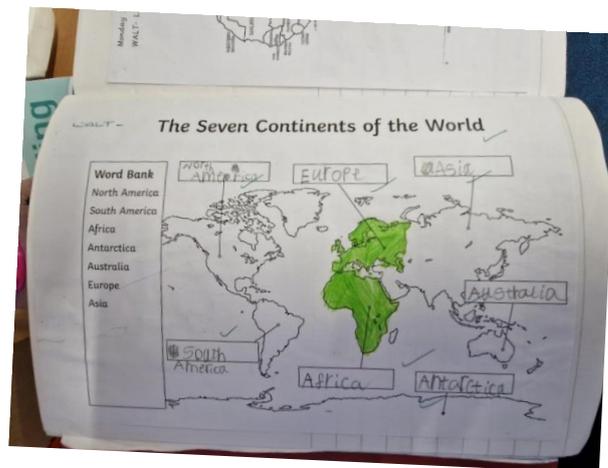
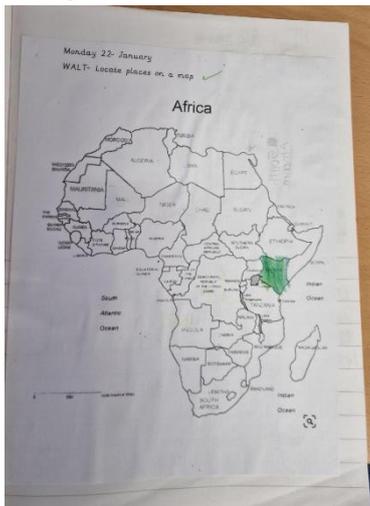
This term the children in each year are learning:

Reception:

Reception are learning about their immediate environment.

Year 1:

Year one are enjoying learning about the continent of Africa. They are focussing on Kenya and finding out what life is like there compared to life in England. They are really enjoying finding out about African animals and life in the Savannah.



Year 2:

Year 2 really enjoyed learning about the different continents and oceans of the world. They were able to learn lots about Antarctica and what animals are found there. They also compared what it is like in the North and South Pole.



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Year 3:

Year 3 will be studying the United Kingdom. They will be learning to locate and label UK cities and seas on a map. They will also learn how to use 8 compass points to find and describe a location on a UK map.

Year 4:

Year 4 really enjoyed their topic on Volcanoes. They were able to recognise where volcanoes can be found and learnt about how and why earthquakes happen. They were able to use terminology related to volcanoes and earthquakes and understand the structure of the earth and plate tectonics. They have now moved on to study Italy this term.



Year 5:

Year 5 have enjoyed learning about mountains. They were able to locate key mountain ranges of the world and describe a mountainous climate. They were able to identify a valley and the summit, foot and slope of a mountain. They also were able to explain how different types of mountains are formed. Year 5 are now looking forward to developing their map skills.

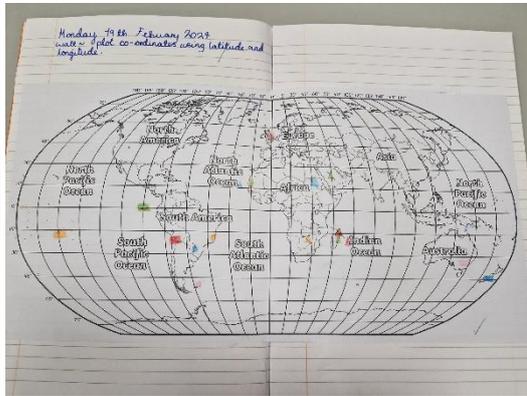


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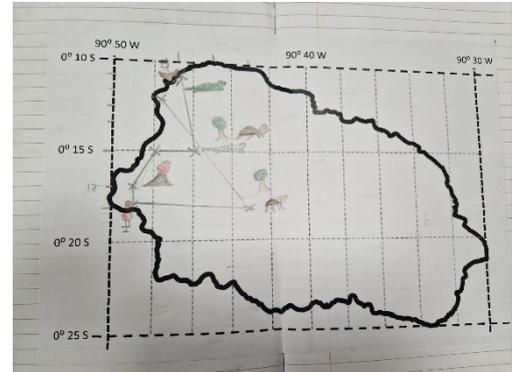


Year 6

Year 6 have been enjoying completing work on The Voyage of HMS Beagle. The children were able to locate South America on a map and have been learning about latitude and longitude. The children were able to explore the differences between the Falkland Islands and the Galapagos Islands. They enjoyed finding out about Darwin's discoveries in the Galapagos Islands.



●	Plymouth, England	50°37'50" N, 4°14'27" W
●	Tenerife, Canary Islands	28°23'10" N, 16°6'29" W
●	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	22°9'68" S, 43°17'25" W
●	Montevideo, Uruguay	34°9'55" S, 56°18'51" W
●	Stanley, Falkland Islands	51°49'28" S, 57°46'20" W
●	Valparaiso, Chile	33°04'21" S, 71°41'27" W
●	Fernandina, Galapagos Islands	0°41'24" S, 91°48'21" W
●	Tahiti, French Polynesia	17°45'09" S, 149°42'60" W
●	Wellington, New Zealand	41°29'24" S, 174°7'787" E
●	Sydney, Australia	33°45'48" S, 151°20'93" E
●	Maputius, Africa	20°34'48" S, 27°55'22" E
●	Antananarivo, Madagascar	18°31'85" S, 47°52'11" E
●	Cape Town, South Africa	33°52'49" S, 18°42'41" E
●	Cape Verde, Africa	16°53'88" N, 23°04'18" W



Aims for Geography:

1. To embed the use of knowledge organisers in Geography:

Knowledge organisers have been proved extremely beneficial to the children's learning where we have used them in other subjects such as Science. We are now starting to use them for Geography. They are a good way of introducing a new topic as well as recapping previous learning a way. They are also useful for teaching children new vocabulary. The children can refer back to them throughout the topic.

2. To develop Geography fieldwork and enquiry skills throughout the school:

Although the children enjoy their Geography lessons, we are always looking of new ways to make the lessons even more interesting for them. An aim for Geography this year is to try and encourage more practical fieldwork lessons and get out and about in the local area. Once the weather improves we are looking forward to using the school grounds and local area to complete our fieldwork studies. We will also be looking at developing ways of recording fieldwork in the form of photos, drawings, charts and graphs.



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