



22nd March 2024

# High Firs Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

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### Message from Mr Kilbride

It has been another packed week full of exciting events and great learning as the Spring Term draws to a close.

Your generosity over the past couple of weeks has been humbling, as our inaugural Comic Relief Bake-Off cake sale raised over £280. Congratulations to Freya Sutton and Bethanie Law, who were the respective KS1 and KS2 winners.

Approximately £400 was spent at the book fair, meaning that once vouchers were taken off, our classes were funded to purchase books to a value of £240 for the school library. Happy reading everyone!

Parent Consultation meetings were really well attended throughout the week - I hope you found the opportunity to learn about your child(ren)'s progress to be informative and useful moving forwards.

Our mixed Y6 football team went to Dartford FC on Wednesday and finished third out of five small schools' teams to take part. In 8 matches, they won two and drew two games and have won through to a finals day to be held on the main Dartford FC pitch in their stadium in May. Well done to Benjamin and Harry who scored our goals.

We enjoyed a super turnout of over 20 parents to our first SEN coffee morning, which provided the opportunity to hear from speakers detailing our own SEN provision and also speakers from BEAMS in Swanley, who shared information about how to access some of their great facilities and resources. Additionally, the chance for people to come together and share experiences in a supportive environment was welcomed by those in attendance. I am sure that this event has set the blueprint for similar future coffee mornings in the terms ahead.

We saw a great variety of characters in our dressing up for book day celebrations on Tuesday. Classes all had the chance to view each other's efforts during assembly. On Wednesday, teachers rotated round to read a story with a different class and Y5 and Y6 children enjoyed going to visit children in Reception and Year 1 for some more shared story time.

There is no let-up next week, as Y3 venture off to Kent Life Museum for a Viking day on Monday, interhouse football and tri-golf competitions take place on Tuesday and Wednesday alongside our annual Easter Egg hunt on Wednesday - many thanks to FHF for purchasing the eggs - and finally our Easter Hat and Headwear parade to be held at the end of the day on Thursday, the last day of term.



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Thank you so much to everyone who made or donated cakes for our High Firs Comic Relief bake off!

We received so many cakes that we had three after school cake sales and in total, we have raised an incredible **£280.43** for Comic Relief!

**Winners:**

For KS1 - Freya S in Year 1

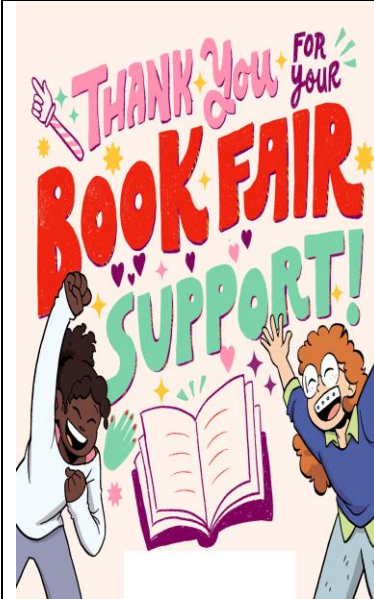
For KS2 - Bethanie L in Year 5



**SEN Coffee Morning**

We had a fantastic turnout for our very first SEN Coffee Morning – thank you to everyone who came. We are very much hoping to hold future events and would really like to hear your feedback on this – whether you attended this time or not!

Please complete the form at:  
<https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/sencoffeemorning>



We raised £37 per class to spend on new books and donated £150 of vouchers to our pupils - **THANK YOU!**

**Register Rabbit**

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

**RECEPTION**

**YEAR 3**

Our class totals were:

Year 3: 98% Year 6: 97%

Year 4: 94.8% Year 5: 94.6%

Rec: 93% Year 2: 92.6% Year 1: 90%

**THIS WEEK'S LEARNING**

**In our classes this week**

Reception – learned what makes 10!

Year 1 – measured mass.

Year 2 – acted our instructions for “How to catch a star”.

Year 3 – investigated opaque, translucent & transparent materials.

Year 4 – learned about the poet, John Lyon.

Year 5 – set off film-canister rockets!

Year 6 – explored different books & wrote a book wish list.



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This year we are inviting all our children to take part in our **Hat and Headwear Parade** on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** and we hope parents will come along to watch – gates will open at 2.40pm for the Parade to start at 2.45pm. Children are invited to make at home a hat or item of other headware on a Spring or Easter theme and bring this along on the day to wear for the occasion. You could make bunny ears, a bonnet, crown, headband... whatever you like on the Spring or Easter theme!

### Coming up next week...

Monday 25 March  
Yr3 Viking Day at Kent Life

Weds 27 March  
Spring Trail – all classes during school time  
7.30pm – FHF Meeting: all welcome

Thursday 28 March  
2.45pm – Easter / Spring Hat and Headwear Parade  
3.15pm – End of Term



We will be holding our annual Spring Trail on Wednesday. Each class will have a chance to take part and each child will receive a chocolate prize for completing the trail! Thank you to FHF for providing the prizes. (Dietary requirements will be met.)



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# Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education  
Registered Charity No. 1137633

President: Mr A Kilbride  
Chairman: Sam Officer  
Deputy Chair: Sam Taylor  
Secretary: Rachel Lee  
Treasurer: Theresa Kelleher  
Safety Officer: Mark Barnes  
Other trustees: Jo Roper  
Sarah Simmonds  
Laura Mauldon



Court Crescent  
Swanley  
Kent  
BR8 8NR



## **SPRING DISCO** **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

All children are invited to the 'Spring Disco' on Wednesday 17th April 2024. Ticket prices are £3.00 each or for families with 2 or more children at the school, a family ticket for £5.00 can be purchased.

School water bottles will remain onsite after school for refreshments during the event.

**The KS1 Disco starts at 5.00pm and ends at 6.00pm**

**The KS2 Disco starts at 6.15pm and ends at 7.15pm**

If you would like to attend please complete the slip below and return it to school with the correct money in an envelope clearly marked "Spring Disco" via your child no later than Thursday 28th March 2024.

Please remember to drop your children off at the main door  
and to collect them from the rear doors of the main hall, thank you

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I would like my child/ren to attend the Spring Disco

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: £\_\_\_\_\_ (£3.00 per ticket or £5 for a family ticket)

Emergency Contact Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(All emergency contact details **must** be supplied as The Friends do not have access to these details via the school office, they will be shredded after the event).

Any Medical Conditions or Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are able and would like to help at the Disco please tick the relevant box below:**

I am able to help at the KS1 Disco 5 - 6pm ☐

I am able to help at the KS2 Disco 6.15 - 7.15pm ☐

My Name is: \_\_\_\_\_ My Contact Tel No.: \_\_\_\_\_



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February 2024

# High Firs Primary School

## Focus on Phonics

Welcome to the Phonics newsletter!

The aim of the newsletter is to provide you with:

- ❖ Information about our phonics scheme.
- ❖ To share how the sessions, operate in Reception class and KS1 across the week in school.
- ❖ To find out how the scheme supports children in KS2, who require some revision.

Understanding the phonemes (sounds) letters make is an essential part of the reading process and helping your child at home will be of great benefit to them.

Mrs L. Everest (Year Reception Teacher and Phonics Leader)

### Phonics



#### Overview

- Term by term progression of GPCs (Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence).
- Organised so that children are taught from the simple to more complex GPCs plus tricky words.
- All the graphemes taught are practised in words, sentences, and later on, in fully decodable books.
- Review and revise GPCs and words, daily, weekly and across terms and years, in order to move this knowledge into their long-term memory.
- Children need to learn to read as quickly as reasonably possible, so they can move from learning to read, to reading to learn.
- Our expectations of progression are aspirational yet achievable - pace, practice and participation by all children.
- Children who are not keeping-up with their peers will be given additional practice immediately through keep-up sessions.

#### Phonics Terminology

**Phonemes:** The sounds that are found within a word.

**Grapheme:** The way we write down a sound.

**Digraph:** Two letters that make one sound.

**Trigraph:** Three letters that make one sound.

**Blending:** Seeing a word and merging the phonemes together to read the word.

**Segmenting:** Chopping up a word into separate phonemes to spell it out.

**Tricky words:** Words that cannot be decoded.

**Spelling:** Writing words using the correct letters in the right order to be read by others.



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## Phonics Phases focussed on so far in Reception.

### Autumn 1

	Phase 2 graphemes	New tricky words
Week 1	s a t p	
Week 2	i n m d	
Week 3	g o c k	is
Week 4	ck e u r	I
Week 5	h b f l	the

### Autumn 2

	Phase 2 graphemes	New tricky words
Week 1	ff ll ss j	put* pull* full* as
Week 2	v w x y	and has his her
Week 3	z zz qu words with s /s/ added at the end (hats sits) ch	go no to into
Week 4	sh th ng nk	she push* he of
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>words with s /s/ added at the end (hats sits)</li> <li>words ending s /z/ (his) and with s /z/ added at the end (bags)</li> </ul>	we me be

\*The tricky words: 'put', 'pull', 'full' and 'push' may not be tricky in some regional pronunciations; in which case, they should not be treated as such.

### Spring 1

	Phase 3 graphemes	New tricky words
Week 1	ai ee igh oa	
Week 2	oo oo ar or	was you they
Week 3	ur ow oi ear	my by all
Week 4	air er words with double letters: dd mm tt bb rr gg pp ff	are sure pure
Week 5	longer words	

### Spring 2

	Phase 3 graphemes	No new tricky words
Week 1	review Phase 3: ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur oo ow oi ear	Review all taught so far Secure spelling
Week 2	review Phase 3: er air words with double letters longer words	
Week 3	words with two or more digraphs	
Week 4	longer words words ending in -ing compound words	
Week 5	longer words words with s in the middle /z/ s words ending -s words with -es at end /z/	



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# Termly Assessments

- All children are tested 1:1.
- Must know a given number of phonemes.
- Must be able to read a given amount of words.
- Keep up sessions provided to fill the gaps.

Autumn 1

m	a	p	c	o
s	g	k	u	h
i	t	n	r	f
d	ck	e	b	l

sat	man	hug	red	peck
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## Aims for Phonics

**Regular assessments and adaptations made to ensure targeted daily keep-up sessions are taught to high effect.**

We regularly assess the children to ensure all children are on track and taught any gaps that are highlighted as a focus from their assessments.

**Rapid Catch-Up groups run regularly to high effect.**

In KS2 children who have been identified through their assessments have rapid catch-up sessions to close any gaps in their phonics knowledge

**Little Wandle has been extremely successful and going forward we are confident that this will continue.**



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March 2024

# High Firs Primary School

## FOCUS ON: Science



### Science Week

This year, to celebrate British Science Week, we worked together to create some new planets. Each class had a different part of the planet to create from its weather, to its animals and the transport that would be used to move around the planet.



Reception looked at what existing planets looked like. They then used this to design how our new planets would look. They also gave our planets names!



Year 1 thought about the seasons and weather we have here on Earth.



They then used this knowledge to create new seasons for our planets.

In Year 2, the children looked at different types of habitats. Thinking about the seasons created by Year 1, they then designed different habitats for our new planets.



Year 3 considered the food chains on our planets. They thought about what types of animals are in a food chain to then design their own animals and food chains.



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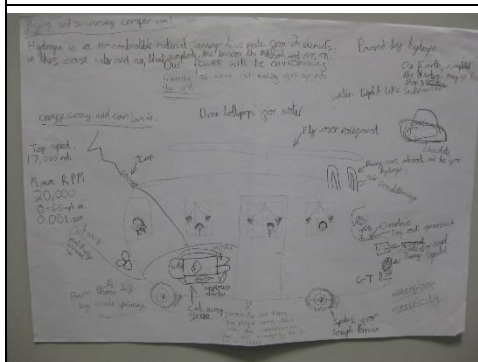
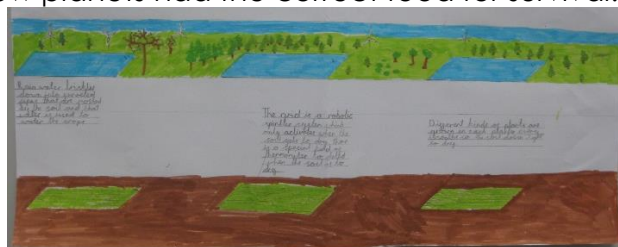
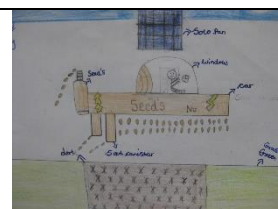


In Year 4, the children focussed on the plant life on our new planets.

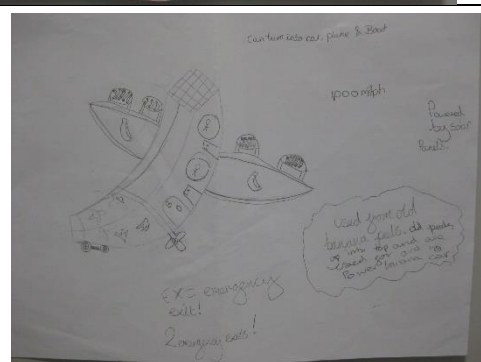
They needed to consider how the plants would survive in their habitats and how they would use seed dispersal to ensure they would survive.



Year 5 became farmers! To make sure farming is eco friendly on our new planets, they looked into different ways to stop farming damaging the environment. They also thought about what types of farms would be needed to ensure our new planets had the correct food for survival.



Year 6s had the job of designing new transportation for our planets. Again, they needed to think carefully about their designs to ensure the transport won't damage the environment on our new planet. They looked at innovative ways we are using renewable fuel sources on Earth to inspire their designs.



## This year's focus in Science

This year, we are really keen to develop children's independence in investigations. We carry out lots of exciting experiments in our different classes but we want children to recognise the investigative skills that they have and are continuing to develop. Our aim is that by Year 6, children are able to confidently carry out a scientific investigation to answer a question they want to answer.



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