



28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# High Firs Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

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

Email: [office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@high-firs.kent.sch.uk) Website: [www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk)

## Message from Mr Kilbride

We end the Spring Term today, marking the point where we are two thirds of the way through the academic year - I can scarcely believe that time is passing that quickly!

It has been a really hectic but productive term - always a term where lots of progress is made, as children are well settled into their classes - and this has been evident to me through recent parent consultation meetings, pupil progress meetings with teachers and in reporting on progress to the governors. Nothing makes me more proud than a school community full of hard working children and teachers, getting results and reward for their endeavours.

Year 3 had a lovely Viking experience on Monday this week at Kent Life, where they were praised for their excellent behaviour and engagement - well done Year 3 for representing the school so brilliantly.

Year 2 had their final swimming lesson on Wednesday - they have made so much progress over the term and are really growing in confidence and technique. Their next turn will be when they are in Year 4 - and it is the current Year 4 who will be beginning their term of swimming after the Easter holidays.

Year 3 and 6 end their Forest School term this week too - when I asked some of the Year 6 children why they enjoyed Forest School recently, they told me that they like feeling closer to nature and they enjoy listening to the birds. The opportunity through Forest School for children of all ages to learn and play together is a really valuable developmental experience which we are committed to continuing to provide - seeing the well-being benefit, the independence, the social skills development and the acquisition of real-life experience that is fostered through Forest School and built upon further through their learning in the classroom.

Interhouse sports results are below in full - this week KS1 took part in Trigolf challenges and KS2 had football competitions. Oak were the KS1 winners and Beech KS2 - congratulations to all who took part in some really fun competitive sport in school this week.

Children had great fun on Wednesday morning completing the Spring Trail challenge for a chocolate prize - thank you to Miss Rennie for organising and to the Friends for providing the prizes.

As I write, we anticipate a fun afternoon of parading Easter and Spring hats/head wear. Judging by the school gate this morning, it should be quite a spectacle at the end of term.

I wish you all a lovely Easter holiday - stay safe and I hope that you return fully rested for the Summer Term.

**Have a wonderful holiday!**  
**We look forward to seeing the children back at school on MONDAY 15TH APRIL.**



## Just Bin It!

As part of our commitment to the local environment, all the children are invited to participate in this year's Swanley District Council "Just Bin It!" poster competition. The children are bringing home their blank entry today, which they can complete using either pencil, pen or paint, to encourage others to use bins for rubbish rather than just being dropped. The overall winning poster chosen by the council will be displayed throughout the parish. The children should return their completed entries to school by **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**. Please remember to write your child's name, age and school on the back!



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## Interhouse Sports Results:

### Overall:

KS1 Trigolf		KS2 football	
Oak	122	Beech	58
Ash	120	Ash	48
Beech	91	Chestnut	48
Chestnut	78	Oak	38

### Classes within KS2:

Y3		Y4		Y5		Y6	
Beech	16	Beech	14	Beech	18	Ash	18
Chestnut	14	Ash	12	Chestnut	14	Oak	10
Oak	10	Oak	12	Ash	10	Beech	10
Ash	6	Chestnut	10	Oak	6	Chestnut	10

## Reading Swaps

As part of our Book Week events our Year 6 and Reception children enjoyed some time reading together!



## Book Character & Pyjama Day

It was lovely to see so many of our children dressed up as favourite book characters or ready for some bedtime reading last Tuesday! Can you tell who we were?



### Register Rabbit

This week we presented our Attendance Awards for the Spring Term. Congratulations to **YEAR 2** and **YEAR 6** who were our overall Key Stage winners and who will celebrate with a celebration day next term.

Our class totals were:

Rec – 91.5%	Year 3 – 96.8%
Year 1 – 91.6%	Year 4 – 96.4%
Year 2 – 94.4%	Year 5 – 95.5%
	Year 6 – 97.5%

### In our classes this week

- Reception – learned about doubles.
- Year 1 – solved addition problems.
- Year 2 – presented their own TV news reports of the Moon Landing.
- Year 3 – enjoyed their fantastic Viking Day at Kent Life.
- Year 4 – learned about the dangers to environments.
- Year 5 – learned how maps can show change.
- Year 6 – made cam toys in DT.



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## HOUSE POINTS

**CONGRATULATIONS CHESTNUT – HOUSE POINT WINNERS FOR THE SPRING TERM!**

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1620</b>	Robert L, Korlekie A
<b>CHESTNUT</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>2098</b>	Mason B, Bella O, Annie-Grace G
<b>OAK</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1677</b>	Jack W, Amy V
<b>ASH</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>1857</b>	Lenny G, Jacob G

### Special Mentions

Well done to all of our children who received a Special Mention and certificate from their teacher in assembly today in recognition of their efforts over the Spring Term –

- Bobbi H – always trying her best and being a kind and helpful friend to everyone.
- Billy D – making huge progress in all his learning and especially in his reading.
- Mikey K – working hard in all lessons; Mikey has also worked hard to improve his writing.
- Hannah N – giving 100% to her learning, being hardworking and enthusiastic.
- Sabiha M – her commitment to learning in all areas of the curriculum.
- Joshua C – his commitment to learning in all areas of the curriculum.
- Darcie D – being an excellent role model by consistently following our school values.
- Danny B – being an excellent role model by consistently following our school values.
- Josue PV – improvement in all areas of his learning.
- Smilte M – always doing her best.
- Alyah E – always working hard and trying her best, particularly in Maths.
- Grace F – her determination to improve her writing throughout this term.
- Baraa R – consistent hard work to improve in all areas of the curriculum and especially with writing.
- Belle Z – working hard across the curriculum, always listening to feedback to improve her work and always being enthusiastic about her learning.



### INSET DAYS

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

### Coming up...

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Break**

#### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Start of Summer Term

No school clubs this week – FOSC BC & ASC are running as usual

#### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April

Yr4 starting swimming lessons – collect from White Oak

5pm to 6pm – FHF KS1 Spring Disco

6.15pm to 7.15pm – FHF KS2 Spring Disco



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# Computing Newsletter

## Spring 2024



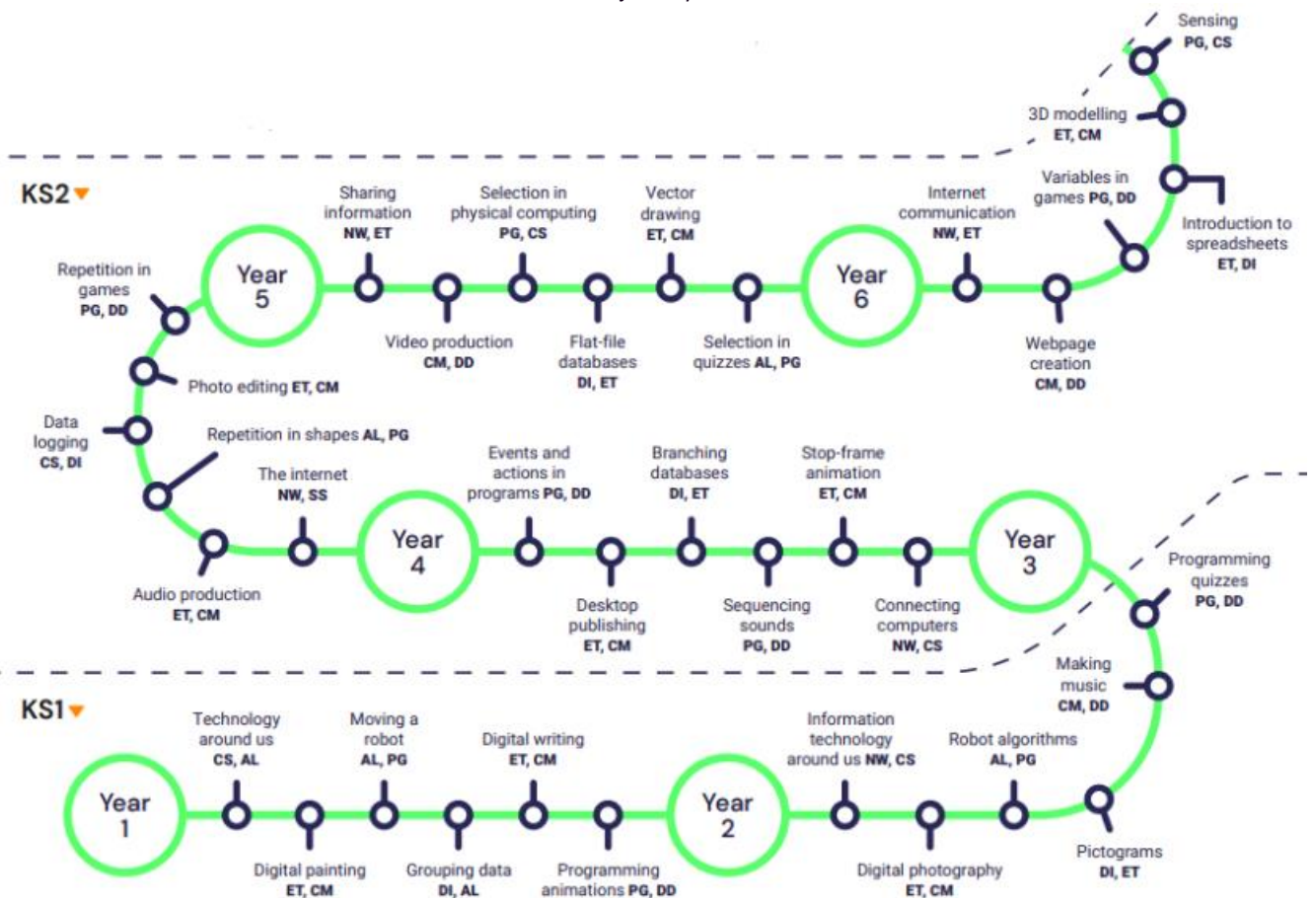
### Computing at High Firs.

Last year we purchased a class set of Chromebooks which has enabled us to teach computing in the classroom rather than have a designated ICT suite. After we purchased these we began to steadily implement a new curriculum to work alongside the use of the Chromebooks. A big focus in computing this year is to fully embed the new curriculum and to monitor the impact of this on the progress in computing across our school.

Our curriculum is known as teach computing and it is designed by the national centre for computing education and it is based around a progression framework where computing content has been organised into interconnected units.

Our next step is to use Google classroom to aid the delivery of our computing lessons and to help us to assess the children's progress.

The teach curriculum journey is shown below:



This term all of our units focus on data handling. Our units will include pictogram in year 2, data logging in year 4 and spreadsheets in year 6



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# Safer Internet Day

In school we recently celebrated Safer Internet Day. Mr Kilbride presented a whole school assembly to introduce the theme and shared the importance of staying safe on the internet. Each class then completed activities in class which included making posters and watching a BBC live lesson. This day is important as it brings a big focus on internet safety but the children also learn about this during their computing lessons and also in PSHE. Another of our targets this year is to review our children's knowledge on internet safety regularly through our discrete teaching of internet safety. Here are some internet safety tips that can be used to support you in helping your child to stay safe on the internet.

SIMPLY EDUCATION

# TOP TIPS FOR INTERNET SAFETY



LEARN ABOUT PARENTAL CONTROLS AVAILABLE ON YOUR DEVICES AND BY YOUR NETWORK PROVIDERS



MANAGE CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AND FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN, SIT WITH THEM WHILE THEY'RE ON IT



HELP YOUR CHILD EXPLORE THE INTERNET AND SHOW THEM SAFE PLACES TO LEARN AND HAVE FUN



CHAT WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT PERSONAL INFORMATION AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO SHARE THIS ONLINE



TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT WHAT IS APPROPRIATE AND INAPPROPRIATE TO SHARE ONLINE



CONSIDER INSTALLING A 'SAFE SEARCH ENGINE' FOR CHILDREN. FOR EXAMPLE KIDTOPIA ONLY SHOWS EDUCATOR APPROVED WEBSITES.

## What is new in computing

Last term we were very lucky to receive a class set of 30 BBC micro:bits. The BBC has designed a small, smart computer to teach primary school children about computing.

The smart, pocket-sized computer has been designed to inspire children to explore, create and learn using real code and can be used for teaching computing across the curriculum. Its goal is to make coding fun, creative and exciting for pupils and teachers alike. I recently visited Miss Allin's coding club and used these with the children. It helped me to test them out before other classes in the school get to use them in their computing sessions!

