



3rd May 2024

High Firs Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mr Kilbride

A busy week flies by once again! Thank you to Mr Johnson, parent and tennis coach, who gave up his time to come in and provide extra tennis tuition to Y3 over the past two Mondays – they really enjoyed the sessions and were kept super active. Our Tuesday cricket sessions are proving a hit this term too with Mr Sharma from Kent Cricket coming in to work with Years 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Another Times Tables rockstars assembly this Thursday saw Ellie from Year 4 come to the front to try and beat the teacher – she scored a superb 26 in one minute – not quite winning, but one of our top pupil scores for Year 4. Keep encouraging your children to practise regularly – they are now earning house points when we can see on the system that they have reached a certain amount of time spent practising.

Thank you for bearing with us yesterday, as we relocated Year 1 to the hall in order to make way for their classroom to be used as a Polling Station in the Local Elections. I know this made things more challenging at drop off and pick up, but the success is that we managed to keep the school open and continue education for all, with minimal disruption to the school day for the vast majority of pupils. There may well be another two occasions where we are asked to be re-organised in this way for elections before the calendar year is out.

Please take the time to study the list Miss Rennie has added overleaf for donations that can be repurposed as play equipment. I recommend that you watch the linked video to get a flavour of the play experiences we are seeking to emulate here at High Firs – the adage is that play is not what children do in between the learning – rather, it is the space in which they learn what cannot be taught. We look forward to receiving your donations over the coming weeks.

If you have not booked yet, please book in for our Open Morning 9-10 next Thursday, where we will be show-casing to existing school community members our approach to the development of creative writing – cognitively, the most complex activity we require of children at school: <https://www.high-firs.kent.sch.uk/openmorning>

Year 4 look forward to their trip to The Horniman Museum on Tuesday next week, which of course will be the first school day of the week owing to Monday's Bank Holiday. Have a terrific time this weekend, dodging the showers!



CANCELLED – Park and Stride

Please note there will be NO Park and Stride next Tuesday or Wednesday. This is due to the proposed roadworks at our Goldsel Road / Discovery Drive drop-off and collection point, which we have been told will be in place until the half-term break. As we are unable to assess the impact and associated risks of continuing to run Park and Stride until the roadworks are actually in situ we will need to undertake checks and risk assessments once they are in place early next week. We will then advise parents on Wednesday whether or not we are able to offer Park and Stride for the remainder of the duration of the works.

Friends of High Firs Primary School Association

Supporting Our Children's Education
Registered Charity No. 1137633

Our Family Bingo Night is taking place on Friday 17th May from 6pm until 8pm. Tickets are £5 per adult per book (free child entry comes without a book, but tickets will need to be booked to allocate seating). Please return the slip from last week's newsletter along with cash payment **by Wednesday 15th May**. We hope that you will join us for an evening which is fun for all ages, with prizes to be won!



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Can you help us to make the most of our playtimes?

We are exploring ways of promoting play at lunchtimes by increasing the free-choice play opportunities on offer to our children so it's not all just bats and balls! Miss Rennie and Mrs Kumah visited another Kent school last week for lots of ideas – the video of what they saw was shared with the children in assembly and you can watch it here:

<https://www.hernhill.kent.sch.uk/OPAL-Outdoor-Play-Learning/>

This week children in all our classes have already enjoyed exploring and

playing with cardboard boxes, sheets, tubes, straws, logs.... Have you got any unwanted items at home in good condition that we could use for free play? We are looking for...



- *large cardboard boxes*
- *large cardboard tubes (for mailing posters / carpet inners etc – not kitchen rolls!)*
- *bedsheets / curtains*
- *cable reels*
- *“Umbrella fold” buggies (real ones not for dolls!)*
- *crutches / zimmer frames*
- *tarps / ground sheets*
- *dressing up / hats – child or adult!*
- *drainpipes / guttering*
- *suitcases*
- *crates*
- *mixing bowls / jugs / sieves (plastic or metal, please – no china or glass)*
- *saucepans / frying pans*
- *Kitchen utensils – large spoons / ladles / spatulas etc (no knives or forks!)*
- *old household phones (not mobiles)*
- *wallpaper*
- *large plastic bottles*
- *small paddling pools / sandpits*
- *Tuff trays*
- *Astroturf*

We will be collecting items at the gate all next week so please bring your donations in – please ensure they are in good condition and safe for our children to use. If you have any queries then please ask Mrs Kumah or Mr Kilbride on the gate.



Restart a Heart – Community Defibrillator

Did you know we have a Community “Restart a Heart” Defibrillator available at school? This can be removed from site in the case of an emergency and is available at all times during school hours. Other local sites can also be found at <https://www.defibfinder.uk/> A defibrillator can be used under 999 direction when someone is experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). Symptoms of this are immediate and drastic and include:

- No breathing, or gasping noises paired with abnormal breathing.
- Unresponsive.
- Unconscious.
- No pulse.

In our classes this week

Reception – learned to use a magnifying glass.
Year 1 – compared garden and wild plants by observing around the school site.
Year 2 – learned how we change as we grow up.
Year 3 – are enjoying writing their own stories inspired by “Arthur and the Golden Rope”.
Year 4 – learned to create a watercolour wash to paint an Egyptian sunset.
Year 5 – compared the climate of Greece to that of the UK.
Year 6 – designed a new invertebratep



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Special Mentions

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

- Bobbi H – trying really hard with her Maths.
- Joel C – for his independent writing.
- Logan G – working hard & trying his best in phonics.
- Brook Barnes – working really hard and & improving her reading
- William B – his independent use of phonics when writing a dragon fact file.
- Lowen P – his detailed and entertaining diary entry.
- Edy O – his enthusiasm for learning in all subjects.
- Beatrice J – trying really hard to upgrade her writing.
- Henry F – great improvement and effort in his writing this week.
- Clark R-W – fabulous letters written in French.
- Logan T-G – fabulous letters written in French.
- Selena L – working hard in Reading.
- Miraculous K – working hard in Maths.
- Tunde O – trying so hard with his swimming.
- Beatrice G – fantastic letter writing in French.
- Connie R – fantastic letter writing in French.
- Mabel R – an incredible model rainforest (with sound!).
- Liam S – fantastic work on his story based on 'The Explorer'.



Register Rabbit



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

YEAR R

YEAR 6

Our class totals were:

Year 6 100%

Year 6 98.5%

Year 5 94.8%

Year 1 94.3%

Year 3 94%

Year 2 93.3%

Year 4 92.7%

HOUSE POINTS

	This Week	Term Total	Top Scorers this week
BEECH	163	479	Joshua Y2, Connie Y5
CHESTNUT	178	553	Bobbi YR, Honey, Grace and Alfie Y5
OAK	166	497	Kaylee Y2, Lacey Y6
ASH	207	549	Florence YR, Jack B Y6



INSET DAYS

Fri 24th May 2024

Mon 1st July 2024

Coming up next week...

Monday 6th May

Bank Holiday – school closed

Tuesday 7th May

Year 4 trip to The Horniman Museum

Thursday 9th May

Open Morning 9am – 10am (pre-booking required)

Friday 10th May

Year 2 Small Steps session



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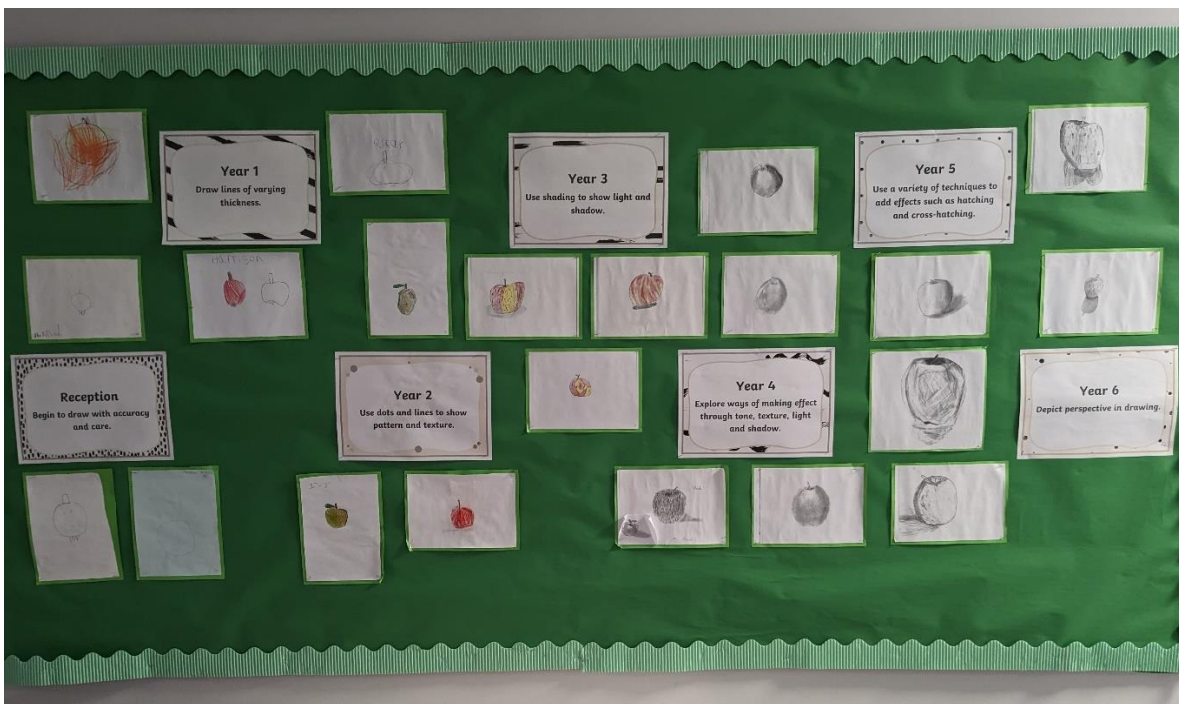
Art Newsletter

Updates:

This year in Art at High Firs, we are focussing on developing assessment strategies including self-assessment. One of the ways we have introduced self-assessment during Art is to have 'Gallery Time'. This involves allowing children and the teacher time to walk around the classroom looking at their classmates artwork. Focussed questions will have been shared, for the children to consider whilst viewing the artwork. Pupils have found 'Gallery Time' an enjoyable and useful tool in which to reflect upon their artwork.

Curriculum Learning Journey:

It is wonderful to see the progression in art made by the children throughout their High Firs journey. This progression is highlighted by a display outside the Year 2 classroom. It shows an Art Curriculum Learning Journey of drawing skills. All children in the school drew an apple. The development of drawing skills is great to see!



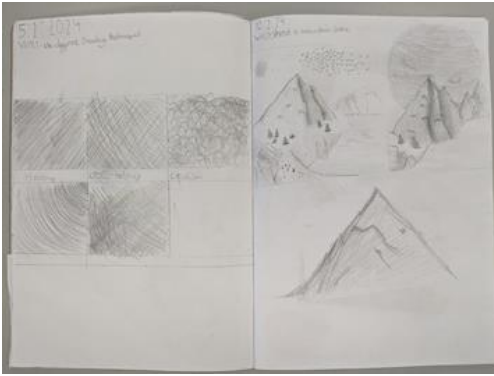
Pupil Voice:

The subject leader has carried out Pupil interviews with some of the Key Stage 2 children in which it was evident that they really enjoyed the Art topics that they have done and were extremely proud of their Sketchbooks.



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Topics

Reception & KS1:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
<p>Terms 1 & 2, Terms 3 & 4, Terms 5 & 6:</p> <p>Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing. Children safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture. Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.</p>	<p>Terms 1 & 2: Portraits</p> <p>Terms 3 & 4: Fabricate (Link with Africa topic)</p> <p>Term 5 & 6: Landscapes and cityscapes (Link with Great Fire of London)</p>	<p>Terms 1 & 2: Colour Chaos</p> <p>Terms 3 & 4: Miro</p> <p>Term 5 & 6: Nature Sculptures</p>

KS2:

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<p>Terms 1 & 2: Stonehenge (Drawing)</p> <p>Terms 3 & 4: Saxon Pots (Sculpture)</p> <p>Term 5 & 6: Climate Change Awareness (3D)</p>	<p>Terms 1 & 2: Tudor artists (Portraits)</p> <p>Terms 3 & 4: Italian landmarks (Collage)</p> <p>Term 5 & 6: Ancient Egyptian (Sculpture)</p>	<p>Terms 1 & 2: William Morris (Drawing & Printing)</p> <p>Terms 3 & 4: Landscape Mountain Artist studies Nicholas Roerich Georgia O'Keefe</p> <p>Term 5 & 6: Ancient Greek Pots (Sculpture - Coil technique)</p>	<p>Terms 1 & 2: Blitz Art (Painting & Collage)</p> <p>Terms 3 & 4: Dragon's eyes (Drawing)</p> <p>Term 5 & 6: Perspective Papier Mâché Masks (3D)</p>



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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



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Kent
BR8 8NR

THE ORCHARD THEATRE DARTFORD 2025 CHRISTMAS PANTOMINE Robin Hood

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Christmas is still a long way off, but once again we are offering you the opportunity to treat the family to a great Christmas production at a discounted school rate. The Friends have obtained a reservation on a block of tickets for **Thursday 2nd January at 5 p.m. at The Orchard Theatre**. With our discount the cost to you will be £17 per person (ice cream no longer included in the price).

We have been informed that the production is due to take place at the Orchard Theatre, but please be aware this could change to the temporary Orchard West theatre if the completion of work is not done in time. As before, all children need to be accompanied by their parent(s) or equivalent and families need to make their own travel arrangements to and from the theatre.

If you wish to purchase tickets for this event, please complete the order form below enclosing full payment for each ticket required. Please make any cheques payable to "Friends of High Firs". Please complete the slip and return it to the school in an envelope clearly marked "Friends Panto" by **Friday 19th July 2024**, enclosing your payment to secure seats. Tickets are non-refundable and non-returnable as in previous years.

If your child is currently in Year 6 and would like to go to this pantomime, please complete your address details too, as we will need to send your tickets to you.

FRIENDS OF HIGH FIRS – PANTOMINE TRIP – THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY AT 5PM

No. of Adult Tickets Required @£17.00 No. of Child Tickets Required @ £17.00

Name: Contact No:

Address:

Child's Name & Class:

Amount Enclosed: Deposit: Cash: Cheque: Cheque Date:.....



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